

# UC Merced

## Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

### Title

Mood and social influence: the role of metacognitive ability

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9c7553wb>

### Journal

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 46(0)

### Authors

Karbuz, Cem

Eskenazi, Terry

### Publication Date

2024

### Copyright Information

This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Peer reviewed

# Mood and social influence: the role of metacognitive ability

**Cem Karbuz**

Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey

**Terry Eskenazi**

Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey

## Abstract

Others not only influence our behavior, but also our metacognitive evaluations of those behavior (i.e. decision confidence), even when feedback is random and uninformative. Here we ask if metacognitive ability to monitor reliability of one's decisions predicts social susceptibility. We also ask if mood (anxiety and depression) further modulates this effect. We gave 46 healthy participants a perceptual task and presented them with random social feedback (positive, negative, neutral). Participants rated their confidence in their decisions before and after feedback, and lastly had an opportunity to change their initial decisions. In a separate task we also measured their metacognitive abilities, as well as their anxiety and depression scores. Results showed metacognitive ability to increase susceptibility to random social feedback. Surprisingly for those with high levels of metacognitive ability anxiety exacerbates this effect, whereas depression suppresses it.