

## **Individual differences, stress and eyewitness identification: Some preliminary findings**

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Previous work found that the level of stress experienced by visitors to the London Dungeon, as measured by heart rate and state anxiety score, affected their ability to accurately describe and identify a 'scary' actor encountered in the horror labyrinth. A sex difference was found; females showed higher state anxiety and less accurate memory. The effect of stress on eyewitness identification was investigated further amongst visitors queuing for a theme park ride. However, the ride failed to induce heightened state anxiety. It was found that the visitors to the theme park scored highly in sensation-seeking. The available data suggest that both gender and sensation-seeking may affect the stress experienced by a victim of crime and their ability to identify an offender. Further research is required to evaluate the relationship between these effects.