

Previous research has shown that emotional material provoke an increase in confidence regarding the vividness of memories, which is evident by greater high-confidence hit rates in recognition memory. However, emotional material is often associated with greater false alarm rates, suggesting a more liberal response bias in recognition decisions for emotional items. Whereas, the literature has concentrated on differences in high-confidence hit rates, there has been little investigation of how confidence influences emotional differences in false alarm rates. Therefore, we examined the effect of emotion on recognition decisions across various levels of memory confidence, while also exploring if the availability of a guess option would interact with reported emotional memory differences. We found that providing a guess option did not interact with any of the reported emotional differences. Overall accuracy and response bias estimates showed reduced accuracy and a more liberal response bias for the emotional pictures. Inspection of the hit rate data revealed that the overall finding of a greater hit rate for negative than positive and neutral pictures was limited to only the highest confidence decision, whereas we found greater false alarm rates for both negative and positive across all confidence levels.