

Online co-witness discussions can lead to memory conformity

Co-witnesses can influence each others' memory reports (memory conformity). In the MORI paradigm, in-person pairs are led to believe that they witness the same event, but actually witness different versions, discuss the event, then take individual memory tests. Previous experiments using the in-person paradigm have found a robust co-witness conformity effect—that is, participants who are misled during discussion are much more likely to choose their partner's incorrect information during the subsequent memory test (Ito et al., 2019). Rasor et al. (2021) found memory conformity effects using a virtual online paradigm where participant discussions occurred via text chat. In two pilot experiments (18 students/19 Prolific.co participants) we examined memory conformity in online video discussions. In both experiments we found memory conformity effects: Lower accuracy for details about which participants were misled or exposed to misinformation, relative to items for which participants were neither misled nor exposed to misinformation. Our findings provide further support for co-witness conformity effects and the viability of online co-witness experiments.