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# Action impulsivity in novel tasks

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## Abstract

Most research on impulse control has focused on well-practiced actions that can be inhibited when they are contextually inappropriate. Often it seems that there is an (implicit) assumption that novel actions cannot be impulsive (but see e.g. Ridderinkhof, 2014). I will argue that in case of novel actions, impulsivity may arise at a preparation stage instead of a post-stimulus processing stage. For example, when presented with a new piece of machinery, it is advisable to carefully read the instructions before using it. Starting too quickly could lead to inappropriate actions (e.g. pressing the wrong buttons), with possible negative consequences. This type of behaviour (i.e. starting novel actions too quickly) may differ from other forms of action impulsivity as it probably arises from a response-unspecific urge to get started, and has been largely ignored in cognitive and neurological research on action impulsivity (as demonstrated by the absence of this topic in recent reviews). In this presentation, I plan to give a brief overview of our novel research on this topic.

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