

- ・ Emiko S. Kashima 博士講演会
- ・ 日 時 : 2012 年 11 月 6 日 (火) 13 時 00 分～14 時 30 分
- ・ 場 所 : 京都大学教育学研究科 1 階 第一会議室  
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Title : Self-Regulation: Culture, Brain, and Responses to Memento Mori

Abstract : It is well established in social psychology literature that priming of the concept of death, or the state of mortality salience that ensues, is followed by cultural worldview defense and self-esteem striving. For instance, when the notion of death is highly accessible but outside of focal attention, one may emphatically endorse a culturally shared worldview such as personal values or emphasise the self-concepts on which one's sense of worth is based. Nevertheless, psychological consequences of mortality salience may go beyond these symbolic defenses; the unconscious vigilance or heightened arousal caused by the threat may motivate a range of defensive reactions to reinstall equilibrium state. What reactions are likely to occur and how are they regulated? To begin to tackle these questions, I will first present some examples of implicit self-regulations caused by exposures to the death concept (vs. other concepts such as pain and field) which have been identified in experiments conducted in Australia. These include enhanced congruency between implicitly measured self-esteem (ISE) and explicitly measured self-esteem (ESE), and a greater consistency between cognitive style (holistic vs. not holistic) and the manner in which individuals coordinate their action with other (associative vs. dissociative). We will then consider these data together with recent brain imaging data (NIRS) that showed death-concept priming increases activities in the ventrolateral areas of PFC - the area implicated in regulation of affect and ambivalence in recent neuroscience literature. Finally, the talk will conclude with a brief discussion on the role of culture. It will be argued that both culturally constructed symbolic self (e.g., self-esteem) and cultural practices (e.g., cognitive style) serve as a guide for self-regulation in the context of threats.

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