

Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln
German Sport University Cologne

Psychologisches Institut
Abt. Leistungspsychologie



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Heart Rate Variability & Self-Regulation

Chieti, 7th of November 2019

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Overview

1. Introduction
2. Charles Darwin & Claude Bernard
3. How my Heart Rate Variability (HRV) journey started
4. Get to know your heart
5. What is HRV?
6. HRV Theories: a focus on Cardiac Vagal Activity (CVA)
7. Factors influencing CVA
8. HRV Methods
9. Examples of experiments targeting CVA
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11. Slow-paced breathing: Effective technique to improve CVA
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14. Take-home messages



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From Caen (Normandie) to...





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German Sport University Cologne

- 6000 students
- 22 Institutes







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A few introductory words...



Sylvain Laborde(PhD) - FORTITUDE Mental Training
@SylvainLaborde

Psychologist, Researcher, Lecturer at the German Sport University - Developer of FORTITUDE Mental Training - My focus: Peak performance under pressure - 🇫🇷 🇩🇪

Your heart makes you (emotionally) tough
HRV and the psychophysiological aspects of the response to stressful and pressurized situations

Your heart makes you smart
HRV and cognitive functions





You are really unique
Emotional intelligence, Intuition, Reinvestment, Chronotype, Mental toughness


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I need one heart

Volunteers Needed



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Tribute to Charles Darwin



• “According to Darwin’s Origin of Species, it is **not the most intellectual of the species that survives; it is not the strongest that survives; but the species that survives is the one that is best able to adapt and adjust to the changing environment in which it finds itself.**”
Megginson (p. 4, 1963)

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HRV Start



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Gentle French football players



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Sebastien Vahaamahina red card France vs Wales Rugby World Cup 2019 - Japan



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Sebastien Vahaamahina red card France vs Wales Rugby World Cup 2019 - Japan

Carine ROCHARD @Carin... · 10h
#RWC2019 Après l'énorme déception #WALVFR, se pourrait-il que @SylvainLaborde, agisse auprès du #XVdeFrance? Ce PHD avait passé sa thèse sur le coup de tête de Zidane en 2006... une idée pour le coup de coude de @SebVaha77? #actufr actu.fr/?p=23813835

Carine ROCHARD suit dir jetzt

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information regarding neural regulation of the heart is imbedded in the beat-to-beat heart rate pattern

Rosetta Stone

Cognition (Executive functions)
Emotion
Health
Self-regulation

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Egyptian Mummies

Keeping the heart, throwing away the brain

Heart center of physical, affective, & intellectual life

Vatican Museum

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HRV theories: Focus on cardiac vagal activity (CVA)

Neurovisceral Integration Model (Thayer et al., 2009)	Higher CVA = better health, stress resilience, executive performance – Better REGULATION
Polyvagal theory (Porges, 1995)	Higher CVA = better social functioning – Better REGULATION
Biological behavioral model (Grossman, 2007)	Higher CVA = Better REGULATION
Resonance frequency model (Lehrer, 2013)	Slow paced breathing = Higher CVA
Psychophysiological coherence model (McCraty & Zayas, 2014)	Slow paced breathing = Higher CVA
Respiratory Vagal stimulation model (Gerritsen & Band, 2018)	All relaxation techniques = Higher CVA via slow breathing

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Missing in previous HRV theories

- **A systematic consideration of the 3 Rs of cardiac vagal activity:**
 - Resting
 - Reactivity
 - Recovery

ADDED VALUE

Figure 2. Vagal tank and the 3 Rs of cardiac vagal control: effect of a depleting factor

Illustration of the vagal tank and the 3Rs (resting, reactivity, and recovery) with a factor depleting cardiac vagal control. In regard to the post-event: A) displays a situation where the level of cardiac vagal control during the post-event is higher than the initial level at baseline, B) displays a situation where the level of cardiac vagal control at post-event is similar to the initial level at baseline, and C) displays a situation where the level of cardiac vagal control at post-event did not recover to the point of its initial baseline level.

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frontiers in Neuroscience

HYPOTHESIS AND THEORY
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Vagal Tank Theory: The Three Rs of Cardiac Vagal Control Functioning – Resting, Reactivity, and Recovery


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¹German Sport University Cologne, Cologne, Germany, ²EA 4260 Normandie Université, Caen, France, ³Southampton Sport University, Southampton, United Kingdom, ⁴Bournemouth University, Bournemouth, United Kingdom, ⁵University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Luxembourg

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There is nothing so practical as a good theory.

— Kurt Lewin —

AZ QUOTES

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Figure 2. Vagal tank and the 3 Rs of cardiac vagal control: effect of a depleting factor

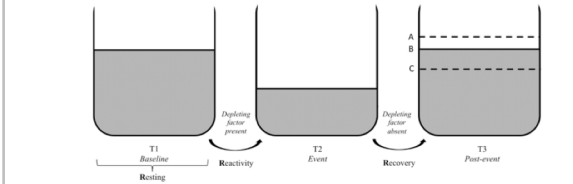


Illustration of the vagal tank and the 3Rs (resting, reactivity, and recovery) with a factor depleting cardiac vagal control. In regards to the post-event: A) displays a situation where the level of cardiac vagal control during the post-event is higher than the initial level at baseline, B) displays a situation where the level of cardiac vagal control at post-event is similar to the initial level at baseline, and C) displays a situation where the level of cardiac vagal control at post-event did not recover to the point of its initial baseline level.

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Figure 3. Vagal tank and the 3 R₄ of cardiac vagal control: effect of a replenishing factor

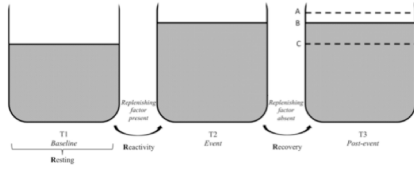


Illustration of the vagal tank and the 3Rs (resting, reactivity, and recovery) with a factor replenishing cardiac vagal control. In regards to the post-event: A) displays a situation where the level of cardiac vagal control during the post-event is higher than the level during the baseline, B) displays a situation where the level of cardiac vagal control at post-event is similar to the event level, and C) displays a situation where the level of cardiac vagal control at post-event returned to baseline level.

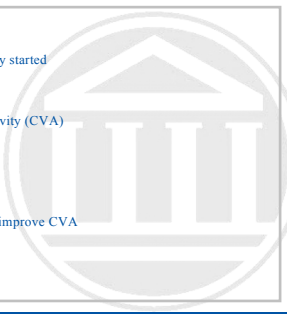
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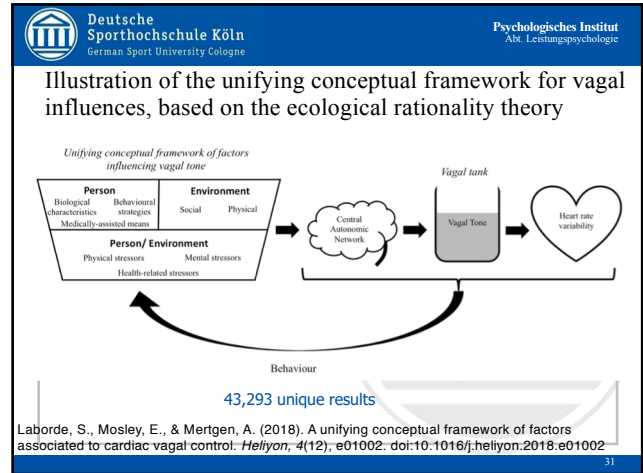
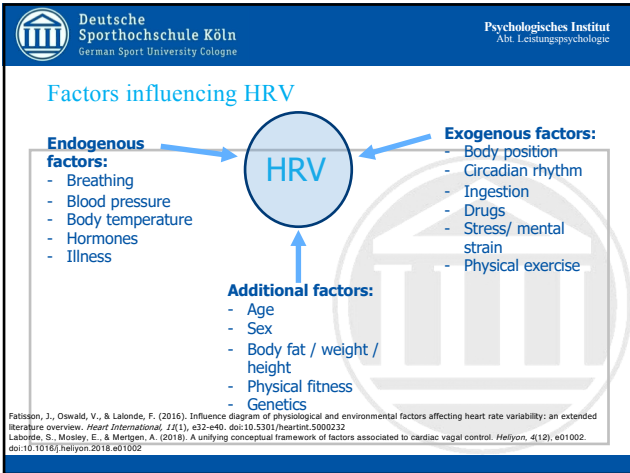
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Table 1. Overview of the unifying conceptual framework of factors influencing cardiac vagal control.

1	2	3	4	5
Person	Biological characteristics	Stable biological characteristics		
	Somatic interventions and stimulation methods	Transient biological characteristics		
		Pharmacologic factors		
		Vagus nerve stimulation		
		Transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation		
		Brain stimulation		
			Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation	
			Transcranial direct current stimulation	
			Transcranial pulsed current stimulation	
			Deep brain stimulation	
			Electroconvulsive therapy	
		Carotid baroreceptors stimulation		
		Esophageal electrostimulation		
		Oxygen inhalation		
		Continuous airway positive pressure		
	Behavioral strategies	Nutrition	Diet	
			Beverages	
			Supplementations	
		Non-ingestive oral habits		
		Water immersion		
		Body temperature reduction		
		Sleeping habits		
		Relaxation methods		
		Cognitive techniques		

(continued on next page)

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Table 1. (Continued)

1	2	3	4	5
		Prayer		
		Media entertainment		
		Music		
		Exercise		
Environment	Social environment	Contact with humans		
	Physical environment	Contact with animals		
		Aeromas		
		Lights		
		Sounds (excluding music)		
		Temperature		
		Electromagnetic fields		
		Outdoor environment		
		Altitude		
Person/Environment	Physical stressors	General mechanisms	Pain	
	Mental stressors		Inflammation	
	Health-related stressors		Fatigue	
		Medical conditions	Symptoms	
			Syndroms	
			Disorders	
				Psychopathology/psychiatric disorders
				Eating disorders
				Functional somatic disorders
				Breathing disorders
		Addictions	Diseases	