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AUTO-SHAPING A SIMPLE OPERANT IN HUMANS USING SLIDE PRESENTATION AS A REINFORCER.

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ABSTRACT

Using slide presentation as a reinforcer a simple operant was auto-shaped in human subjects. The operant (bar tapping) was established, for most subjects, in an auto-shaping technique where a discriminative stimulus (S^D) was available. In this technique a response made in the presence of S^D was immediately reinforced. However, where no response was emitted in the presence of S^D the procedure was recycled, i.e. Chain FT 10-sec. (darkness) FT 10-sec. (S^D), with no reinforcement delivered.

Response-independent schedules (FT 10-sec.) were used
(i) for an analysis of superstitutious responding, and
(ii) for a control condition. Responding was not maintained under the non-contingent conditions but was re-established under the response-contingent (training) schedules.

The educational implications of auto-shaping are discussed.

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