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## Understanding existential self-understanding : philosophy meets cognitive neuroscience

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## Appendix A

Study	Selection criteria participants	Participants	Stimuli	Instructions	Control task	Check after experiment
Acevedo et al. (2012) Long-term romantic love	Flyer, newspaper ads, word of mouth: 'Are you still madly in love with your long-term partner?'  Phone screening: Relationship length >10 years Monogamous heterosexual relation Feelings of intense romantic love	10 ♀ / 7 ♂  equals ± 60% of original respondents  39-67 years old (53 years)  'being married': 10-29 years (21 years)	color picture partner	'think about (non-sexual) experiences with person'	Same instructions. Pics of: close friend highly familiar acquaintance low familiar acquaintance (all same sex and ± same age)	Participants described thoughts and feelings while viewing stimuli
Aron et al. (2005) Romantic love	Flyer, word of mouth: 'currently intensely in love'	10 ♀ / 7 ♂  18-26 years old (20.6 years)  'being in love': 1-17 months (7.4 months)	picture beloved  30 sec	'think about events with person that were pleasurable, but not sexual'	Same instructions. Pics of: familiar acquaintance (of same sex and age)  countback task	Interviews to check whether participants followed instructions and what they thought about during scan.
Bartels & Zeki (2000) Romantic love	Posters, via the internet: 'truly, deeply and madly in love'  Written statement describing how much they are in love + interview	11 ♀ / 6 ♂  out of 70 original respondents, 75% of which female (write B&Z)  21-37 years old (24.5 years)  Relationship: (2.4 years)	color picture partner  17.36 sec	'view the pictures, think of the viewed person and relax'	Same instructions. Pics of: three friends (of same sex, similar age, and known for at least as long as partner)	Participants rated felt love and sexual arousal (1-9) when viewing partner or friends.
Bartels & Zeki (2004) Maternal love	Posters in nurseries: being mother	20 ♀  27-49 years old (34 years)	picture own child  15 sec	'view the pictures and relax'	Same instructions. Pics of: other child (known to participant, same age as own child)	Participants rated intensity of eight different feelings for

Appendix A

Study	Selection criteria participants	Participants	Stimuli	Instructions	Control task	Check after experiment
		'age child': 9 months – 6 years (24.4 months)			best friend acquaintance	each person viewed.
Beauregard et al. (2009)  Unconditional love	Directors of l'Arche residential communities where people with intellectual disabilities live together with assistants helped recruit those assistants: 'with a very high capacity for unconditional love'; who understand the meaning of 'unc. love'; and find work at l'Arche very gratifying.	9 ♀ / 8 ♂  20-63 years old (36 years)	pictures of unfamiliar children and adults, all with intellectual disabilities  9 sec	'self-generate a feeling of unconditional love towards the individuals depicted'	Similar pictures. Instructions: 'simply look at the individuals depicted'	After each block of 4 pics, participants rated how much unconditional love they felt (1-4). Post-scan interview to verify feelings besides unconditional love.
Fisher et al. (2010)  Rejected romantic love	Flyer, word of mouth: 'Have you just been rejected in love but can't let go?'  Interview: mixed emotions obsessively thinking about beloved rejecter	10 ♀ / 5 ♂  18-21 years old (19.8 years)  Relationship: 4-48 months (21 months)  End relationship: 1-32 weeks ago (9 weeks ago)	picture of beloved rejecter that stimulates feelings of intense romantic passion  30 sec	'think about events that occurred with this person'	Same instructions. Pics of: familiar acquaintance (same sex, similar age and familiarity)  compared (rejecter – neutral) here to (beloved – neutral) in Aron et al (2005)	Interview to determine whether participants followed instructions and what emotions they felt during scanning
Guerra et al. (2011)  Romantic and filial love	Undergraduate students in a romantic relationship reside close to family and partner have a positive relationship with father	35 ♀  20-29 years old (21.7 years)  Relationship: [unreported]	picture of boyfriend picture of father  4 sec	'view each picture for the entire time it is on screen'	Pics of: unfamiliar boyfriend of other participant unfamiliar father of other participant unfamiliar baby	Assessing valence, arousal and dominance of all pictures, using Self-Assessment Manikin (Bradley and Lang 1994)
Kim et al. (2009)  Romantic love	Advertisements by broadcaster: couples who had fallen in love < 100 days ago. Were fine with appearing in a documentary on	5 ♀ / 5 ♂  5 couples selected out of ± 100 couples  18-24 years old	5 pictures lover, taken at studio, different facial expressions.  30 sec	[not reported]	Pics of: friend (5, taken at studio) blurred human faces gray screen	

Study	Selection criteria participants	Participants	Stimuli	Instructions	Control task	Check after experiment
	love being broadcast on Korean television.	(21.1 years) Relationship length: < 100 days			Entire experiment repeated after 6 months	
Langeslag et al. (2007) Romantic love	Posters at Dutch university: in love with someone of opposite sex	9 ♀ / 9 ♂ 18-34 years old (21.5 years) Relationship: (12.1 months) 'love duration': 2.5-36 months (12.6 months)	picture beloved 0.25 sec	'focus on the fixation cross, pay attention to the faces; you'll have to answer questions about them'	Pics of: friend beautiful person (blended pics from beautiful people database) (both same sex as beloved)	At 4 random moments between pictures, a question appeared: 'was the person on the previous picture your beloved / friend/ a stranger?' to ensure participants remained alert
Langeslag, Van der Veen, Röder (2014) Romantic love	Dutch students: in love with someone of opposite sex for < 9 months	9 ♀ / 6 ♂ 18-25 years old (20.8 years) Relationship: 1-6.5 months (3.9 months) 'love duration': 2.5-8 months (5.1 months)	picture beloved (10% of trials) 0.250 sec	'respond to the target stimulus by pressing a button' Accuracy is more important than speed. [= oddball task]	Pics of: friend (10% of trials) stranger (80% of trials) (same sex as beloved, friend ± as well known)	Accuracy oddball task was 98%, which shows participants followed the instructions.
Noriuchi et al. (2008) Maternal love	Mothers of infants	13 ♀ (31.1 years old) 'age infant': (16.5 months)	Video clips of own infant, either smiling or in distress. No sound. 32 sec	[none reported]	Video clips of four unfamiliar infants, also either smiling or in distress. No sound. (wearing same clothes as own infant)	Rate 11 descriptors of feelings while viewing sample clips, selected from stimuli, on a 5-point scale. E.g. how motherly do you feel? 1-5. How much love? 1-5.
Ortigue et al. (2007) Romantic love	Advertisements to students: 'individuals who are currently intensively in love'  Heterosexual Dating, engaged, or married	36 ♀ (20.1 years old) 'being in love': 1-60 months (15.3 months)	name beloved as prime 0.026 sec	'indicate as rapidly and as accurately as possible whether or not an English word was presented'  [= lexical decision task]	Control primes noun 'passion' (passionate hobby, e.g. science, sports, art) name 'friend'/acquaintance (same sex as beloved, similar	Check that participants were unaware of prime stimuli, through increasingly specific questions about the study.

Appendix A

Study	Selection criteria participants	Participants	Stimuli	Instructions	Control task	Check after experiment
	Have a favorite passion in life (e.g. science, sports, art) Report thinking about passionate hobby 60% of the day			with subliminal priming: 40 positive emotional nouns 40 pronounceable non-words 40 blank]	age and duration of friendship)	
Tiedt et al. (2014)  Romantic love	in a long-term relationship (> 1 year)	14 ♀ / 14 ♂  20-35 years old (25.5 years)  Relationship: 12-96 months (40.2 months)	picture beloved  6 sec	'view the photographs and imagine a comfortable, non-erotic situation related to the person presented'	Pics: 2 friends for whom no romantic feelings (yet same sex as beloved and known > 1 year, often for longer than beloved)	Interview about experiences during experiment.
Vico et al. (2010)  Love	Undergraduate students in a romantic relationship reside close to partner and four other loved ones	30 ♀  20-27 years old	5 pictures of loved ones  4 sec / 0.5 sec	'just look at the screen and the pictures appearing in it for as long as they are on' 'try not to blink'	Pics: 5 unfamiliar people (database) 5 unfamiliar people (loved by other participants) 5 famous faces 5 unfamiliar babies	Valence, arousal and dominance of the 25 faces assessed, using the Self-Assessment Manikin (Bradley & Lang 1994)
Xu et al. (2011)  Romantic love	Flyers to Beijing student email lists: "currently in a relationship and very intensely in love"	10 ♀ / 8 ♂  19-25 years old (21.6 years)  Relationship: 1.3-13 months (6.5 months)	picture beloved  30 sec	'while viewing the pictures, think about pleasurable and rewarding events (that you recalled in the pre-scan interview)'	Pics of acquaintance (same sex as beloved) 'think about neutral events (that you recalled in pre-scan interview)'  Countback task	None
Zeki & Romaya (2010)  Romantic love	Advertisements: 'passionately in love'  In sexual relationship with lover Equal number of males and females in heterosexual and homosexual relationships	12 ♀ / 12 ♂  19-47 years old (26.3 years)  Relationship: 4 months – 23 years (3.7 years)	6-8 pictures lover  16 sec	'subjects were allowed to scan the images freely'  'to ensure consistent attention over time, participants had to press a key when a circular bulls-eye prompt appeared'	6-8 pictures of friends (same sex as lover) blank screen	Passionate Love Scale and interview to establish whether participants followed the instructions.

*A study by Stoessel and colleagues was excluded as it does not address the question it purports to address: instead of comparing neural correlates in happy versus unhappy lovers (per its title), it compares neural correlates to romantic love to neural correlates to depression, without establishing whether the depressed participants also experience romantic love and thus are in fact lovers, nor establishing whether participants in romantic relationships are in fact happy (Stoessel et al. 2011).*

*A quick version of the same search in November 2016 resulted in two further studies. One employs the same research paradigm as most studies reported here (looking at pictures of romantic partners and friends), to find out more about the dopamine dynamics during experiences of love (Takahashi et al. 2015). The other paper reports a resting state experiment on people who are happily in love, have recently ended a relationship, or have never been in love. Researchers aim to find out whether the brain's regional homogeneity and functional connectivity differ during rest based on people's love status (Song et al. 2015). That is, in neither experiment do people have to actively perform a task and both experiments are aimed at figuring out things about the brain-during-love. These studies thus fit squarely into the analysis of CNS of love that I present in chapter 1.*



## Appendix B

Study	Participants	Stimuli	Instructions	Control task	Check after experiment
Chiao et al (2009)	<p>Asian-American young adults living in Chicago, bicultural according to scales (Suinn et al. 1987).</p> <p>18 ♀ / 12 ♂</p> <p>15 received individualistic prime (M age = 22.9 years old)</p> <p>15 received collectivistic prime (M age = 24.8 years old)</p>	<p>24 personality adjectives (source not reported), in English, embedded in a sentence.</p>	<p>'In general, does this sentence describe you?'</p> <p>'In general I am [adjective]'</p> <p>'Does this sentence describe you when you are talking to your mother?'</p> <p>'When talking to my mother I am [adjective]'</p> <p>Yes/No</p>	<p>'Is this sentence written in italics?'</p> <p>'I am <i>[adjective]</i>'</p> <p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Whether primes functioned and participants did as expected during training. They did.</p>
Chiao et al (2009)	<p>24 students</p> <p>12 Japanese: 5 ♀ / 7 ♂ (M age = 24 years old)</p> <p>12 Caucasian Americans: 5 ♀ / 7 ♂ (M age = 21.1 years old)</p> <p>Singelis (1994) Self-Construal Scale to determine level of individualism/collectivism</p> <p>Individualism group: 7 Japanese, 3 American Collectivism group: 5 Japanese, 9 American</p>	<p>24 personality adjectives (source not reported), in English and Japanese (translated from the English by a bilingual translator), embedded in a sentence.</p> <p>4 sec</p>	<p>'In general, does this sentence describe you?'</p> <p>'In general I am [adjective]'</p> <p>'Does this sentence describe you when you are talking to your mother?'</p> <p>'When talking to my mother I am [adjective]'</p> <p>Yes/No</p>	<p>'Is this sentence written in italics?'</p> <p>'I am <i>[adjective]</i>'</p> <p>Yes/No</p>	
Craik, Moroz, Moscovitch et al. (1999)	<p>4 ♀ / 4 ♂</p> <p>19-26 years old (M = 22.8 years old)</p>	<p>512 personality adjectives (Anderson, 1968; Kirby &amp; Gardner, 1972), counterbalanced for valence and number of syllables</p> <p>4 sec, of which 2 sec presentation time of the adjective</p>	<p>'How well does the adjective describe you?' [self]</p> <p>Almost never / rarely / sometimes / almost always</p>	<p>'How well does the adjective describe Brian Mulroney?' [famous other]</p> <p>'How socially desirable is the trait described by this adjective?'</p>	<p>An unexpected Y/N recognition test (half of the adjectives only used here).</p> <p>Check whether time window was</p>

Appendix B

Study	Participants	Stimuli	Instructions	Control task	Check after experiment
				<p>[general semantic]</p> <p>Almost never / rarely / sometimes / almost always</p> <p>'How many syllables does this adjective contain?' [non-semantic verbal processing, baseline]</p> <p>2 / 3 / 4 / 5</p>	comfortable; participants reported it was.
D'Argembeau et al. (2005)	<p>7 ♀ / 6 ♂</p> <p>21-28 years old</p>	<p>None. Eyes closed. No motor response.</p> <p>100 sec</p>	<p>'Now you will be asked to think about yourself for about 2 min. More specifically, I would like you to consider the traits and attitudes you have in the context of social relations. Try to think about your traits and attitudes, about your personality, in your relationship with others.'</p> <p>[Reflection on own traits, attitudes, personality. Three different contexts: profession, family, social relations.]</p>	<p>[Other-reflection:] Instructions to reflect on the personality of Jacques Chirac, singer Johnny Halliday, princess Mathilde of Belgium.</p> <p>[Reflection on social issues:] Instructions to reflect on social security, the right to vote, globalization of trade.</p> <p>[Rest:] Simply relax and open yourself to images, thoughts, memories that arise.</p>	<p>Post-scan verbal report of content of reflection.</p> <p>Ratings (on scale 1-10) of amount of images, thoughts, memories, physical sensations; of relative amount of self- and other-related thought; of relative amount of time they reflected on-topic.</p> <p>Participants largely did as told (1 male excluded).</p>
D'Argembeau et al. (2007)	<p>11 ♀ / 6 ♂</p> <p>(M age = 23 years old)</p> <p>Prior to scanning, participants identified a close other (friend or relative).</p>	<p>40 personality adjectives (Klein, Loftus, and Kihlstrom 1996), translated into French.</p> <p>5 sec</p>	<p>'You are [adjective]'</p> <p>'According to [close other], you are [adjective]'</p> <p>Not at all / a little / quite well / completely [these are the authors' translations from the French]</p>	<p>'[Close other] is [adjective]'</p> <p>'According to [close other], s/he is [adjective]'</p> <p>Not at all / a little / quite well / completely</p> <p>Fixation cross</p>	

Study	Participants	Stimuli	Instructions	Control task	Check after experiment
				[baseline, 7-12 sec]	
D'Argembeau et al. (2008)	Couples of close friends or siblings (known e/o > 5 years).  All were in high school 5 years ago, now in college.  10 ♀ / 10 ♂  20-23 years old (M age = 21 years old)	40 personality adjectives (Anderson, 1968), counterbalanced for valence  3.5 sec	'At present, I am [adjective]'  'Five years ago, I was [adjective]'  Yes/No	'At present, [close other] is [adjective]'  'Five years ago, [close other] was [adjective]'  'Does this adjective designate a positive trait?'  Yes/No	Rate the overall ease/difficulty with which each type of judgment was made
D'Argembeau et al (2010)	11 ♀ / 10 ♂  18-28 years old (M age = 23 years old)	40 personality adjectives (Anderson, 1968), counterbalanced for valence  3.5 sec	'At present, I am [adjective]'  'Five years ago, I was [adjective]'  'In five years from now, I will be [adjective]'  Yes/No	'Does this adjective designate a positive trait?'  Yes/No	Rate the overall ease/difficulty with which each type of judgment was made
Fossati et al. (2003)	7 ♀ / 3 ♂  (M age = 25.8 years old)	130 personality adjectives (Anderson 1968), counterbalanced for valence  9.5 sec	'Does this trait describe you?'  Yes/No	'Is this trait socially desirable?'  'Does this word contain [target letter, e.g. a]'  Yes/No	Surprise Y/N recognition task
Gutchess, Kensinger and Schacter (2007)	19 young (M age = 23 years old)  10 ♀ / 9 ♂  17 elderly (M age = 72 years old)  11 ♀ / 6 ♂	288 personality adjectives (Craik et al. 1999), counterbalanced for valence  4 sec	'Make a yes/no decision for each trial and respond quickly'  'Myself (yes/no)? [adjective]'  'Einstein (yes/no)? [adjective]'	'Upper case (yes/no)? [ADJECTIVE]'	A Y/N recognition test (half of the adjectives only used here).
Heatherton et al. (2006)	16 ♀ / 14 ♂  18-31 years old (M age = 24 years old)  Prior to scanning, participants identified a best friend	270 adjectives (Anderson 1968)  2 sec	When you see SELF with an adjective, judge whether the adjective describes you. When FRIEND, judge whether the adjective describes your best friend. When CASE, judge whether the	'FRIEND [adjective]'  'CASE [adjective]'  Yes/No	Surprise Y/N recognition task

Appendix B

Study	Participants	Stimuli	Instructions	Control task	Check after experiment
			adjective is printed in uppercase letters.  'SELF [adjective]'  Yes/No		
Herwig et al. (2012)	17 ♀ / 8 ♂  23-41 years old	Cue to indicate who to reflect on, then nothing.  9.9 sec	'The cue indicates a person who will later appear in a photograph. In the period that follows, reflect about that person, who and how she/he is or might be, for instance 'who am I, how am I as a person' or 'who and how is she/he'. When the photograph is presented, just look at the photo.'  Reflection on self	Reflection on personal acquaintance (work/study colleague) of same gender  Reflection on unknown person seen in photo prior to experiment  Perception of picture of self	Non-structured interview: 2 participants excluded who reported sleepiness, 1 who moved head.  Participants reported reflecting on facts about self (name, age, employment, family) and auto-biographical and future-oriented pieces of info ("I was born in.." "I want to be.." "I am..")
Jenkins and Mitchell (2011)	10 ♀ / 5 ♂  19-32 years old (M age = 21 years old)	Three sets of 40 adjectives each, referring to personality traits, current mental states, and stable physical attributes. Lists were matched for average word length, valence, intensity.  3.6 sec	For self-trials, each question was accompanied by a chalk outline of a person's head  'In general, how [personality adjective, e.g. brave]?'  'In the moment, how [mental state adjective, e.g. bored]?'  'Physically, how [physical attribute, e.g. tall]?'  4 point scale (1 = not at all, 4 = very)	For other-trials, questions were accompanied by a picture of George W. Bush (four different pictures of him were used)  'In general, how [adjective]?'  'At the time when the photo was taken, how [adjective]?'  'Physically, how [adjective]?'  4 point scale (1 = not at all, 4 = very)	

Study	Participants	Stimuli	Instructions	Control task	Check after experiment
Johnson et al. (2002)	employees medical center  4 ♀ / 7 ♂  (M age = 35 years old)	Aurally delivered statements, via headphones.  Statements that one might find on a self-report personality or mood survey: statements regarding stable traits, attitudes, abilities  4 sec: 2 sec aural presentation statement, 2 sec to respond	Make a decision about each statement.  e.g. 'I get angry easily', 'my future is bright', 'I'd rather be alone', 'I'm good at my job', 'I can be trusted'  Yes/No	Same instructions.  Statements of factual knowledge, e.g. 'ten seconds is more than a minute' or 'you need water to live'.  Yes/No	
Johnson et al. (2006)	Exp 1: 14 ♀ / 5 ♂ 18-27 years old (M age = 21.3 years old)  Exp. 2: 8 ♀ / 3 ♂ 18-26 years old (M age = 20.8 years old)  Prior to scanning, participants wrote essays on their hopes and aspirations, or on their duties and obligations.	'hopes and aspirations' or 'duties and obligations'  18 sec	'Focus on the idea expressed by the phrase and use your imagination to visualize or think about the idea... think about the idea for the entire time it is shown'	Same instructions. Phrases e.g. 'polar bears fishing' or 'pattern on oriental rug' or 'shape of USA'	
Kelley et al. (2002)	11 ♀ / 13 ♂ 18-30 years old (M age = 20 years old)	270 personality adjectives (Anderson, 1968)  2,5 sec	"Does the adjective describe you?"  Yes/No	Does the adjective describe president Bush? [famous other]  Is adjective presented in uppercase letters? [non-semantic]  Yes/No	Surprise Y/N recognition test
Kircher et al. (2000)	Males in heterosexual relationships  Generally positive attitude towards self and partner. No spectacles or facial hair on self or partner.  6 ♂  [no age info reported]	Full face, frontal color photos of self and partner. Digitized and morphed with pictures of same-sex unfamiliar other. 7 pictures drawn from endpoint self, 7 from endpoint other with which self was morphed, 7 from endpoint partner, 7 from endpoint other	Own face or unknown face? Pictures from endpoint own face.  Self-descriptive adjective or not? Self-descriptive adjectives  So, in 'own face' and 'self-descriptive adjectives' phases	Own face or unknown face? Pictures from endpoint unknown.  Self-descriptive adjective or not? Non-self-descriptive adjectives  Partner or unknown?	

Appendix B

Study	Participants	Stimuli	Instructions	Control task	Check after experiment
		<p>with which partner was morphed.</p> <p>232 personality adjectives (from Anderson 1968, plus an additional 32). 6 weeks prior to imaging, participants judged: 'Does this adjective describe how you typically feel and think about yourself?' (0 = extremely characteristic of me, 9 = extremely uncharacteristic). From endpoints of these ratings 8 self-descriptive adjectives and 8 non-self-descriptive adjectives were taken.</p> <p>2 sec</p>	<p>of the experiment, self stimuli were presented one after the other, though interspersed with one (or two, for adjectives) non-self stimuli to ensure participants kept on paying attention.</p>		
Kjaer, Nowak & Lou (2002)	<p>2 ♀ / 5 ♂</p> <p>22-27 years old (M age = 24 years)</p>	<p>None. Subdued light, eye pads, earplugs.</p> <p>120 sec</p>	<p>Reflection on own personality traits</p> <p>Reflection on own physical appearance</p>	<p>Reflection on personality traits of Danish queen</p> <p>Reflection on physical appearance Danish queen</p>	<p>Free format interview, oral report of thoughts. To ascertain instructions had been followed.</p>
Lieberman, Jarcho, Satpute (2004)	<p>3 ♀ / 19 ♂</p> <p>11 male soccer players; (M age = 21.7 years old)</p> <p>11 improvisational actors (M age = 30.0 years old)</p> <p>In the end, comparison not between actors vs. athletes, but between low-experience domain vs. high-experience domain, collapsing over actors and athletes.</p>	<p>27 words that are unambiguously descriptive of either athletes or actors, not both, as determined in pilot study.</p> <p>27 words that are not specifically associated with either actors or athletes</p> <p>3 sec</p>	<p>'Does this word describe you? Respond as quickly and accurately as possible.'</p> <p>Me / not me</p> <p>Block of 20 athlete words, interspersed with 7 neutral words (= experimental condition for athletes)</p> <p>Block of 20 actor words, likewise interspersed (= experimental condition for actors)</p>	<p>Same instructions</p> <p>Block of 20 athlete words, interspersed with 7 neutral words (= control condition for actors)</p> <p>Block of 20 actor words, likewise interspersed (= control condition for athletes)</p> <p>Block of 27 neutral words</p>	
Macrae et al. (2004)	15 ♀ / 7 ♂	540 personality adjectives (Anderson)	'Does this adjective describe you?'	Fixation trials, i.e. looking at a	Surprise recognition

Study	Participants	Stimuli	Instructions	Control task	Check after experiment
	18-31 years old (M age = 20 years old)	1968), counterbalanced for word length, number of syllables, valence. 180 adjectives used per participant during scanning.  2 sec, of which 0.75 sec presentation of adjective and 1.25 sec fixation	Yes/No	cross in the middle of the screen for 2 sec  An extra analysis compared neural activity during Yes responses to neural activity during No responses	test, for 180 adjectives a participant encountered during the experiment, plus 180 novel adjectives.
Modinos, Ormel, & Aleman (2009)	6 ♀ / 10 ♂  18-27 years old (M age = 20.8 years old)  Prior to scanning, participants chose an acquaintance to reflect on	Short sentences about personal qualities, attributes and attitudes  4 sec	'I am attractive' 'I often forget important things'  Yes/No	'[Acquaintance] is attractive' '[acquaintance] often talks too much'  'You need water to live' 'A hand has 8 fingers'  Yes/No	
Moran et al. (2006)	25 ♀ / 17 ♂  18-33 years old (M age = 20.6 years old)	540 personality adjectives (Anderson 1968)  2 sec, of which 1.25 sec presentation of adjective and 0.75 sec fixation	judge extent to which personality characteristic is descriptive of you  1-4 (1 = not at all like me, 4 = most like me)  During analysis, self-relevance was considered low for scores 1, 2 and high for scores 3, 4	Fixation cross for 2 sec  Extra analysis contrasting low self-relevance to high self- relevance	
Ochsner et al. (2005)	Exp. 1: 9 ♀ / 8 ♂ (M age = 29 years old)  Prior to scanning, participants identified a close other.  Exp. 2: 9 ♀ / 7 ♂ (M age = 23 years old)  Prior to scanning, participants identified a best friend or romantic partner [= close other] and a teaching assistant from a class taken previous semester with whom they had not	Personality adjectives (Craik et al. 1999)  2.2 sec	Exp. 1:  Judge whether the adjective describes you  Yes/No  Exp. 2:  [You about self:] Judge the extent to which the adjective describes you  [You about close other]  [You about non- close other]	Exp. 1:  Judge whether the adjective describes [close other].  Judge whether the adjective describes a positive personality trait.  Judge whether the adjective contains two syllables  Yes/No  Exp. 2:	

Appendix B

Study	Participants	Stimuli	Instructions	Control task	Check after experiment
	become friends [= non-close other]		[Close other about you:] Judge the extent to which [close other] would judge the adjective to describe you  [Non-close other about you]  1-4 (1 = not at all, 4 = very much)	[Curved lines:] judge the extent to which adjective contains curved as compared to straight lines  1-4 (1 = not at all, 4 = very much)	
Schmitz, Kawahara-Baccus, & Johnson (2004)	9 ♀ / 10 ♂  (M age = 24 years old)  Prior to scanning, participants identified a close friend or relative [= close other]	30 personality trait adjectives  Traits: general disposition ('daring'), interactive social characteristics ('shy'), cognitive ('intelligent') and physical traits ('weak').  3 sec	'I am [adjective]'  Yes/No	'[close other] is [adjective]'  'Is the word positive?'  Yes/No	
Zhu et al. (2007)	13 Chinese students: 5 ♀ / 8 ♂ (M age = 21.5 years old)  13 Western students <1year in China: 5 ♀ / 8 ♂ (M age = 23.1 years old)  Groups matched on educational level and time living independently	384 personality trait adjectives, in Chinese (Liu 1990) and English (Anderson 1968)  Meanings of Chinese and English adjectives were matched, valence was counterbalanced  Questions in English for Westerners, in Chinese for Chinese.  3 sec, of which 2 sec for passive viewing and 1 sec for response	'Does this adjective describe you?'  'self [adjective]' during passive viewing 'self' during response  Does this adjective describe your mother?  Yes/No	Does this adjective describe Bill Clinton / Rongji Zhu?  Is this adjective in uppercase or lowercase letters / bold- or light-faced character?  Yes/No  Null sessions: passively viewing rows of asterisks	Recognition memory test: old or new? 'Remember' or 'know/seems familiar'? Test included all 384 stimuli. During scanning, 192 adjectives were used.

*A quick version of the same search in November 2016 resulted in 4 further studies, all of which employ a variant on the personality trait judgment task (Bergström et al. 2015; Yaoi, Osaka, and Osaka 2015; Komulainen et al. 2016; Shi et al. 2016). One study investigates whether one can tamper with the neural activity levels during self-reflection through anti-depressants (Komulainen et al. 2016). Three studies continue the quest for the neural correlates of different types / components of self-reflection and the self-reference memory effect.*

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