# DISGUST DOMAINS IN THE PREDICTION OF THE ANXIETY DISORDERS

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There is evidence that disgust sensitivity could be implicated in various psychopathological syndromes, particularly in the anxiety disorders. Separated dimensions of disgust have been identified and there might be specific relationships between them and the various anxiety disorders. The goal of the current study was to test the hypothesis that elevated levels of disgust characterizes anxiety disorders, and more specifically describes specific phobias and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). A sample of participants with a diagnosis of anxiety disorder, representing the six DSM-IV anxiety disorders (i.e., specific phobias, social phobia, panic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder), completed the Multidimensional Disgust Scale (MDS; see Sandin et al.), the Positive and Negative Affect Schedule (PANAS; Watson et al., 1988; Sandin et al., 1999) and the Anxiety Sensitivity Index-3 (Taylor et al., 2007). The MDS is a 30-item self-report measure that assesses a total of five different dimensions of disgust, i.e., hygiene (body products), moral, sexual, body transgression, small-animals, atypical food, and disease. Results from discriminant function analysis and logistic regression analysis showed that the MDS contributes as a significant discriminating variable beyond anxiety sensitivity and negative affectivity. Likewise, the findings indicate that the five domains of disgust do not contribute equally to the discriminative/predictive power of the discriminant and/or regression model. Some specific MDS subscales predict phobias, OCD and combined anxiety syndromes better than other anxiety disorders. The possible role of disgust in the psychopathology of the anxiety disorders is discussed.