

Abstract

This study focused on the influence of mood on cooperation behaviors in an iterated prisoner's dilemma. Results showed that prosocials experienced greater positive mood after cooperating than defecting, but no significant difference was found for proselfs. Prosocials in a positive mood also tended to cooperate more than proselfs in a positive mood. Mediation analyses revealed that the effect of an outcome in a prisoner's dilemma on future cooperation behavior was mediated by positive mood. However, positive mood exerted a full mediation effect on prosocials but not on proselfs. Results implied the salient relationship between positive mood and mutual cooperation in promoting future cooperation.