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## Rule-based generalisation in single-cue and differential fear conditioning in humans

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## Highlights

- Fear generalisation in humans was tested in both single-cue and differential conditioning paradigms.
- Participants reported a range of rules.
- Generalisation gradients were highly consistent with reported rules.
- Results favour a single-system account of learning.

## Abstract

Fear generalisation refers to the spread of conditioned fear to stimuli similar but distinct from the original conditioned stimulus. In this study, participants were presented with repeated pairings of a conditioned stimulus with a shock, in either a single-cue or differential conditioning paradigm. Generalisation of fear was then tested by presenting stimuli that were novel, but similar to the conditioned stimulus along a spatial stimulus dimension. Dependent measures were online shock expectancy ratings and skin conductance level. A diverse range of

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