

Participants completed a computer-based ST-IAT, which consisted of three phases. In the training phase, participants categorized synonyms of “real” ($n = 7$) and “imaginary” ($n = 7$) as quickly and accurately as possible, using the “z” and “/” keyboard keys respectively. Each item was presented three times in random order, preceded by a fixation cross at the centre of the screen (500 ms). In the second phase, participants categorized the items from the training phase, and responded to words referring to religious supernatural entities ($n = 7$) by pressing the same key as responses to “real” items. “Imaginary” items were presented six times, whereas “supernatural” and “real” words were presented three times each; as “supernatural” and “real” words were associated with the same key, this ensured equal number of correct keystrokes per key (Wigboldus et al., 2006). The third phase was identical to the second phase, except that “supernatural” and “imaginary” words were now associated with the same key; as with the second phase, the number of correct keystrokes per key was kept balanced. All stimuli were presented in black on a white background via SuperLab™ software running on Macintosh iMac desktop computers in individual light and sound attenuated experimental cubicles.

Real: real, genuine, existent, actual, true, valid, factual.

Imaginary: imaginary, fake, false, fictional, bogus, untrue, illusory.

Supernatural: god, demon, devil, angel, heaven, hell, soul.