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Until the present moment my research interests concerned the relation between emotions and the cognitive processes involved in perceiving and making decisions under risk. A substantial part of my work relates to the negative emotional response to threatening health risk information. Considering that emotions elicited by the confrontation with health risk information have a negative impact in the compliance to recommended health procedures, it is crucial to understand the mechanism through which health risk information causes negative emotions, the characteristics of this emotional impact (which discrete emotions, level of activation and cognitive and behavioural consequences) and, in the end, how these emotions impact on health risk cognition.

The research developed in this area (including mine) recurs to “soft”, self-report measurement. In the future I intend to go further in the observation of the emotional response to health risk communication, by including measures that allow a greater understanding of the physiological phenomenon associated to the emotional response (e.g. the EEG) and by combining these measures with other methods that assess attention capture and direction.

I believe that the integration of new assessment methodologies in my research will bring a great contribution to the literature about health risk communication avoidance, since it will allow to compare deliberative response to non-deliberative, automatic responses to health threat. This information can be used as an input in the design of more functional communication processes, in which deliberate or non-deliberate defensive responses are moderated. Regarding social sharing of emotion processes, I'm also interested on the effects of social interaction (real or virtual) on the regulation of emotions and on the acceptance of risk communication.

In short in the near future, my research will focus on:

- Emotion assessment and manipulation;
- Functionality of risk communication;
- Social interaction and emotion regulation.