

## ABSTRACT

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The fear of missing out (FoMO) refers to chronic apprehension experienced when one believes they are missing fun/rewarding experiences reported by their peers. A current manuscript in preparation and a presented poster (McKee, Budnick, & Walters, 2020) highlights how FoMO predicts maladaptive behaviors. Specifically, that study saw elevated levels of illegal behavior, drug and alcohol consumption, and academic misconduct in college students with high levels of FoMO. Individuals with high FoMO levels might engage in moral violations to maintain positive impressions within their social circle; staying aware and participating in everything possible to alleviate the chronic FoMO-related anxiety that they would otherwise face. To examine whether FoMO and social presence influences moral judgments, an approximately nationally representative of participants recruited through Qualtrics (N = 283) completed a between-subjects experimental study that manipulated social presence (present and absent) in a series of short vignettes describing moral violations. Results indicate that while FoMO does influence moral judgments (higher FoMO predicts less severe or more neutral judgments of observed violations), it does not appear to have a meaningful relationship with moral awareness. Furthermore, being in a highly social moral violation, in this case involving your best friends from childhood, did not seem to play a role in either awareness or judgments towards violations. Exploratory analyses suggest a higher likelihood of having engaged in a similar violation in the past as well as engaging in a similar violation in the future as FoMO increases. Additionally, exploratory analyses suggest that higher levels of FoMO also predict a higher likelihood of knowing someone that has engaged in a similar violation in the past as well as knowing someone who is likely to engage in a similar violation in the future.