

The Urge to Splurge

Differentiating Unplanned and Impulse Purchases

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## In 2010 consumers claimed that shopping in E-stores helped them save time

However, they could still easily spend 60-80 minutes on their shopping online



#### **Conversation so far**



Measuring impulse
buying as an
unplanned purchase
thus is no
longer sufficient

Impulse buying should be considered distinctively from unplanned purchasing

Impulse buying is
distinguished from the
unplanned buying in terms of
quick decision making. In
addition to be unplanned, an
impulse purchase also
involves experiencing a
sudden, strong, and irresistible
urge to buy

Impulse buying or unplanned purchasing



Weinberg and Gottwald, 1982



Rook, 1987



Muruganantham and Bhakat 2013



Huang 2016



## Systematic literature review



Time frame

1985 onwards



#### Scope

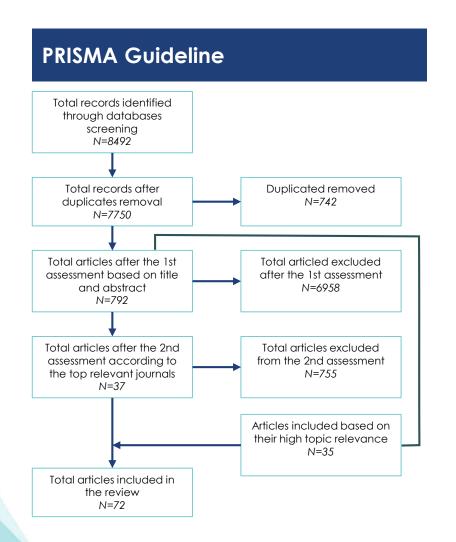
49 keywords related to planned, unplanned and impulse purchases and decision-making.

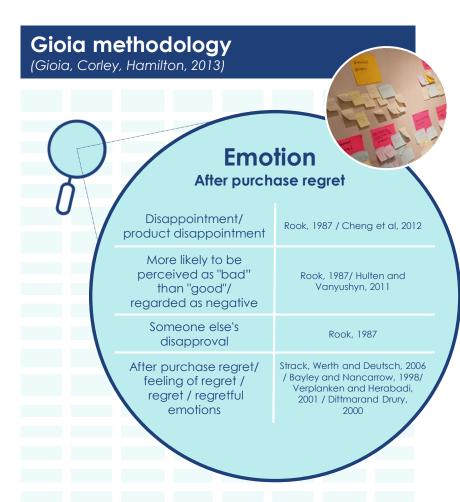
EBSCO, Science Direct, ProQuest, JSTOR, SCOPUS, PSYCINFO, Web of Science



### Research methodologies

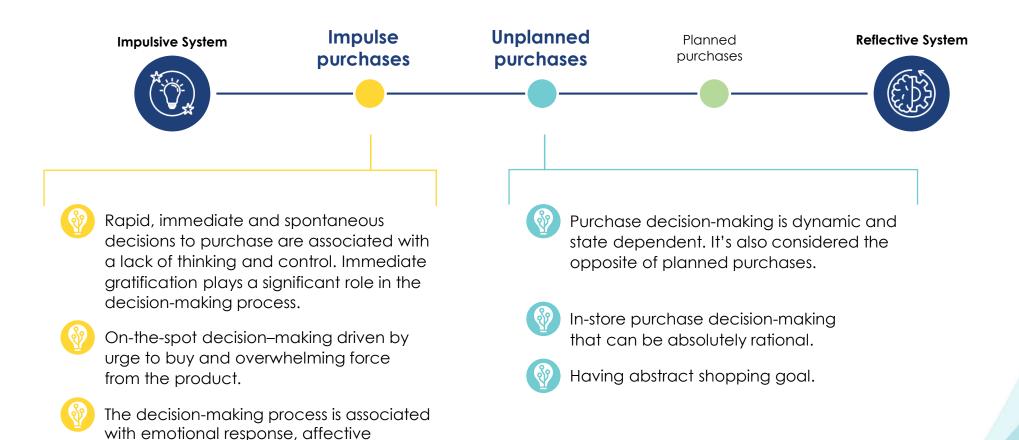






### The Dual System Model provides insight on the nature of different types of purchases





emotions, arousal, affect, and desire.



# Scale development: research methodology





#### **Participants**

Pre-test: 20 respondents

Full-scale: 196 respondents



#### Procedure

Three purchase situations + attributes that describe planned, unplanned, impulse purchases

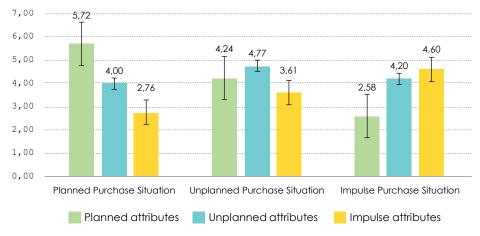
Pre-test: briefing / fill-in/debriefing

Full-scale: briefing / fill-in

### Underlying mechanisms are different between unplanned and impulse purchases



### Means for items from the full-scale questionnaire

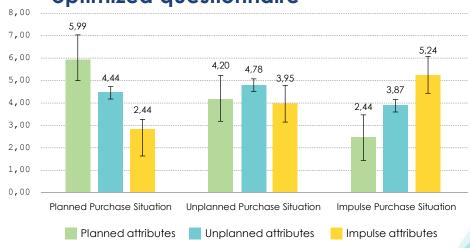


Scale optimization was based on the attributes' factor correlations (Pattern Matrix) and attributes' means.

Total number of attributes – 30, equally distributed among three types of purchases.



### Means for items from the optimized questionnaire

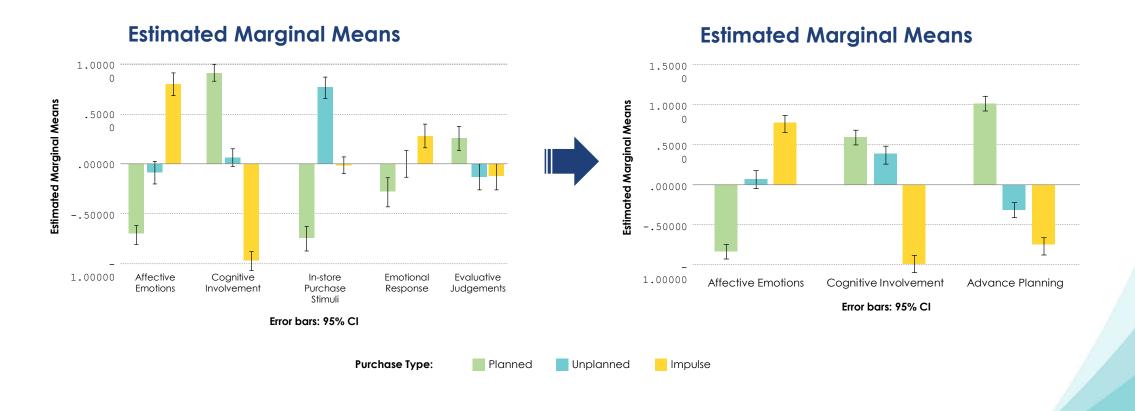


#### General Linear Model with Repeated Measures:

### NSV WASH

### Factors describing unplanned purchases have a stronger association with cognitive involvement

... while factors that describe impulse purchases have a stronger association with emotional engagement

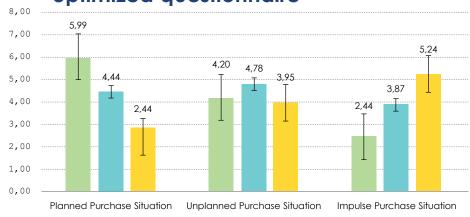


### Underlying mechanisms are different between unplanned and impulse purchases

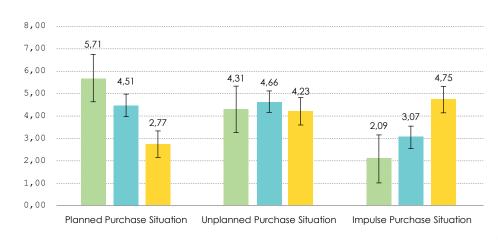


Questionnaire validation showed that the optimized scale could be used for subsequent research: planned purchases – 56%, unplanned purchases – 67%, impulse purchases – 93%.

### Means for items from the optimized questionnaire



#### Optimized questionnaire test



Planned attributes Unplanned attributes Impulse attributes

### Why does it matter?

#### Neuroscience research showed that

### planned, unplanned, and impulse purchases have different underlying mechanisms



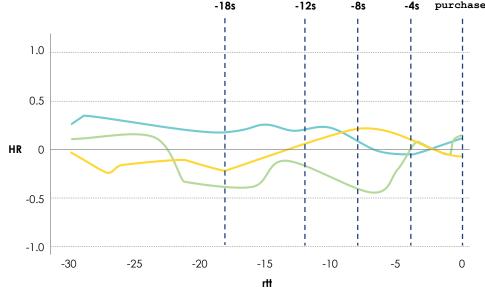
#### First Product Exposure

Heart rate for the first 5 sec



Strong increase in arousal from EEG data for unplanned purchases

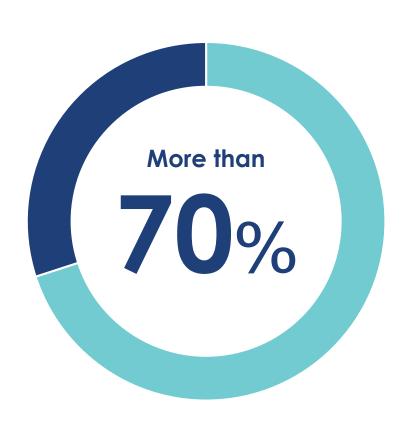
#### **Last Product Exposure**



Rapid decline in cognitive load from EEG data for impulse purchases during 8-12 sec before the purchase

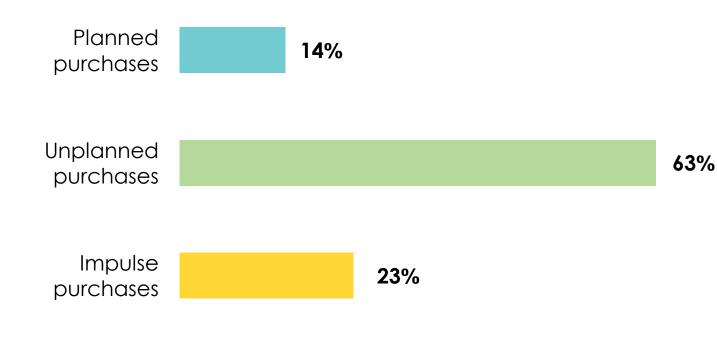
**ptype** — impulse — planned — unplanned





of consumers agree that social media platforms have inspired them to make purchases, even when they weren't looking to shop.

A global survey showed that of purchases inspired by social media platforms...





The purchase journey is shortening, meaning there is much less time between product discovery and purchase

### Advertisers can benefit both from unplanned and impulse purchases









Unplanned and impulse purchases are associated with different site triggers



Unplanned and impulse purchases are associated with different stages of the purchase decisionmaking process

### How can brands leverage a difference between unplanned and impulse purchases?





### Thank you!

Let's stay in touch



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