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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

#### SEX DIFFERENCES IN EMOTIONAL REACTIVITY

Attend or Defend? Sex Differences in Behavioral, Autonomic, and Respiratory Response Patterns to Emotion-Eliciting Films

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#### **Highlights**

- Marked sex differences in muscular, autonomic, respiratory reactivity to threat films
- Women's threat response represented a sympathetically-driven defense response
- Men's threat response represented a parasympathetically-driven orienting response
- Sex-specific responses resemble prototypical stages of the defense cascade model

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