Participant Information Sheet

**Study title**

Diversity and impact of researcher decisions on social interaction research in primatology

**Researcher’s name:**

Alexander Mielke

**Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee reference number:**

PSY2023-29

We would like to invite you to be part of this research project. You should only agree to take part if you want to, it is entirely up to you. If you choose not to take part, there won’t be any disadvantages for you and you will hear no more about it.

Please read the following information carefully before you decide to take part; this will tell you why the research is being done and what you will be asked to do if you take part. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

If you decide to take part, you will be asked to sign the attached form to say that you agree. You are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

In this study, we aim to understand the extent and sources of variability in primate sociality studies arising from researcher decisions in the data processing and analysis pipeline. One approach to determine this variation is to let a larger number of researchers from different research groups conduct an analysis using the same data, and determine the variation in outcomes. To that end, we ask primate researchers with experience handling social interaction data to download a simulated dataset containing basic interaction and demographic data from a made-up monkey group. All information and data can be found on the associated GitHub page (<https://github.com/AlexMielke1988/ManyAnalysts>).

Please pretend that you were given this dataset by a collaborator; they ask you to calculate individual ranks and determine how rank, sex, and age influence grooming rates in this species, following the approach you consider the most appropriate for this question. You will be asked to upload the script detailing how data were pre-processed and analysed and answer some basic questions about the study species based on your results. Depending on your level of expertise, this process should take 1-3h of your time. We would ask you to finish the task and submit your results before 01/02/2024.

We will only accept submissions from researchers who are at least at the PhD level, have a verifiable institutional email account (or can justify why they do not), and have some experience working with similar datasets. All researchers who submit a full script and answer the questions, and fulfil these inclusion criteria, will be offered co-authorship for any eventual publication.

Due to the nature of the study, all scripts and submissions will be identifiable by the lead researcher (to ensure completeness of scripts and enable co-authorship). However, after the processing stage, all data will be stored using an individual identifier. Data and scripts will be made public upon publication to foster replicability and reproducibility, but direct links between the data and participant identity will be removed. Please note that individual researchers can still partially be identified using the authorship list and information on study species etc. Confidential information (names, email addresses) will be stored separately from the submissions on a password-secured university computer.

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. You are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

Queen Mary University of London processes personal data for research purposes in accordance with the lawful basis of ‘public task’.

Please read [Queen Mary’s privacy notice for research participants](http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/media/arcs/policyzone/Privacy-Notice-for-Research-Participants.pdf) containing important information about your personal data and your rights in this respect. If you have any questions relating to data protection, please contact Queen Mary’s Data Protection Officer, Queens’ Building, Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS or [data-protection@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@qmul.ac.uk) or 020 7882 7596.

**What will happen if I want to withdraw from this study?**

Downloading the data does not oblige you to participate in the study. Once you have submitted your results, you can withdraw from the study at any time before the analyses are submitted as pre-print, without stating any reasons. This will not affect co-authorship. If you withdraw consent, we will delete your script and all data that you provided.

If you have any questions or concerns about the manner in which the study was conducted, or you have any questions relating to data protection, in the first instance, contact the researcher responsible for the study:

Dr Alex Mielke, a.mielke@qmul.ac.uk

If this is unsuccessful or not appropriate, please contact the Chair of the Psychology Department Research Ethics Committee, Maria Bada: m.bada@qmul.ac.uk  Physics, 2nd floor, Office 212.

**Who can I contact if I have any questions about this study?**

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