

# Mini-Dissertation Write-up Guide

## Part 02b - Open Materials

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### Open Materials

#### Learning Objectives

1. Understand the function of Open Materials in relation to Open Science
2. Review example content for Open Materials
3. Understand requirements for their own Mini-Dissertation

### Importance of Transparency in Open Research

1. **Enhancing Replicability and Reproducibility:** Transparency in research allows other scientists to replicate studies and validate your exciting results, which is a fundamental aspect of the scientific method. Open research ensures that the data and methodologies used are accessible to others, facilitating a deeper understanding of what was done and verification of research findings.
2. **Building Trust in Scientific Findings:** Transparent practices in research foster trust among the scientific community, policymakers, and the public. When researchers openly share their methods and data, it demonstrates a commitment to honesty and integrity in their work.
3. **Promoting Collaboration and Innovation:** Open research encourages collaborative efforts, as it allows researchers from different fields and geographies to access, utilize, and build upon existing knowledge. This cross-pollination of ideas can lead to innovative solutions and advancements.
4. **Accelerating Scientific Discovery:** By making research findings and data openly available, the pace of scientific discovery can be quickened. Researchers can leverage existing work to explore new avenues of inquiry without duplicating efforts.

5. **Advancing Educational Opportunities:** Open research provides valuable resources for education and training (maybe you benefited from access to Open Resources while developing your Mini-Dissertation?), allowing students and early-career researchers to access a wealth of information and learn from real-world data and methodologies.

**Role of Open Materials**

1. **Facilitating Research Transparency:** Open materials, which include datasets, software, protocols, and other research tools, are central to ensuring transparency. They allow others to understand, evaluate, and replicate the research process.
2. **Standardizing Research Practices:** Open materials can help in standardizing procedures across studies, leading to more consistent and reliable research outcomes.

**What Open Materials Need to Achieve**

1. **Comprehensiveness:** They should provide a complete picture of the research process you employed, including informed consent and information information, tools used, and detailed methodological information.
2. **Accessibility:** Materials should be easily accessible to researchers from various fields, irrespective of their resources. Don't share files that can't be viewed by anyone, such as pay-for-software etc. It's not such a huge deal for the Mini-Dissertation, but in reality, it's counter to the point if you share, say, an SPSS file.
3. **Usability:** Open materials should be user-friendly, with clear documentation and instructions to enable effective utilization by others. They are designed to facilitate, not complicate!
4. **Interoperability:** Compatibility with different platforms and software is crucial to ensure that a wide range of researchers can use these materials. Similar to 2, but distinct.
5. **Longevity:** Ensuring that open materials are preserved for long-term use and remain accessible as technologies evolve. Again, not a big deal with a coursework submission, as they will NOT be published by me, but if you publish your Final Year Dissertation, you would want it to be long-lived!

By adhering to these principles of Openness and Collaborativeness, the scientific community can significantly benefit from open research practices, leading to more robust, innovative, and transparent scientific inquiry. And less frustration/guess-work when you come to replicate or extend work!

**Tips**

Your open materials are obviously going to be specific to your own research study. They obviously need to fully illustrate the wonderful things that you've created in the course of your mini-dissertation.

For the purposes of the mini-dissertation, you can take one of two approaches. You can either be extremely selfish and solely present the materials and tools that you used to generate the data for your individual 2x2 ANOVA, or you could view it as a mark-winning opportunity to demonstrate the wide-ranging gorgeousness of all the things that you and your group submitted.

For the purposes of the marking, the open materials is not a right or wrong exercise. Make the decision of what to include yourself. But do pay attention to what a Researcher such as myself would need to fully understand your task and to be able to replicate it. It's fine if I can't fully replicate something that belongs to somebody else, but I need to be able to replicate what you produced.

And do pay attention to what goes in open materials and what goes in open data. It is common that people have trouble working out where a questionnaire and its associated data might go.

I want to be able to test people with the right questionnaire measure and I would want to find the 'questionnaire' in Open Materials. But of course, the questionnaire results will appear in open data, where a codebook might be useful. But we'll cover that next week.

## Some examples to get ideas from

### Information sheets/consent (not the easiest to read, but useful)

#### Item 3. – Participant Information sheet

**Goldsmiths University of London**

You are being invited to take part in a Psychology research study, which is being completed as part of a BSc Psychology student project at Goldsmiths, University of London. Before you decide to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being carried out and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and decide whether you wish to participate. If anything is unclear, please contact us. Contact details are located at the bottom of this page.

Thank you for reading this.

**What is the purpose of the study?**  
Research suggests that personality traits and duration of a stimuli have a significant effect on eyewitness testimony. This project seeks to further understand the relationship between personality and the duration of exposure to a face in the context of eyewitness testimony. We want to find out whether there are correlations between the big 5 personality factors and memory in eyewitness tasks and how personality influences judgement. The goals of the study will be explained at the end in a comprehensive debrief. The study is being carried out as part of a second-year undergraduate mini-dissertation.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**  
You will participate in a 20-minute online questionnaire with three sections. The first section will involve you looking at images of faces. The second section consists of a personality questionnaire which will measure your big 5 personality traits and finally you will be asked some questions. You may take as long as you need during this study.

**I do have to take part?**  
You decide whether you would like to take part. If you decide that you would like to take part then you will be asked to sign a consent form and to read all the information provided on this sheet. If you do decide to participate, you are still free to withdraw at any time for any reason. If you do wish to withdraw at any point, you will not be penalised for any reason and your data will be removed. If there are any questions during the second section of our study that you do not wish to answer, for any reasons, you may skip the question.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**  
You may become distracted during this study, if that occurs, we suggest you take a break. Also, if this study negatively affects you in any way, you are free to contact the Samaritans using the number 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org. You may also visit this link <https://www.gold.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/> which will send you to Goldsmiths well-being page and will have many useful resources available for you. You can also email campus-support@gold.ac.uk if you need support in any way.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**  
The information that we get from the study may help us to understand how personality traits and stimuli may affect memory recall which can lead to a deeper understanding on eyewitness testimony. There are not many studies that look at both personality and memory recall and their effect on eyewitness testimony.

**What if something goes wrong?**  
If you wish to complain about the experience you have had, please contact the Supervisor or the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee, d.mullen@lse.ac.uk.

**Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**  
All information collected from your participation during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential and will not be identifiable.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**



**Debrief form**



**Department of Psychology**

Student researchers: [REDACTED]

**Debrief form**

We would like to take this opportunity to say **Thank You** for taking the time to complete our study.

Please be assured, all data collected will be treated with the strictest confidence. You are free to withdraw your data from the research **at any time** by contacting [REDACTED]

The completed research will help to gain an understanding of prosocial behaviour, which is observed through actions that benefit other people. This is shown to be extremely beneficial in building positive relationships and outcomes. Prosocial behaviour may be predicted by varying levels of empathy, emotional self-efficacy and group bias.

We tested participant empathy and emotional self-efficacy using the questionnaires you completed. We also introduced the recipients you encountered in the task with varying degrees of similarity to yourself. How you scored on these measures and how you viewed the recipient would then influence how you acted towards them.

In this study, the amount donated to the recipient determined levels of prosocial behaviour. Any and all people over the age of 18 were invited to take part in this study.

If you were unduly or unexpectedly affected by taking part in the study, please feel free to contact the researchers: [REDACTED]

If for any reason you feel unable to talk with the researchers, then please contact the research supervisor, the chair of the ethics committee or the departmental head: [REDACTED]

## Redacted Ethics and Approval

Experimenter:



Ethics chair:

Daniel Mullensiefen - d.mullensiefen@gold.ac.uk

Head of Psychology Department:

José van Velzen - j.vanelzen@gold.ac.uk

### Item 7. – Confirmation of ethics approval

R root@psv547.gold.ac.uk  
To: [REDACTED]   
Fri 03/03/2023 10:53

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THIS IS AN AUTOMATED EMAIL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY ONLINE STUDENT ETHICS  
SYSTEM

[REDACTED]  
The approval status of your Y2 UG Mini-Dissertation ethics form has been updated by the ethics committee.

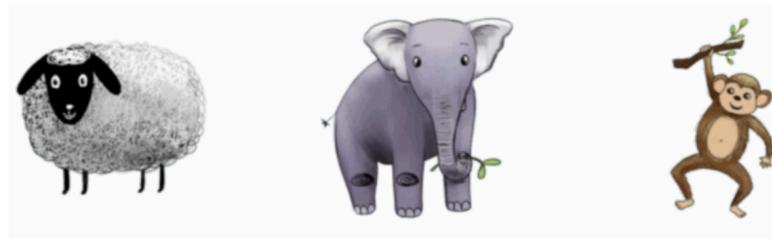
Status: APPROVED

Ethics committee comments:

**Stimulus items**

## Supplementary Materials F: Long-Term Memory Test Questions

1. Please take a mental note of the following animals:



2. Please look at the animals below:



- a. What three animals above were shown at the beginning of the memory test?  
Please write your answer in the answer box below.

**Description:** Participants were shown the first image containing the sheep, elephant and monkey at the beginning of the memory test. After completing the short-term memory task and the long-term memory task, they were then shown the second image and asked to recall what animals they saw at the beginning of the memory tasks.

**Video Stimulus Items (the link REALLY helps!)**

**8. Crime Video Stimuli**

[https://youtu.be/45T8\\_XVMwgc](https://youtu.be/45T8_XVMwgc)

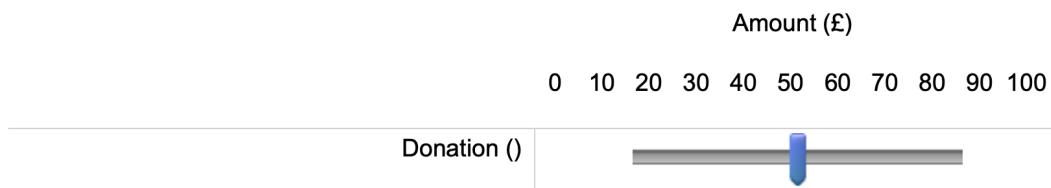


**A good illustration of a behaviour measure in Qualtrics****Prosocial Behaviour Task**

In each of the following scenarios, you have just received £100. You will be given the option of donating some of your money to a number of different individuals. You are free to donate as much, or as little of your money as you like. There will be no personal consequences to you whether you donate or not. Please note that each scenario is different, you have £100 every time.

**Scenario 1**

Kathy has been working on a business. She requires money to continue. Her family and friends are all donating money to help her continue. Would you like to give her any money? How much money would you like to donate?



**Comprehensive Questionnaire description with notes**

Prosocial Behavioral Intentions Scale (PBIS) (Baumsteiger & Siegel, 2019)

Instructions: Imagine that you encounter the following opportunities to help others. Please indicate how willing you would be to perform each behavior from 1 (Definitely would not do this) to 7 (Definitely would do this). If you are more likely to complete one

task (e.g., help a stranger find a key) than another (e.g., help a stranger find a missing pet), please respond to the task that you would be more likely to perform.\*

1. Comfort someone I know after they experience a hardship
2. Help a stranger find something they lost, like their key or a pet
3. Help care for a sick friend or relative
4. Assist a stranger with a small task (e.g., help carry groceries, watch their things while they use the restroom)

Scoring: Calculate the mean of scores on all items.

\*The final sentence was not part of the original instructions but is recommended for future use.

*Note.* Our study did not include the last sentence, as it was seen as confusing. Our study included only the original instructions as used by Baumsteiger and Siegel (2019).

Baumsteiger, R., & Siegel, J. T. (2019). Measuring Prosociality: The Development of a Prosocial Behavioral Intentions Scale. *Journal of Personality Assessment, 101*(3), 305–314. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00223891.2017.1411918>

**If you still have a live link, or categorised continuous IVs**

n.b. Treatment of IVs, data, pre-processing steps or similar could be handled in Open Data.  
Just be clear!

Open Materials B: Survey Link

[https://goldpsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/previewId/83c55144-a2c4-4b41-8908-c418b3063844/SV\\_57NeaBeFj8WmBTw?Q\\_CHL=preview&Q\\_SurveyVersionID=current](https://goldpsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/previewId/83c55144-a2c4-4b41-8908-c418b3063844/SV_57NeaBeFj8WmBTw?Q_CHL=preview&Q_SurveyVersionID=current)

Open Materials C: Scoring Keys

For data analysis, the mean total was calculated for the dependent variable (Mood Changes) and was labelled ‘Total Mean Mood Changes’. The independent variables were split into two levels through a medium split, (0-6 Hours of Sleep) was labelled as ‘Low Sleep’ and (7-10 Hours of Sleep) was labelled as ‘High Sleep’. For social support the values (0-5) were ‘Low Social Support’ and (6-10) were ‘High Social Support’.

## Materials for a face to face interview

### 3. Self Administered Interview

#### SECTION A: What Happened?

Please read through the information below and follow the instructions.

Before recording any of your memories of the event, take a few moments to picture in your mind where the event happened, what you saw, what you were thinking and how you were feeling at the time.

Why should you do this?

Thinking about the event before writing down your memories will help you remember more details.

What should you do now?

Give yourself plenty of time to concentrate, and visualise what happened in your mind.

Think about the following things:

- Where the event took place
- How you were feeling watching the video
- What was happening
- Who was involved
- What you could see
- What you could hear

It may help to shut your eyes while you remember the event.

Once you are satisfied that you have managed to fully remember the event, continue to the next section of the questionnaire.

#### SECTION B: Who Committed the Crime?

Please read through the information below and follow the instructions

Please provide as much detail as you can about the offenders (the people who committed the crime or who were involved in the incident) in the provided space below. Begin with the person you had the best view of or remember most clearly.

If you have already provided a description elsewhere in this survey, please recall them again and take a few moments to consider whether there are any further details you can recall now.

If possible provide the following information about each person.

Do not guess about anything you are unsure of.

- Gender
- Apparent Age
- Height
- Ethnic origin
- Weight / Build
- Eyes / Ears / Mouth / Nose / etc.



## Example of interview coding scheme

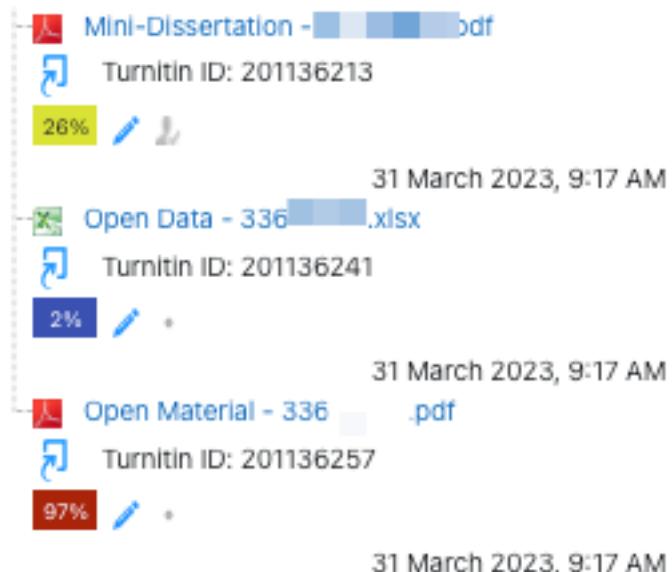
### 7. Coding Scheme

	Male Suspect	Female Suspect
Gender	male	female
Age	20-35	20-35
Height	5'7-5'9	5'3-5'6
Ethnic Origin	white	white
Weight/Build	stocky	slim
Hair	dark/short	blonde/curly/wavy/shoulder length
Facial Hair	stubble	none
Complexion	white/fair	white/fair
Clothing/Shoes	long, black, smart, coat	pink, top; blue/purple coat; black, white, <u>polkadot</u> , trousers
Accent	Northern/Scottish/Accent	doesn't speak
Glasses	none	none
Jewellery	none	none
Accessories	none	none
Scars/Marks/Tattoos	none	none

#### Coded Example:

Suspect number 1 who approaches the female demanding for her phone is a **white male** with a slim build dressed **smartly** in a **dark overcoat** possibly navy or **black**. He has **short dark hair** and **northern** accent. Height is around 6ft. Suspect 2 is a **female** with **fair** skin also a **slim** build and **shoulder length blonde** hair, **wavy/curly**. She is shorter than the male possibly **5,6ft**. She is wearing **spotted trousers black** with **white dots**. She **does not speak** during the altercation. She appears to be going through the victims pockets briefly. Victim is a fair skinned female. She is shorter than the male but hard to guess exact height as she is hunched over looking at her phone. Passer-by is also a white male with a long dark overcoat, short dark hair.

Participant No.	1	Frequency	Female Tally	Frequency
	Male Tally			
Gender	1	1	1	1
Age		0		0
Height		0	1	1
Ethnic Origin	1	1		0
Weight/Build		0	1	1
Eyes/Ears/Nose/Mouth/etc		0		0
Hair	11	2	111	3
Facial Hair		0		0
Complexion		0	1	1
Clothing/Shoes	1111	4	11111	5
Accent//Doesn't Speak	11	2	1	1
Glasses		0		0
Jewellery		0		0
Accessories		0		0
Scars/Marks/Tattoos		0		0
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>13</b>

**What the submission will look like in Turnitin****References**