

Participant Information Sheet

Researcher:

My name is Nicole Tan and I am a PhD clinical student in the Research School of Psychology at the Australian National University.

Project Title: How does Social Anxiety Influence Decision-Making?

General Outline of the Project:

- **Description and Methodology:** The study seeks to understand how social anxiety influences performance in speech and decision-making when given a series of information. Data collection will be conducted in-person using a set of questionnaires and computer-based behavioural tasks. You may also be required to give a speech in front of a camera which will be live-streamed to several professionals. Your speech will be evaluated by the professionals. When completing the questionnaires, you will be asked to fill out some demographic questions (e.g., age, gender, education level, English proficiency, and history of mental health conditions) and then report your decisions in the behavioural tasks. The study should take no longer than 45 minutes. Please be advised that topics relevant to anxiety, psychotic-like experiences, and hypothetical social scenario will make up parts of the study, so please consider if this is likely to be an issue for you before continuing. If you feel uncomfortable while completing the study, you can withdraw at any time without any reasons and consequences by letting the primary researcher know. You can withdraw up until results are prepared for publication.
- **Participants:** Participants are ANU students above the age of 18. Participants must be able to understand verbal/written instructions in English in order to be eligible to participate. Data from at least 146 participants will be collected. Participants can sign up for this study through the Research School of Psychology, Psychology Research Participation Scheme (SONA).
- **Use of Data and Feedback:** Data collected from this study will be used and presented in my thesis and, peer-reviewed publications or conference presentations. Only aggregated data will be reported, and no identifiable information will be included in the dissemination. Deidentified data may be shared for academic use in support of the open science requirement. Upon the completion of the study, a summary of the research results will be uploaded to an online website for which interested participants can access via the following link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FMIw99GrFZPy-g9kyJcP3Cwxl4p3ukZZ_ep09ReHQcg/edit

Participant Involvement:

- **Voluntary Participation & Withdrawal:** Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You can decline to take part or withdraw from the study without any explanation at any time by letting the primary researcher know. You can withdraw up until results are prepared for publication. To withdraw after completing the study, you can contact the primary researcher, Nicole Tan, at nicole.tan@anu.edu.au with your unique participant ID. Once you withdraw your data from data analysis, all your responses will be deleted. The details that you use to sign up to this study on SONA will not be linked to your responses in this study. Your responses to the questionnaires and behavioural tasks will remain confidential as far as the law allows.
- **What does participation in the research entail?** You are invited to take part in a study which involves completing a survey with questions on demographic information (e.g., age, gender, education level, ethnic background, history of mental health condition) and measurements related to your emotional and behavioural responses. You will be asked to complete computer-based tasks that involve viewing stimuli on a

computer screen and reporting your decisions. The study will be conducted in-person. You may be asked to give a speech in front of the camera and your speech will be evaluated by several professionals.

- **Location and Duration:** The study is one-off and takes place at one of the psychology labs in the ANU Psychology Building. Your participation is completely voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study at any time without reason or consequence by letting the primary research know. You can withdraw up until the results are prepared for publication. The completion of this study will take no more than 45 minutes.
- **Remuneration:** In recognition of your time, I will offer you 1 course credit.
- **Risks:** As this study is conducted in-person, COVID-19 safety guidelines will be put in place to ensure the safety of both the researcher and participant. Both the researcher and participant will sanitise their hands at the beginning and end of the study and both parties will wear masks. The researcher will wipe down all contact surfaces in the lab with a surface sanitiser after each participant. When completing the behavioural tasks, the researcher will leave the room to minimise contact. **Should the researcher or the participant feels unwell or experiencing COVID-like symptoms on the scheduled day, the researcher or the participant must cancel and not attend the study session.**
Topics relevant to anxiety, psychotic-like experiences, and hypothetical social scenario will make up parts of this study, so please consider if this is likely to be an issue for you before continuing. Some questionnaires and parts of the behavioural tasks contain some questions that may trigger discomfort or distress to some people. If you feel distressed by any questions, please discontinue the survey and speak to an independent support service.
 - ANU students are advised to seek help from the
 - ANU Counselling Centre, 156 Joplin Lane, ANU Campus (6125 2442), or
 - ANU Wellbeing and Support Line on 1300 050 327 (voice) or 0488 884 170 (text).
 - Other resources include:
 - Mental Health Crisis Service on 1800 629 354 or 02 6205 1065 (24 hours),
 - Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636 (24 hours),
 - eheadsapce on 1800 650 890 (9am – 1am),
 - FriendLine on 1800 424 287 (10am – 8pm), or
 - MindSpot on 1800 61 44 34 (8am – 8pm)

You can also navigate the relevant resources and supports through the MindMap website: <https://www.mindmap.act.gov.au/s/> as well as <https://www.anu.edu.au/students/health-safety-wellbeing/getting-help-at-anu/anu-counselling/contacts-and-community-services>

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you can withdraw at any time without providing an explanation.

- **Benefits:** By participating in this study, you may gain additional insight into psychological research. Your involvement will also help us to better understand the underlying process that people use to revise their belief upon receiving a new piece of information. This will contribute to the theoretical models of anxiety and in turn, may facilitate interventions for anxiety. Benefits will flow broadly to the research and clinical communities.

Confidentiality:

- **Confidentiality:** You will be given a unique participant ID to complete the study, and therefore the details you use to sign up for this study via SONA will not be linked to your responses in the study. In the set of questionnaires, only basic demographic information such as age, education level, ethnicity, spoken and

written languages, and history of psychological conditions will be collected. Your identity and responses will remain confidential as far as the law allows, and only aggregated data will be reported. Only my supervisors and I will have access to the aggregated data for analysis and reporting. If the data is shared on open repository such as the Open Science Framework portal, the demographic details will be removed and only responses to the behavioural tasks and scales measuring trait variables will be included.

Privacy Notice:

In collecting your personal information within this research, the ANU must comply with the Privacy Act 1988. The ANU Privacy Policy is available at https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppi/document/ANUP_010007 and it contains information about how a person can:

- Access or seek correction to their personal information;
- Complain about a breach of an Australian Privacy Principle by ANU, and how ANU will handle the complaint.

Data Storage:

- **Where:** All data management procedures will be in compliance with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and the ANU Code of Research Conduct. Electronic information will be stored on a password-protected computer and secured online storage including OneDrive and Cloudstor. The folder containing the data will also be password-protected. Only the investigators will have access to this information.
- **How long:** All consent forms will be kept in a locked filing cabinet for five years following the use of thesis or potential publications arising from the research. Raw digital data will be stored on the primary researcher's password-protected computer for 5 years and the data will be archived after this period. Archived data will continue to be managed by the primary researcher.

Queries and Concerns:

- **Contact Details for More Information:** If you have any questions about the study, please contact the primary research, Nicole Tan (nicole.tan@anu.edu.au) or her primary supervisor, Dr. Yiyun Shou (yiyun.shou@anu.edu.au), Research School of Psychology, Australian National University.
- **Contact Details if in Distress:** If you feel that you have been adversely impacted by participating in this study, and would like to speak to an independent support service, you are advised to seek help from your closest help centre, which can be checked at: <https://www.borderlineintheact.org.au/contact/>
 - ANU students are advised to seek help from the
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Ethics Committee Clearance:

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2022/192). If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager
The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee
The Australian National University
Telephone: +61 2 6125 3427
Email: Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au