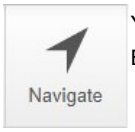
Main Ethics Application Form

Guidance

Before you start

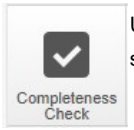
Note: Below is some helpful guidance completing this form. The form accepts plain text only (no special formatting). You can upload attachments to the form if special formatting is required (e.g. charts, illustrations etc.)

Please note that the session will time out after a period of inactivity. It is advised that you regularly **Save** to ensure no content is lost.



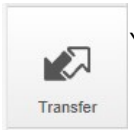
You can use the **Previous** or **Next** buttons to move throughout the form, or use the **Navigate** button to return to the navigation page. Begin from the **START HERE** button, to ensure the correct questions will appear on your form.

To share access to your form, use the roles function, you can also assign roles through **Assign Role** next to any of the contact boxes on the form. Use the **Collaborators** button to see their level of access



Use the **Completeness Check** to ensure that you have answered all of the relevant questions. Please note you will not be able to submit an incomplete form.

All student projects will require a supervisors signature. You can see a list of signatures here and any pending signature requests. You can **Unlock** an application once signed, but this will require a new signature to confirm changes.



You can **Transfer** your project to another researcher. Please note you will lose access to the project once this is complete.

You can **Unlock for Amendment** on any approved project. Please ensure you change your answer to Question 2. Failure to do so will result in delays.

Screening Tool for Researchers

1.0 Does your project involve any of the following?

- [x] Research involving human participants.
- [ ] The collection and/or use of material derived from humans.
- [ ] Access to, collection or use of personal data or property, including mass data collected online (including from social media platforms).
- [ ] Access to, collection of or use of non-personal sensitive or confidential data.
- [ ] Research with the potential to expose any person, whether participating in the research or not, to physical or psychological harm.
- [ ] Research with the potential to cause a significant negative impact or damage to the environment.
- [ ] Research involving genetic material and the local or traditional knowledge relating to the genetic material.
- [ ] Research exploring or involving illegal activities, requiring access to or handling of materials related to illegal activities and/or research that could lead to the disclosure of information that could facilitate illegal activities.

External approval screening

- [ ] Research requiring sponsorship and external approval from the Health Research Authority and/or NHS Research Ethics Committee.
- [ ] Research involving His Majesty's Prison and Probation Services.
- [ ] Research requiring external approvals from the Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee.
- [ ] Research involving animals, including both research covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA) and non ASPA research involving animals and when relevant frameworks exist, to include research involving material derived from live or deceased animals.

Please click the below if none of the above from BOTH checklists apply

- [ ] None of the above.

New Application or Amendment

2.0. Initial or Amendment

- (•) New application or revision to initial application
- ( ) Amendment to an already approved application

Please ensure that if your application has been unlocked for an amendment, that this above answer has been changed. This will ensure you are revealing all relevant questions on the form. Failing to do so will cause delays.

Applicant Details

2.1. Project Title Fiction Interoception Physio

Applicant

Title	The Role of the Body in the Perception of Reality
First Name	Ana
Surname	Neves
Email	A.Neves@sussex.ac.uk
Job Title	C8300 Doctoral Tutor in Psychology
Status	Academic Staff
Faculty	Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine
Department	Psychology

Who is the Principal Investigator for this project?

If you are a student, this may be your supervisor. Please ask your supervisor to complete this question if you are unsure.

- ○ Applicant
- ◉ Supervisor
- ○ Another Researcher

Worktribe project ID (if applicable)

2.3. Are you seeking blanket ethical approval for a module? ○ Yes ◉ No

2.5. Does the project involve any co-researchers from the University of Sussex? ○ Yes ◉ No

2.7. Does this project involve co-researchers from another institution? ○ Yes ◉ No

2.13. Is a data sharing agreement or contract required for your project? ○ Yes ◉ No

Project Overview

3.0. Proposed start date 01/10/2025

3.1. Proposed end date 30/06/2026

3.2. What type of project are you undertaking?

- ☑ Research
- ☐ Service Evaluation
- ☐ Audit
- ☐ Impact

3.4. Medical Specific Screening for SEM Faculty

Please tick all that apply, to ensure your application reaches the correct committee for review.

- ☐ Research which requires participants to be under medical supervision
- ☐ Research involving medical interventions, such as the use of imaging techniques/medical devices.
- ☐ Research relating to patient care and/or the way patient care is delivered
- ☐ Research exploring participants experience of health care or experience of health conditions
- ☑ None of the above

3.5. Is this research project only using secondary data sources, with no primary data collection?

This does not apply to datasets collected from social media, which will require full ethical review.

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Project Details

4.0. Description of project.

4.0.1. Please provide a brief background summary and the context of your project.

This study is an extension to a previous experiment (ER/EB672/2) interoceptive measures and physiological recordings following a

paradigm previously reviewed (ER/EB672/1). This study will follow the standard operating procedures (the risk assessment form is attached in this ethics).

The study investigates two main questions: 1) what is the impact of knowing that a stimulus is “fake” and 2) what drives the formation of these reality beliefs. This project is part of my PhD thesis.

Participants will first review a consent form outlining the use of erotic images, which is also communicated in recruitment materials (posters, SONA). The form explains the collection of physiological data via EEG and ECG, the use of silver/silver chloride electrodes, and advises against participation for those with relevant skin sensitivities or allergies. Confidentiality will be ensured, with no identifying information collected; data will be stored only after study completion, allowing withdrawal up to that point but not thereafter due to anonymity. Demographic information (age, gender, education, ethnicity, country of residence) will then be collected to assess sample representativeness.

The whole experiment is composed of 3 distinct blocks with two of them presented in a counterbalanced order. Participants first start with the resting state part and then either the fiction part first or the interoception part first.

The resting state part consist of a resting state task and a resting state assessment - Amsterdam Resting-State Questionnaire (ARSQ; Diaz et al., 2014) to get a baseline measure of physiological data.

The ARSQ assesses mind wandering along seven dimensions: Discontinuity of Mind, Theory of Mind, Self, Planning, Sleepiness, Comfort, and Somatic Awareness. The questionnaire consists of 21 items rated on 7-point Likert scale from 0 (Completely disagree) to 6 (Completely agree).

The fiction part consist of 2 main tasks and a questionnaires presented in the middle of these tasks: the Beliefs about Artificial Images Technology survey (BAIT; Makowski et al., in prep). In the first task participants are presented with erotic images, all images are real photos, however participants will be told that some images were generated by AI, by presenting a label prior to the presentation of the photo as "AI-generated" or "Photograph". After each image participants are asked to rate them on Body Reaction, Valence and Enticement. Once all stimuli is seen, participants are asked to give feedback on the task, before completing the questionnaires. The second tasks consists of telling participants that some labels were purposefully mixed and that they now need to report on what they think the origin is. They are then presented again with all the stimuli (randomised) and asked to rate their confidence on the origin of the images as either AI-generated or Photograph on a slider scale. After all stimuli are presented then a general experiment feedback page is presented, followed by a debrief indicating the use of deception with expressing that some images were fake when in fact they were all real. Erotic images were sourced from the Nencki Affective Picture System (NAPS-ERO; Wierzba et al., 2015).

After each image is shown participants are then asked to rate each image on Body Reaction (How much did you feel your body physically respond to the image? Think about sensations like tension, warmth in your body, or changes in heart rate or breathing), Valence (How did you feel overall when viewing the image, ranging from negative to positive? Consider that feeling positive can also equate to feeling psychologically aroused) and Enticement (How sexually appealing do you think this image would be for people similar to you in terms of gender and sexual orientation?). Body reaction will be assessed on a slider scale from "Not at all" to "Strong reaction"; Valence will be assessed on a 7-point Likert scale from 0 (negative) to 6 (positive); and Enticement will be rated on a 7-point Likert scale from 0 (not at all) to 6 (very much).

The BAIT survey measures beliefs about AI (Makowski et al., in prep). In this task, participants have to answer 17 Likert scale items enquiring about their attitudes towards AI on a 7-point Likert scale from "Not at all" to "Expert".

The Interoception block involves 2 tasks and 3 questionnaires aimed to access interoceptive abilities: a Tapping task, the Heartbeat Counting Task (HCT; Schandry, 1981), the Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness second version (MAIA-2; Mehling et al., 2018) and the Interoceptive Accuracy Scale (IAS, Murphy et al., 2020) and the Multimodal Interoception Questionnaire (Mint; Makowski et al., 2025).

The MAIA-2 is a 37-item questionnaire assessing eight dimensions of interoception: Noticing, Not-Distracting, Not-Worrying, Attention Regulation, Emotional Awareness, Self-Regulation, Body Listening, and Trust. Responses are rated on a 7-point Likert scale from 0 (never) to 6 (always).

The IAS is a 21-item questionnaire assessing subjective interoceptive accuracy. Items are rated on 5-point Likert scale from 1 (Disagree strongly) to 5 (Strongly agree).

The Mint is a 33-items questionnaire assessing interoception across modalities and contexts . Each item is rated on 7-point Likert scale (0 = Disagree, 6 = Agree).

References:
Diaz, B. A., Van Der Sluis, S., Benjamins, J. S., Stoffers, D., Hardstone, R., Mansvelder, H. D., et al. (2014). The ARSQ 2.0 reveals age and personality effects on mind-wandering experiences. Front. Psychol. 5:271. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2014.00271
Mehling, W. E., Acree, M., Stewart, A., Silas, J., & Jones, A. (2018). The multidimensional assessment of interoceptive awareness, version 2 (MAIA-2). PloS one, 13(12), e0208034.
Schandry, R. (1981). Heart beat perception and emotional experience. Psychophysiology, 18(4), 483-488.
Murphy, J., Brewer, R., Plans, D., Khalsa, S. S., Catmur, C., & Bird, G. (2020). Testing the independence of self-reported interoceptive accuracy and attention. Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology, 73(1), 115-133.
Makowski, et al. (in prep). FakeArt: Investigating the Relationship between Reality Beliefs and Aesthetic Experience.

Wierzba, M., Riegel, M., Pucz, A., Leśniewska, Z., Dragan, W. Ł., Gola, M., ... & Marchewka, A. (2015). Erotic subset for the Nencki Affective Picture System (NAPS ERO): cross-sexual comparison study. Frontiers in psychology, 6, 1336.

4.0.2. Please provide the research question and/or hypothesis.

It is hypothesised that (1) image type ('real' vs. 'AI-generated') will significantly predict emotional responses, with AI-generated images receiving lower subjective ratings; and (2) this effect will be moderated by interoceptive ability, such that individuals with higher interoceptive sensitivity will exhibit a larger difference in ratings between AI-generated and real images compared to individuals with lower interoceptive sensitivity. Additionally, it is hypothesised (3) that images eliciting stronger emotional responses will be more likely to be subsequently judged as real by participants.

4.0.3. Please provide a rationale for the overall aims of the project and briefly summarise the expected benefits of your research to your participants or the wider community.

By addressing these questions, the study aims to advance understanding of how bodily signals and emotional responses shape reality perception. In a world increasingly saturated with ambiguous stimuli (such as texts, images, videos, or environments whose authenticity is uncertain) clarifying the processes that guide such discernment is crucial. This is particularly relevant given the profound impact of misinformation and fabricated content, which can distort political processes and enable illicit practices such as the non-consensual distribution of synthetic pornographic material and financial fraud.

4.1. Which research methods do you plan to use?

Please tick all that apply

- ☐ Interviews
- ☑ Questionnaires
- ☐ Observation
- ☐ Focus Group
- ☐ Ethnographic methods
- ☐ Citizen Science
- ☐ Workshops
- ☑ Experimental
- ☐ Participatory Methods
- ☐ Another Research Method not listed

4.1.1. Please add details on your method/s here

The experiment will be structured as follow:

After providing informed consent, participants will be fitted with three ECG electrodes (below the right collarbone, below the right rib, and below the left rib), a respiratory belt sensor placed below the chest, and the Muse S Athena headset to record EEG. The headset is a commercially available device designed for ease of use by non-experts. Participants will also be informed that eye-tracking data will be collected throughout the experiment, and reassured that the system records only gaze patterns, not facial features.

Participants are then seated and told to start the resting state task and reminding them to not fall asleep for the 8 minutes. Once this and the resting state assessment is completed depending on their participant ID number, they either do the Interoception part first or the fiction part first (odd number do Fiction first, even numbers do Interoception first).

In the fiction block, participants will view 50 erotic images tailored to their self-reported gender and sexual orientation. For example, participants identifying as male and homosexual will be shown 25 images of males and 25 images of male couples. Those identifying as bisexual, another sexual orientation, or a gender other than male or female will first be asked to indicate their preferred stimulus category:
a) Females and female couples
b) Males and male couples
c) Females and opposite-sex couples
d) Males and opposite-sex couples

Each trial begins with a fixation cross (3 s), followed by a cue (AI-generated or photograph; 2 s), a fixation cross (3–5 s, uniformly sampled), and the target image (4 s). After viewing, participants provide affective ratings. A break is offered at the halfway point. Upon completing the task, participants provide feedback on whether they found some or none of the images arousing, whether AI-generated images were more or less arousing than photographs, and whether they could distinguish between image types. They are also asked if they believed the labels were accurate or if all images were real or AI. If they report believing all images belonged to a single category, they are additionally asked to rate their confidence in this judgment. They then complete the BAIT. The second task re-presents the same images for 1 s each, preceded by a fixation cross (400–600 ms, uniformly sampled). After this task, participants complete a general feedback questionnaire on their experience and are invited to share any additional comments.

The Interoception block always begins with the tapping tasks, followed by the questionnaires and the HCT, presented in counterbalanced order. The tapping task comprises several subtasks:
1. Voluntary external tapping (40 trials): participants press the spacebar when the rotating clock hand reaches a designated target point (red arrow).
2. Voluntary internal tapping (40 trials): participants press the spacebar voluntarily before the clock hand completes a 360° rotation.
3. Mixed task (80 trials): a randomized combination of the first two subtasks.
4. Rhythmic task: participants synchronize their taps with 10 beeps at 42 BPM and continue tapping at the same rhythm after the beeps stop (120 presses in total).
5. Random tapping (120 presses): participants tap the spacebar at random intervals.
6. Cardiac tapping (120 presses): participants attempt to tap the spacebar in synchrony with their perceived heartbeats.

The heartbeat counting task (HCT) consists of six trials with intervals randomly varying between 20 and 45 seconds. In each trial, participants silently count their heartbeats without physically checking their pulse, then report the number counted and their confidence in its accuracy.

4.2. Is this research going to be funded by a grant? ○ Yes ◉ No

4.3. Will your project involve the utilisation of non-human genetic resources (including any associated traditional knowledge) sourced from outside the UK?

○ Yes
◉ No

Does your project involve any of the following?

5.0. A physical risk to participants and/or the researcher

e.g. collection of human materials, administration of food, drugs, placebos or other substances, the use, production, storage, waste, transportation and/or release of chemicals and hazardous (biological agents, flammable/dangerous/explosive substances, biological agents etc.) or equipment, the use of physical agents (excessive noise exposure, ionizing radiation, electromagnetic fields) or use of invasive or potentially harmful procedures.

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

5.1. Potential to induce psychological stress, distress or anxiety, or produce humiliation or cause harm or other negative consequences

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

5.1.1. Please detail any topics which have the potential for causing participants stress, distress, anxiety, humiliation or other negative emotions and explain how this will be managed.

In this study, participants will be presented with erotic images. Since recruitment will be conducted via SONA, the minimum participation age is set at 18 years. The consent form requires participants to confirm that they are over the age of 18 before taking part. Participants will be informed that the study includes erotic images in both the consent form and the SONA study description. They will also be reminded that they may withdraw from the study at any time prior to completing the experiment, without penalty. For privacy and comfort, participants will complete the experiment in a room separated from the researcher.

5.1.2. Please outline any previous training and experience you and/or your supervisor have in the field of your project and any other relevant trainings/ experience e.g. safeguarding which may be relevant.

This is the third study of this nature being completed by the lab. Participants will always be made aware of their ability to withdraw and explicitly told about the nature of the images before they start the experiment and reminded that withdrawal will not penalise them.

5.2. Studies that may lead to disclosures from the participant that raise ethical or moral dilemmas, involvement in illegal actions or risk of harm to themselves or others

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

5.3. Involvement of participants who could be considered vulnerable or could feel coerced or obliged to take part, or disadvantaged by not taking part.

e.g. people who are unable to give informed consent or in a dependent position, people under 18 years of age, people with learning disabilities, over-researched groups or people in care facilities

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

5.4. Deception and/or participation without consent (incl covert observation of people in non-public places). Please refer to the British Psychological Society Code of Ethics and Conduct (or similar guidelines) for further information.

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

5.4.1. Please justify why it is necessary to deceive participants and/or involve participants without first receiving consent.

The study involves a minor deception. Participants will be informed that some images in the face-rating task are AI-generated, whereas in reality all images depict real faces. This deception is not expected to cause any harm or distress, and participants will be fully debriefed once data collection is complete.

5.5. Potential to identify research participants in publications or outputs.

This does not include taking email details for participant prize draws or identifying participants from signed consent forms or holding identity encryption spreadsheets that are stored securely separate from the research data.

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

5.6. Research exploring or involving illegal activities, requiring access to or handling of materials related to illegal activities and/or could lead to the disclosure of information that could facilitate illegal activities.

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

5.7. The collection of personal, special categories of personal data*

identifiers relating to racial, or ethnic origin, political opinions, trade union membership, religious or philosophical beliefs, genetics data, biometrics data, health, data concerning sex life or sexual orientation.

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

5.7.1. Please explain why the collection of any special categories of personal data is necessary for your project and why the project aims cannot be achieved without collection of this data.

A Data Protection Impact Assessment may also be required, so please contact a Data Protection Officer for advice

Information on sexual orientation is collected to appropriately assign stimuli, while data regarding participants' sexual behaviour are gathered to contextualize the results in terms of physiological and psychological arousal. Racial and ethnic background is collected to characterize the sample and assess its representativeness and the generalizability of the findings.

5.8. Please outline any other ethical issues that you think are relevant to your project and not covered elsewhere, including potential conflicts of interest.

There are no other significant risks associated with participation in this study.

Based upon your answers to the above questions your application may be considered **HIGH** risk.

If, however you wish to make a case that your application should be considered as **LOW** risk please enter the reasons here. Researchers should note that SREOs or F-RECs may decide NOT to agree with the case that you have made.

5.9. Would you like your application to be considered as LOW risk?

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

5.9.1. Please summarise why:

We consider this study to be low risk, as participation poses no harm and does not involve sensitive information or vulnerable populations. The only potential risk is exposure to erotic images; however, the nature of these images will be clearly described both in the SONA study description and the consent form, allowing participants to make an informed decision about their participation.

Additionally, the stimuli comes from a validated dataset and is fairly mild in erotic content.

Recruitment

6.0. How many participants do you plan to recruit? Please provide an estimate if unknown at this point.

100 participants

6.0.1. Please detail the justification for your sample size.

The sample size is based on other studies involving the collection of physiological data (e.g., ER/ASF25/2).

6.1. Please explain how participants will be selected including any inclusion and exclusion criteria.

We will exclude participants younger that 18 years of age due to the erotic nature of the images presented in this study.

6.2. Will you require cooperation of a gatekeeper in order to access participants?

- ( ) Yes
- (•) No

6.3. How will initial contact be made with participants?

Please note that if you are recruiting participants via social media, a separate profile should be created (using a university e-mail address or a dedicated study webpage, etc.). Please also review the University's guidance on social media.

Please explain how you will have appropriate access to your participant cohort(s) that is compliant with data protection laws.

The study will be advertised on SONA at the beginning of 2015-2016 academic year. Psychology students will have access to the study on SONA as part of their module requirement of completing online and lab studies in return for course credits.

Data Collection

6.4. Will you be using your University of Sussex email address for email correspondence.

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

6.5. Please upload copies of the invitation text such as poster, email and web advertisements.

Documents

Type	Document Name	File Name	Version Date	Version	Size
Other Participant Materials	recruitment	recruitment.pdf			117.5 KB

6.6 Will you be using any of the following: questionnaires, topic guides, interview structure, debriefs).

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

6.6.1 Please upload any participant facing documents. i.e. questionnaires, topic guides, interview structure, debrief.

Documents

Type	Document Name	File Name	Version Date	Version	Size
Other Participant Materials	ARSQ	ARSQ.pdf			5.0 MB
Other Participant Materials	BAIT	BAIT.pdf			4.6 MB
Other Participant Materials	IAS	IAS.pdf			5.6 MB
Other Participant Materials	MAIA	MAIA.pdf			6.8 MB
Other Participant Materials	MINT	MINT.pdf			7.8 MB
Other Participant Materials	Questionnaire Instructions	Questionnaire Instructions.pdf			263.1 KB
Other Participant Materials	Fiction_Feedback	Fiction_Feedback.pdf			1.6 MB
Other Participant Materials	Experiment_feedback	Experiment_feedback.pdf			580.4 KB
Other Participant Materials	Debrief	Debrief.pdf			1.4 MB

6.7 Will you be showing participants any photo's/pictures/audio/visual recordings/clips? (•) Yes ( ) No

6.7.1. Please upload any materials which will be shown to participants.

Documents

Type	Document Name	File Name	Version Date	Version	Size
Photo's/Pictures/Audio/Visual Recordings/Clips	Stimuli	Stimuli.pdf	22/09/2025	1	18.9 MB

If your research intervention and materials are likely to develop once the research has begun, please include as much information as possible about the planned research intervention and materials you will use.

N/A

6.8 Will participants be provided with a Participant Information Sheet?

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

6.8.1 Please upload a copy of your Participant Information Sheet.

You are encouraged to utilise the template and guidance notes for research studies:

www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/documents/partictipant-information-sheet-template.doc

www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/documents/pis-cf-why-do-i.pdf

Documents

Type	Document Name	File Name	Version Date	Version	Size
Participant Information Sheet	Consent	Consent.pdf	22/09/2025	1	3.6 MB

6.9. Are you accessing participants or data containing personal data via an online environment or internet setting?

Please note that when researching over researched or potentially vulnerable groups, it is not appropriate to scrape from online groups which explicitly state that gatekeeper approval is required, or disallow data collection in their group T&Cs.

e.g. chat rooms, social media, instant messaging, online forums.

- ( ) Yes
- (•) No

6.11. Do you intend to collect a large dataset to use for modelling in a machine learning project?

- ( ) Yes
- (•) No

6.12. Does this project involve the use and/or storage of human tissue?

- ( ) Yes
- (•) No

Informed Consent and Withdrawal

7.0. Will participants give consent to take part prior to their participation?

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

7.0.2. How will your participants give consent?

- [x] In Writing/online form
- [ ] Verbally

7.0.4 **In Writing/online form**

Documents

Type	Document Name	File Name	Version Date	Version	Size
Written Consent Form	Consent	Consent.pdf			3.6 MB

Consent form templates can be found on our central website

Please find BSMS specific templates on the central BSMS website

7.1. Will questionnaires be completed anonymously and returned indirectly?

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

7.2. How will you ensure that the participant information is provided in a suitable format for your target group? i.e, do they require language translation, child specific documents, written forms or oral consent?

The participant information will be provided in a written format, suitable for adult student participants. Since all participants are over 18 and fluent in English, no language translation or child-specific documents are required. Participants will read the consent form and provide written confirmation of their consent before beginning the study.

7.3. How long will participants have to consider participation in your study?

2 hours

7.4. Will participants be able to leave at any time during the study without giving a reason?

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

7.5. Will participants be able to withdraw their research data?

- ( ) Yes
- (•) No

7.5.2. Please explain why participants are unable to withdraw their research data.

This will need to be clearly stated in the participation information sheet or justified if conducting research without consent

Participants are informed that they may withdraw from the experiment at any time prior to data being saved. However, due to the anonymous nature of participation, once the data has been stored it will no longer be possible to link individual participants to their responses. This will be explicitly stated in the information sheet.

7.6. Will participants be reimbursed or paid for their expenses and/or time?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

7.7 Will researchers be publishing direct quotes from research outputs?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ Not Applicable

Researcher/Participant Safety and Wellbeing

8.0. Is DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) clearance necessary for this project?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

8.1. Will the research be conducted outside the UK? (not including research online)

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

8.2. Will any local (overseas) ethics or governance approvals or permissions be required in order to conduct the research?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

8.3. Please detail all the locations for your research (computer, field work, lab work).

Lab work. The participants will be completing the experiment in Pevensey 2 room 3b19 (Human Psychophysiology Lab).

8.4. Will participants be provided offered the option of a chaperone?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

8.5. Will any researchers be in a lone working situation?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

8.6. Will the study involve engaging participants in the discussion of potentially distressing or sensitive topics? (e.g. sexual activity, drug use, ethnicity, political behaviour, potentially illegal activities).

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

8.7. Can you think of anything else that might be potentially harmful to the research group?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

8.8. How will the findings of the study be fed back to participants in an accessible way?

The findings will be disseminated in an open and accessible format. The anonymised dataset and analysis scripts will be made openly available, together with their HTML equivalents so that participants can easily follow each step of the analysis. A summary of the results will be shared in the form of a GitHub blog post and on other platforms to maximise accessibility. In addition, the findings will be included as part of the doctoral thesis and later published in a peer reviewed journal.

Data Storage/Management

9.1. Will data be transferred outside of the University of Sussex?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

9.2. Will you be transferring or receiving any personal data from outside of the UK?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

9.3. Will the Principal Investigator take full responsibility during the study, for ensuring the lawful collection of, appropriate storage of and security of information (including research data, consent forms and administrative records)?

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

9.4. Where will data be stored for the duration of the project?

University of Sussex Box

Data Analysis / Management

9.5. Who will have access to personal information and data relating to this study and how will the results be analysed?

Myself (the phd student) and the PI of the project.

9.6. Will you require the use of transcription software?

- ( ) Yes
- (•) No

9.7. Is your research data already anonymous?

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

9.8. Please detail how long will raw data be retained, and how and when personal data will be deleted?

This includes audio/video files recorded for transcription purposes or media artifacts. Please state if these will be deleted upon transcription, or retained for future research and research outputs (this should be clearly identified in the PIS, consent and media release forms).

The raw data will be securely stored in a restricted Box folder until June 2026. Prior to sharing, an additional cleaning procedure will be applied to ensure further anonymisation and remove any potentially identifying information. Only this fully anonymised and processed dataset will be made available publicly via GitHub, in accordance with best practices for confidentiality and data protection.

9.9. Will lists of identifiable numbers or pseudonyms linked to names and/or other personal information be stored securely and separately from the research data?

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

9.10. Do you intend to use the research data for any purpose other than that for which consent is explicitly given?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

9.11. Do you intend to present your research externally? (This might include publication, results in a conference).

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

9.11.1. Please specify where:

The findings will be disseminated through peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, inclusion in the PhD thesis, and accessible formats such as blog posts.

9.12. What will happen to anonymised data from the study after completion of the project? (Please tick all that apply).

- ☐ Data will be transferred to supervisor for future use
- ☐ Data will be used in future research projects
- ☑ Data will be published on an open access repository
- ☐ Data will be destroyed once award is conferred or project is complete
- ☐ Another use

9.13. How will you obtain consent to publish or use the data from this project in future research?

Participants are asked to provide consent via the information and consent sheet, which explicitly states that the data may be used in publications and future research.

9.14. Please indicate what safeguards will be in place to ensure that data will be secure and compliant with data protection laws.

We will not collect information that directly identifies the participants.

If you have had a change requested through track changes, and you want to discuss this with the F-REC or query this– please use this box to detail your argument

N/A

If you have any other documents to upload which are not specifically related to a question on the form, please attach these here.

Documents

Type	Document Name	File Name	Version Date	Version	Size
SAE Supporting Documentation	EyeGaze	EyeGaze.pdf			575.5 KB
SAE Supporting Documentation	Fiction_Block	Fiction_Block.pdf			5.2 MB
SAE Supporting Documentation	Interoception_Block_	Interoception_Block_.pdf			3.7 MB
SAE Supporting Documentation	Devices	Devices.pdf			51.5 KB
SAE Supporting Documentation	Risk_Assessment_Form	Risk_Assessment_Form.pdf			2.9 MB

Applicant

The declarations are to be completed by the applicant, please ensure that you read and sign at the end so your application will be submitted. Failure to do so will result in delays.

By submitting your own application, you are agreeing to the following declarations

- ☐ I confirm that I have read UoS Code of Practice for Research

  UoS Code of Practice for Research

  Research Governance Standard Operating Procedures (including ethical review)

- ☐ The information in this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I take full responsibility for it.
- ☐ I understand that I am responsible for monitoring the research at all times and recording any unexpected events.
- ☐ If any serious adverse events arise in relation to the research, I understand that I am responsible for immediately stopping the research and alerting the F-REC Chair within 24 hours of the occurrence.
- ☐ I am aware of my responsibility to comply with the current requirements of the law and relevant guidelines relating to security and confidentiality of personal data.
- ☐ I understand that research records / data may be subject to inspection for audit purposes if required in future.
- ☐ I understand that I may not commence this research until I have been notified that the project has ethical approval.
- ☐ If there is a substantial change in topic/methodology or risk categorisation I confirm that I will submit an amendment to outline the changes.
- ☐ Research records will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 as detailed by University Guidance

  Data Protection Act 2018

  University Guidance

Signature