University of Sussex

Sussex Psychology Participant Pool

Sophie Johnson (Researcher)

System Message: Study updated.

Study Menu

Study Information

Study Name	Learning Conceptual Maps in the Brain
Study Type	**Multi-Part Study** This is a Multi-Part study. There are 2 parts. All parts must be signed up for at the same time. Part 2 should be scheduled to occur between 1 and 2 day(s) after Part 1

Restrictions

Prescreen Restrictions	No Restrictions View/Modify Restrictions

Additional Study Information

	Part 2 may be scheduled to occur at any time on a different day than Part 1 and that is within the range of acceptable dates.
Study Status	**Not visible to participants :** Not Approved Send Request **Inactive study :** Does not appear on list of available studies
Duration	165 minutes (Part 1) 165 minutes (Part 2)
Pay	50 Pounds (Part 1) 50 Pounds (Part 2) (100 Pounds total)
Abstract	This study aims to further our understanding of how we learn new concepts and apply past experience to solve new problems.
Description	We are investigating how people learn new concepts and use limited past experiences to predict the best course of action in a new situation or problem. The study will run over the course of several weeks and involves a period web-based training intersected by two fMRI scanning sessions for each participant. The scanning sessions will take place at the Clinical Imaging Science Centre (CISC) on University of Sussex Campus. Over the course of several weeks, you will be invited to periodically log into a web-based system and engage in a trial-and-error learning task. You are encouraged to do this at least 4 times a week and spend a minimum of 15 minutes on the task each time. You will able to complete the task on any personal computer device. As part of the study you will be invited to take part in two fMRI scanning sessions, bookending the mid-point and end of the training period. Whilst in the scanner, you will be asked to perform an adapted version of the online training task and undergo a structural scan which will

Participant Sign-Up Deadline	24 hours before the study is to occur
Participant Cancellation Deadline	24 hours before the study is to occur
Ethics Approval Code	
Direct Study Link	https://sussexpsychology.sona-systems.cc This is a direct URL for participants to access the study. You may use this in an email or study advertisement.
Date Created	20 December 2023

Researcher Information

Researchers	Samuel Berens
	Sophie Johnson
Principal Investigator	Chris Bird

take approximately 45 minutes. Before the session, you will be asked to complete a short questionnaire so a radiographer can check that it is safe for you to have an MRI brain scan.

Task structure: On each trial, you will be shown a short sequence of one symbol and two images. This an example of the images you will be presented with, which we will refer to as ‘Sparks’. Following the short sequence, you will have to select the spark that you think should come next. You will select your answer by clicking on your choice from several different sparks presented together onscreen. A simple set of hidden rules determines which spark is the "correct" answer, although you will not know what these rules are at first.
Each question will be repeated many times. Learning through trial-and-error feedback, your aim will be to consistently select the correct image in correspondence with each spark pair and preceding symbol.
After several weeks of training, you will be provided with a new training task to complete alongside the old task for the remainder of the experiment. The new task will follow the same question-structure but the sparks shown in the questions will be different.

Note on compensation: We will pay you £50 after each scanning session, £100 in total if you complete both of the sessions this experiment involves. These payments will compensate you for the time the you have spent inside the scanner (at a rate of £10 per hour), and the time spent practicing the task ahead of each scanning session (at a rate of £6 per hour). If you withdraw from the study before your first scanning session, we will be unable to pay you anything. If you withdraw from the study during or after your first scanning session, you will be granted a partial payment of £50.

The study is being conducted by researchers Sophie Johnson (sj483@sussex.ac.uk), and Sam Berens

	(s.berens@sussex.ac.uk). They are based within the School of Psychology at the University of Sussex (UK) and are happy to be contacted if you have any questions.
Eligibility Requirements	Aged 18-40, Right-handed, Normal colour-vision, Must not have a pacemaker, cochlear implant, any other metallic implants or be at risk of metallic fragments in the body(e.g. history of metal work).
Preparation	Completing the web-based learning task for the training period of our study is the required preparation for the two fMRI scanning sessions. We will pay you £50 after each scanning session (£10/hour in the scanner and £6/hour for training).

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