

## **SEMANTIC NETWORKS GAME: INFORMED CONSENT DOCUMENT**

We invite you to participate in a research study being conducted by investigators from Washington University in St. Louis. You are being asked to participate in this research study because you are a healthy adult in the St Louis community. The purpose of the study is to understand how people organize words in memory.

If you agree to participate, we would like you to participate in a two-player computer word game, and also participate in a vocabulary test and demographics questionnaire. You will be randomly paired with another participant to play this word game, and then play the game in separate rooms via computers.

In some versions of the game, you may be asked to think aloud as you proceed through the game. In these cases, your responses will be recorded via an electronic audio device. These responses will not contain any personally identifying information, and will only be used for the purposes of gaining more insight into the game.

The entire task should not exceed 60-90 minutes. You are free to skip any questions that you prefer not to answer on the questionnaires.

You are free to let the experimenter know in person (if participating in a lab study) if you do not wish to participate in this study.

- Identifiers may be removed from your private information and used for future research or shared with others. If this occurs, we will not ask you for additional consent.

Approximately 600 people will take part in this study at Washington University and online.

Given that you will play the word game with another person who will know you are playing the game with them, there is potential for breaching confidentiality. However, we will ensure no personal identifying information is provided to either of the participants about the other participant and both participants will verbally consent to maintaining confidentiality about the experiment after it is over.

You will not benefit personally from this study. However, we hope that others may benefit in the future from what we learn as a result of this study.

You will not have any costs for being in this research study.

As a Washington University undergraduate participating through Sona during Fall or Spring semesters, you will be compensated in course credit for your participation, by the rate of 0.5 credit for every half hour of participation. If you do not wish to participate in

this research study, you can refer to your course syllabus for alternative means to obtain credit.

If you are a student participating in the summer or winter, or a healthy adult in the community, you will be compensated with \$5 for every half hour of participation. If you are being paid in cash, you may need to provide your social security number (SSN) in order for us to pay you. If your social security number is obtained for payment purposes only, it will not be retained for research purposes. You may also need to provide your address if a check will be mailed to you.

We will keep the information you provide confidential by using anonymous participant IDs and anonymizing all vocabulary and demographics surveys. Audio recordings will be anonymized and safely stored on password-protected lab computers. However, federal regulatory agencies and Washington University, including the Washington University Institutional Review Board (a committee that reviews and approves research studies) and the Human Research Protection Office may inspect and copy records pertaining to this research. If we write a report about this study we will do so in such a way that you cannot be identified.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may choose not to take part at all. If you decide to participate in the study you may stop participating at any time. Any data that was collected as part of this study will remain as part of the study records and cannot be removed. If you decide not to take part in the study or if you stop participating at any time, you won't be penalized or lose any benefits for which you otherwise qualify.

If you do not wish to participate in this study or want to end your participation in the study, please let the experimenter know in person or via email. You will not be penalized or lose any benefits for which you otherwise qualify.

We encourage you to ask questions. If you have any questions about the research study itself, please contact: Abhilasha Kumar, 314-935-6524, [abhilasha.kumar@wustl.edu](mailto:abhilasha.kumar@wustl.edu). If you feel you have been harmed from being in the study, please contact: Dr. David Balota, 314-935-6549. If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Human Research Protection Office at 1-(800)-438-0445 or email [hrpo@wustl.edu](mailto:hrpo@wustl.edu). General information about being a research participant can be found on the Human Research Protection Office web site, <http://hrpo.wustl.edu>. To offer input about your experiences as a research participant or to speak to someone other than the research staff, call the Human Research Protection Office at the number above.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this research study.