

# Prospective Research Participant Information Sheet

*Centre for the Politics of Feelings, Department of Psychology*

Royal Holloway, University of London

Project Title: **Testing the impact of emotional vocal cues in political audio**

Principal Investigator: Catherine Moez, Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

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Additional Researcher: Manos Tsakiris, Professor of Psychology.

## **Introductory paragraph**

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide to consent to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is taking place and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Please consider carefully whether you wish to consent to take part.

## **Why is this research being conducted?**

We are interested in how listeners respond to different recorded clips of politicians speaking. We would like to know whether certain messages or emotional appeals are more effective than others, and whether certain emotions in speech are disliked by audiences. We are particularly interested in whether individuals who feel more disengaged from politics, or who tend to dislike politicians and parties, respond differently than people who are more strongly affiliated with a political party. As part of this questionnaire, you will be asked to listen to audio clips from different politicians, and to assess your response to each one.

## **Why have I been invited to take part?**

To take part, you must be able to play and hear audio on your computer. You must also be fluent in English, at least 18 years old, and a citizen of the United Kingdom or the United States. These requirements help us to ensure that you are representative of voters in your country.

## **Do I have to take part?**

Participation in this study is voluntary. Please feel free to contact the primary investigator with any questions you may have before deciding to participate or not. You should receive a response within 24 hours. If you agree to participate and start the study, you can still withdraw your participation at any point before submitting the questionnaire at the end. Your data will only be used and shared in an anonymous format (i.e., any potentially identifying information such as an IP address attached to your answers by the survey website will be removed as soon as possible and when the final dataset is stored).

### **What will my participation involve?**

The questionnaire should take about 10 to 15 minutes of your time at most, including listening and responding to 16 short audio clips. You will be presented with:

- Screening questions and consent form (i.e., are you eligible and do you wish to participate)
- Questions about your views on politics
- 16 audio segments, each followed with questions about your immediate reaction to the audio played.
- Questions about your demographic information

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks in taking part, and how might these be mitigated?**

Please note that the audio segments may contain strong emotion, such as anger, but should not be especially upsetting or harmful.

With regards to your data, the survey platform or survey recruitment tool (Prolific) may collect identifiable information about you, such as your IP address. However, these platforms release data to the researchers in a non-identifiable format. The research team will ensure that any version of the dataset later made available to other academics or the public will not contain identifiable information. However, there is always a small risk that this information could be released, e.g., if the survey collection website has a data breach.

Please do not write identifiable information such as your name in any open-text answers to questions in the survey, as these will be released with the anonymized dataset. The research team reserves the right to censor identifiable answers from open-text answers before the (anonymized) dataset is released.

### **Are there any benefits in taking part?**

There should not be any immediate benefits to taking part. However, your responses help us to advance scientific understandings of how citizens respond to different types of emotional appeal by politicians. We value your contribution to this research.

### **Payments**

Payment provided for your participation in this research will be set to the survey platform and recruitment platform's standard payments, which could range from no payment to a small honorarium for your time.

### **What information about me will be collected and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research objectives?**

Primarily, we will collect your responses to our audio tracks, and related questions about your demographic traits and political views. This data will be retained, without identifiers, indefinitely.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) information we will collect from you includes political opinions and (optional) racial/ethnic background, which are considered 'sensitive' or 'special category' information. We will retain these answers in the dataset. If you type in any text in response to open-text answers, please do not type anything that you would not want to be released in the anonymized dataset. We may censor any open-text answers that we find to be too identifiable, e.g., references to your own name, workplace, or to very small demographic categories.

Identifiable data will be stored within researchers' local hard drives and/or cloud storage accounts, under password protection. Identifiable information will be deleted from any copies of the dataset made publicly available. Anonymized data will be stored indefinitely.

The researcher, Catherine Moez (Postdoctoral researcher), and research team (Ms. Moez and Manos Tsakiris, Professor of Psychology) will have access to the research data.

Research data may be transferred to, and stored at, a destination outside the UK and the European Economic Area. Identifiable data will be removed whenever possible and any data transfer will be undertaken with a similar level of data protection as required under UK law.

We would like your permission to use this data in future studies, and to share this with other researchers (e.g., in online databases). Please note that any version of the data shared beyond the research team will be anonymized, meaning that your personal IP address and any other indicators of who you are as an individual will be removed. We reserve the right to censor open-text answers to remove any information that could be personally revealing (identifiable to you as an individual), as well.

### **How will the results of my participation be used? Will the research be published? Could I be identified from any publications or other research outputs?**

This data will be used to produce a research paper summarizing the findings (across all participants, and within particular sub-groups, such as different age groups or genders of respondent). This may be published in an academic journal, or as a working paper or conference paper. The anonymized dataset associated with the research may be shared with other researchers or the general public, in keeping with current standards of 'open' and transparent scientific research.

### **Who is funding the research?**

The research is funded by Centre for the Politics of Feelings, an interdisciplinary research lab (between Politics and Psychology) directed by Professor Manos Tsakiris.

### **Who do I contact if I have a concern about the research or I wish to complain?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact the principal investigator, Catherine Moez, via [catherine.moez@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:catherine.moez@rhul.ac.uk), or Royal Holloway's Research Ethics Committee via [ethics@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@rhul.ac.uk). If you wish to make a formal complaint, please email [integrity@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:integrity@rhul.ac.uk).

### **Ethical Approval**

This study has received ethics approval from Royal Holloway, University of London's Research Ethics Committee, with the reference ID of 314.

## **Data protection**

This research commits to abide by the Data Protection Act (2018).

### **General Data Protection Regulation Statement**

Important General Data Protection Regulation information (GDPR). Royal Holloway, University of London is the sponsor for this study and is based in the UK. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. Any data you provide during the completion of the study will be stored securely on hosted on servers within the European Economic Area'. Royal Holloway is designated as a public authority and in accordance with the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College Act 1985 and the Statutes which govern the College, we conduct research for the public benefit and in the public interest. Royal Holloway has put in place appropriate technical and organisational security measures to prevent your personal data from being accidentally lost, used or accessed in any unauthorised way or altered or disclosed. Royal Holloway has also put in place procedures to deal with any suspected personal data security breach and will notify you and any applicable regulator of a suspected breach where legally required to do so. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible (i.e., the email address you provide us). The lead researcher will keep your contact details confidential and will use this information only as required (i.e., to provide a summary of the study results if requested and/or for the prize draw). The lead researcher will keep information about you and data gathered from the study, the duration of which will depend on the study. Certain individuals from RHUL may look at your research records to check the accuracy of the research study. If the study is published in a relevant peer-reviewed journal, the anonymised data may be made available to third parties. The people who analyse the information will not be able to identify you. You can find out more about your rights under the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 by visiting <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/more/governance-and-strategy/data-protection/> and if you wish to exercise your rights, please contact [dataprotection@royalholloway.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@royalholloway.ac.uk)

NB: You may retain this information sheet for reference and contact us with any queries.