**Information sheet**

**Project**: Reading Spatial and Social texts

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You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why this research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask me if there is anything that is not clear to you or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

**What is the purpose of the project?**

Most eye-movement research during reading has been conducted with single sentences that occupy only one line of text. In the present study, we are interested in how the reading process unfolds when people are reading longer passages of text that occupy more than one line and how this multiline reading differs between social and spatial subject matters. This will help us understand how reading is influenced by different types of information in texts and help us inform existing computational models of eye-movement control during reading. The study is expected to take about 30-45 minutes to complete.

**Why have I been chosen?**

You were chosen because you are a university student at Bournemouth University who meets the following inclusion criteria for this study:

* a fluent speaker of English for at least 5 years
* at least 18 years of age
* have normal or corrected-to-normal vision (i.e. glasses/ contact lenses)
* **not** have been diagnosed with a reading disorder
* **not** have been diagnosed with any cognitive impairment

**What would taking part involve?**

In this experiment, you will first be asked to complete a Montreal Cognitive Assessment also known as a MoCA which is a short coginitive assessment that assesses things such as attention and concentration. You will then be asked to read 25 passages of text silently to yourself for bearing in mind that you will be asked comprehension questions based on the text. A device known as an eye-tracker will record your eye movements while you are reading, a picture of what this device looks like is shown below (Figure1). You will be asked to answer comprehension questions about the passages after reading them. The eye-tracking device will need to be calibrated before you start the experiment and this calibration procedure will be repeated periodically thereafter. There will be a scheduled break halfway through the experiment, but you can take as many breaks as you need by just letting the experimenter know.   
Figure.1:  


**Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be offered a copy of this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a participant agreement form. You can withdraw from participation in this experiment at any time and without giving a reason. If you decide to withdraw prior to completing the study, we will remove any data collected about you from the study. Once the experiment has finished, you can still withdraw your data up to the point where the data is analysed and incorporated into the research findings or outputs. At this point your data will become anonymous, so your identity cannot be determined, and it will not be possible to identify your data within the anonymous dataset. Withdrawing your data at this point may also adversely affect the validity and integrity of the research. Deciding to take part or not will not affect your studies at BU in any way.

**What are the advantages and disadvantages of taking part?**

There are no immediate advantages to taking part in this study other than a compensation for your time with 1 SONA credit or £10 per hour. However, your participation will help us better understand how the reading process is influenced by different types of passages. There are no known disadvantages of taking part and the risks of participating in this study do not exceed those encountered in daily life.

**What type of information will be sought from me and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research project’s objectives?**

The information collected from you is eye-movement patterns while you read short passages as well as your scores from a Montreal Cognitive Assessment. This data is crucial for answering our research questions because it allows us examine how readers control their eyes when reading to comprehend different types of information  
  
We will not be using the Montreal Cognitive Assessment as a diagnostic tool or in anyway use it to assess your cognitive ability.

**How will my information be kept?**

All the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly in accordance with current data protection legislation. Research is a task that we perform in the public interest, as part of our core function as a university. Bournemouth University (BU) is a Data Controller of your information which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it appropriately. BU’s Research Participant Privacy Notice sets out more information about how we fulfil our responsibilities as a data controller and about your rights as an individual under the data protection legislation. We ask you to read this [Notice](https://intranetsp.bournemouth.ac.uk/documentsrep/Research%20Participant%20Privacy%20Notice.pdf) so that you can fully understand the basis on which we will process your information.

You will not be able to be identified in any external reports or publications about the research. Your information will only be included in an anonymous form, i.e. you will not be identifiable. BU will hold the information we collect about you in hard copy in a secure location and on a BU password protected secure network where it will be held electronically. Except where it has been anonymised your personal information will be accessed and used only by appropriate, authorised individuals and when this is necessary for the purposes of the research or another purpose identified in the Privacy Notice. This may include giving access to BU staff or others responsible for monitoring and/or audit of the study, who need to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations.

The information collected about you may be used in an anonymous form to support other research projects in the future and access to it in this form will not be restricted. It will not be possible for you to be identified from this data.

The completely anonymised electronic data (excluding voice recordings) will also be stored on the Open Science Framework (OSF) website (https://osf.io/). Storing data on the OSF website enables data to be shared between funding bodies, researchers and institutions with ease, whilst offering the opportunity of a wider evaluation and scrutiny by the scientific community, thus allowing a greater and more accurate replication and validation of research results.

**Contact for further information**

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Calvin Laursen ([claursen@bournemouth.ac.uk)](mailto:claursen@bournemouth.ac.uk)), or Tim Slattery ([tslattery@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:tslattery@bournemouth.ac.uk)).

**In case of complaints**

If you have any concerns about this study, please contact Professor Tiantian Zhang, Deputy Dean for Research & Professional Practice at Bournemouth University, Faculty of Science & Technology by email to [researchgovernance@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:researchgovernance@bournemouth.ac.uk) .

If you decide to take part, you will be given a copy of the information sheet and a signed participant agreement form to keep. Thank you for considering taking part in this research project.