**Read me!**

Thank you for participating!

In this study you will be asked to improvise stories, either individually or jointly with another person at the other fMRI suite. There will be two such story-building runs / trials, each consisting of a 15 minutes long story-building phase, and a 5 minutes long re-tell.

In one trial (not necessarily the first trial) you will be asked to build a story together with your study-partner. The two of you will take turns in developing the story. That means that in each turn, one of you will continue the story, adding new events and developing the plot in the way he/she wants. However, you are also asked to respect the other’s contributions – the story should remain a coherent one, with one storyline. At the end you are asked to re-tell the story you created together. During re-tell you will not hear each other anymore, that is an individual task.

In the other trial, you will be asked to build two, parallel-running but independent stories. You will still take turns in doing so. At each turn, one of you will develop further and further his/her own story, while the other person waits for the next turn. The two stories should remain independent in this case. At the end you are asked to re-tell both stories though, so please attend to your partner’s story as well.

At the beginning of each story, you will be given a topic. These are generally worded and leave almost everything to you to fill in. Do not worry about following these themes strictly – if the story develops in another direction, it is fine. In the case of individual stories, you are both given the same topic, just as in the trial with the joint story.

We will record the stories, but will only use your voice recordings for group-level, anonymous data analysis. If you give us consent, we might use the transcripts or short excerpts for examples and further categorization tasks but only in an anonymized fashion.

After the two story-building trials, we will ask you to simply listen to two short stories, and also to read out two further stories loudly. These latter two will be displayed on the screen line-by-line. Altogether, you will spend about 75-80 minutes in the scanner, and the overall study time will be less then 120 minutes.

Importantly: try to enjoy the story-building task. Feel free to be creative and don’t worry too much about how the story is developing. If you have an idea, try to build on it. There are no “good” or “bad” stories here; anything that comes to mind can be useful to developing the plot.

Even after your participation, feel free to contact us at any time with any questions:

Primary experimenter:

Adam Boncz

adam.boncz@gmail.com,

603-322-8166

Supervising faculty:

Prof. Thalia Wheatley

thalia.p.wheatley@dartmouth.edu