THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Survey and Behavioural Research Ethics

Consent Form

Study Title: Properties of pleasant stroking (R1)

Experimenter

Name: Chu Sai Ting, Ryan

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Email: ryancst@link.cuhk.edu.hk

Research Supervisor

Name: Professor Annett Schirmer

Phone: 3943 3468

Email: schirmer@cuhk.edu.hk

The research that you will be participating in today is part of a project jointly conducted by Professor Annett Schirmer (CUHK, Psychology) and Professor Trevor Penney (CUHK, Psychology). The goal of this research is to identify the characteristics of human stroking that are perceived as pleasurable.

Participation in this study involves 4 movement conditions. In one condition, you will be asked to expose your non-dominant arm and place it comfortably on a platform and use your dominant hand to gently stroke your arm. In a second condition, you will be asked to gently stroke an artificial arm. In a third condition, you will be asked to gently stroke a friendly pet dog. In a fourth and final condition, your task is to lightly tap your hand on a solid surface.

Your motions will be recorded in two ways. First, two cameras will be directed at your arm. No recordings will be made of your face and other body parts. Second, a motion sensor will be attached to your hand. You will be asked to participate in only one session. A session will last about 60 minutes.

Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary.

You may withdraw from participation at any time without penalty. In this case, you will be

credited for the duration of time you have participated. You may ask the experimenter to discard your data.

All information obtained in the course of this experiment will be used for research purposes only; it will be protected and kept confidential by the researchers of this project and not be shared with a third party unless forced by law.

You will be debriefed in more detail about the project goals once you have finished the experiment. If you have further questions, please address the experimenter or call Professor Annett Schirmer at 3943 3468. If you have any concerns about this research you may also contact Prof. Annett Schirmer (3943 3468), the Research Director of the Department of Psychology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

My signature below indicates that I have read the above description and voluntarily consent to participate in this research. I understand that I will require the signature of a parent if I am younger than 18 years.

_____	_____
Participant name	Student number
_____	_____
Participant signature	Date
_____	_____
Parental signature (For participants below the age of 18 years.)	Date

Properties of pleasant stroking

Debriefing Information

In summary, a lot of evidence suggests CT afferents are related to affective social touch. We would like findings and theory to be extended and applicable in the real world scenario. Unfortunately, existing research only paid attention to control stimulus carefully but ignored the importance of ecological validity. The stroking touch is always being instructed or programmed in very limited ways and directions across different studies. In the laboratory setting, stroking velocity and stroking target temperature are shown to have correlation with CT afferents activation. As a matter of fact, more factors may be affecting the way we caress naturally. Hence, the present study attempted to uncover typical pleasant stroking patterns, their velocity and rhythm. We aimed at comparing different stroking behavior towards different stroking target. Lastly, we sought to find out some potential association between stroking and tapping. We would like to know if the findings in another study could be generalized to another living creature other than human.

We hypothesized that affectionate stroking has varied, non-linear components that are characterized by repetition and rhythm. Moreover, we expected these patterns to show some amount of repetition, CT appropriate velocity, as well as a temporal regularity that gives rise to a rhythmical stimulation. In addition, in line with earlier work suggesting differences in touch behavior towards social as compared to non-social touch targets, we predicted that stroking velocity shows better CT tuning for the couple, self stroking and dog condition as compared with the artificial arm stroking conditions and that other touch characteristics (e.g., repetition, rhythmicity) may show parallel differentiating effects. Last, we would expect that there is a correlation in the time measurement between comfortable tapping with pleasant stroking.

If you have any further questions about this project, please feel free to contact the experimenter, Chu Sai Ting, Ryan (ryancst@link.cuhk.edu.hk) or the corresponding research supervisor Annett Schirmer (schirmer@cuhk.edu.hk).

Department of Psychology, CUHK

Subject Pool

Ethics approval-supervisor endorsement

Notes

1. If you're a professor, professional consultant, lecturer or postdoctoral fellow in the department, supervisor endorsement is not needed, please send your ethics application form to research ethics committee and you will receive an email when the committee has reviewed your application.

2. If supervisor endorsement is needed, please fill up this form with your supervisor's signature and submit to the research ethics committee. You will receive an email when the committee has reviewed your application.

Study Information:

Study Title	**Properties of pleasant stroking (R1)**

Researcher Information:

Name	**Chu Sai Ting, Ryan**
Email	**1155116409@link.cuhk.edu.hk**
Phone	**67765072**

Supervisor Endorsement:

I have reviewed the ethics forms and I endorse the researcher's application.	
Name of Supervisor	**Professor Annett Schirmer**
Signature	
Date	**6 October, 2019**