

LETTER OF INFORMATION / CONSENT

SONA Study Number

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Purpose of the Study:

The purpose of this experiment is to explore basic perceptual processing mechanisms.

Procedures involved in the Research:

Your task in this experiment is to respond to the numbers 1 or 2. You will hold down the G and H keys on your keyboard. If you see the number 1, you'll release the G key by lifting your index finger as fast as you can. If you see the number 2, you'll release the H key by lifting your middle finger as fast as you can. There will be a number of hands moving in the background. Ignore them and focus on the task. Your key releases will turn the number on the screen pink. This will occur randomly between 1-1000ms after your key release. Your job is to estimate the interval between your key release and the change in colour (anywhere between 1ms-1000ms). This experiment will take between 30-45min, although you are allotted a full hour to complete it.

Potential Harms, Risks or Discomforts:

There is a chance of becoming bored or feel fatigued towards the end of the experiment. Potential feelings of boredom and/or fatigue are normal and should be temporary.

There is an increased risk of a data breach given that this is an online study (compared to in-person). Also note that if you are using a computer in a public space or at home, then there is a chance that someone in your vicinity could see their responses on the screen, hear your responses if you are using audio, or someone in the household who shares the computer could access your responses. Please take appropriate precautions (e.g., complete the study in a private place and clearing their web browser history upon completion).

Potential Benefits

While there are no direct benefits to you of taking part in this experiment (other than learning more about the research topic), the results of this study will provide us a better understanding of perceptual and sensory processes.

Payment or Reimbursement

You will receive 1 credit for participating in this study.

Confidentiality

In order to give you the SONA credit, we must ask you to input your MacID at the end of the experiment. However, to help protect your identity in case of a data breach, your MacID will be saved on a Google form (linked at the end of the study) separate from your responses in the experiment – only Carl Michael Galang will have access to this Google form. Furthermore, only members of the research team will have access to your responses during the experiment, and the data itself will be saved on a secure server hosted by Pavlovia.org. However, note that there is always a chance of a data breach with online studies, so please take this into consideration when signing up for this study.

If you consent to have your anonymized data saved to an online repository (i.e., the Open Science Framework), please note that we will not save any identifiable information onto the repository. Furthermore, note that we will save that data indefinitely (or until the Open Science Framework closes). You can opt-in/out of this option before the start of the experiment.

Participation and Withdrawal

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw from the study at any point by closing the browser. In this event, any partial data we have collected from you will be deleted. Your decision whether or not to be part of the study will not affect your participation in future research studies conducted by the researchers or in the department. Note that due to requiring a completion code (which is given at the end of the experiment), withdrawing half-way through the study will not yield you a credit – please keep this in mind when signing up for this study. Note that withdrawal of your data is not possible after completing the study because it will be anonymized.

Information about the Study Results:

If you would like a brief summary of the results to be sent to you once the study is completed, please indicate this and provide your email at the end of the study. We will then be able to email you with a summary of the results once they are available. Sometimes studies are cancelled part-way through, if you do not hear from us by April 2021, please email the experimenter.

Questions about the Study: If you have questions or need more information about the study itself, please contact me at: galangc@mcmaster.ca

This study has been reviewed by the McMaster University Research Ethics Board and received ethics clearance. If you have concerns or questions about your rights as a participant or about the way the study is conducted, please contact:

McMaster Research Ethics Secretariat
Telephone: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23142
C/o Research Office for Administrative Development and Support
E-mail: ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca