

## LETTER OF INFORMATION / CONSENT



Inspiring Innovation and Discovery

### SONA Study Number

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**Purpose of the Study:**

This experiment investigates how quickly and accurately people are able to respond to visual cues, and how these responses are affected by seeing movements.

**Procedures involved in the Research:**

During the experiment, you will be seated in front of a computer screen while your hand is resting on a computer keyboard. On each trial, you will see a cue (a number) that will indicate to you that you must lift your index or middle finger. If you see a 1, lift your index finger; if you see 2, lift your middle finger. On the same trials, there will be a hand visible on the screen, which will sometimes move at around the same time as the cue is presented. Your task is to simply perform the movement signalled by the numbered cue, as quickly and accurately as you can, and ignore the movement of the on-screen hand. Furthermore, before each trial, you will observe a video of a hand either getting stabbed by a needle or touched by a Q-tip. At the end of the study, you will be asked to complete one questionnaire.

The main experimental task will take about 25-30min and the questionnaires will take around 5-10min to complete.

**Potential Harms, Risks or Discomforts:**

Some of the videos you will be watching contain content that portrays another person in pain (e.g. needle stabbing someone's hand). It is possible that you may find this upsetting, and that is okay. If you do not wish to continue with the experiment, please inform the experimenter; no negative consequences will occur (you will still get your credit(s) and be informed about the purpose of the study).

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.

You may feel as though you are not responding fast enough during the experiment. However, there is no reaction time to "beat", as we are more interested in seeing how fast *you* respond regardless of other participants.

You may feel embarrassed by answering one or more of the questions on the questionnaire(s). You are free to skip any and all questions you do not wish to answer on the self-report scales. No

negative consequences will occur (you will still get your credit(s) and be informed about the purpose of the study).

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 a better understand of neuropsychological 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 Pavlov.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](mailto: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](mailto:ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca)