

LETTER OF INFORMATION / CONSENT

Principal Investigator:

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Purpose of the Study:

The purpose of this survey is to explore individual differences in social perception.

Procedures involved in the Research:

For this study, you will be tasked with categorizing racial and religious groups on an evolution scale. This scale is based on the perception that people can vary in how human-like they seem. Some people seem highly evolved whereas others seem no different than lower animals. All of your answers are anonymous, so please be honest in your ratings. After this task, you will complete two questionnaires. Overall, this study will take ~15min to complete.

Potential Harms, Risks or Discomforts:

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 questionnaires. No negative consequences will occur (you will still get your payment be informed about the purpose of the study).

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 psychological processes.

Payment or Reimbursement

You will receive £1.5 (this is at a rate of £6/hour) for participating in this study.

Confidentiality

As you are completing this study through Prolific, all of your information saved on our end (via Pavlov.org) will be anonymized. Please note that you will be given a chance to input an email address at the end of the study, in case you are interested in getting a summary of the results of the study. If you do not wish to be identified, please use an email address that will not identify you. As an extra pre-caution, we will be collecting these email addresses on a separate Google Forms (link at the end of the study), to make sure that your data and email address are separated in case of a data breach.

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 payment – 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