

## Specific Ethical Protocol for Scientific Research at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of Ghent University

Version March 18, 2015

**Ethical Committee**  
Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences  
Ghent University  
H. Dunantlaan 2  
9000 Gent

### REQUEST TO THE ETHICAL COMMITTEE FOR ADVICE CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH PROPOSAL:

**1. TITLE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT:**

Incidental Attitude Formation via the Surveillance Task: A Pre-Registered Replication of Olson and Fazio (2001)

**2. NAME OF THE RESEARCHER(S):**

Sean Hughes and Tal Moran

**PHONE NUMBER:** 09 264 8649

**SUPERVISOR (IF ANY):** Jan De Houwer

**DEPARTMENT:** Experimental Clinical and Health Psychology (PP05)

**3. IS THERE A FINANCIAL SPONSOR FOR THIS PROJECT?**

Yes

**IF ANY:**

Grant BOF16/MET\_V/002 of Ghent University to JDH

**4. IS THE PROJECT PART OF ANY COOPERATION BEYOND THE FACULTY? IF SO,  
SPECIFY THE INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED.**

This project is a large-scale, multi-site, registered replication of a previously published study (Olson & Fazio, 2001; *Psychological Science*). The following individuals and laboratories from Europe and USA will participate (in most cases the contributions outside of UGent will be data collection):

Tal Moran<sup>1\*</sup>, Sean Hughes<sup>1\*</sup>, Ian Hussey<sup>1</sup>, Miguel A. Vadillo<sup>2</sup>, Michael A. Olson<sup>3</sup>, Frederik Aust<sup>5</sup>, Karoline Bading<sup>5</sup>, Robert Balas<sup>4</sup>, Taylor Benedict<sup>5</sup>, Olivier Corneille<sup>6</sup>, Samantha B. Douglas<sup>7</sup>, Melissa J. Ferguson<sup>8</sup>, Katherine A. Fritzlen<sup>3</sup>, Anne Gast<sup>5</sup>, Bertram Gawronski<sup>9</sup>, Tobias Heycke<sup>10</sup>, Fabia Högden<sup>5</sup>, Mandy Hütter<sup>11</sup>, Benedek Kurdi<sup>12</sup>, Adrien Mierop<sup>6</sup>, Jasmin Richter<sup>5</sup>, Justyna Sarzyńska<sup>4</sup>, Colin Tucker Smith<sup>7</sup>, Christoph Stahl<sup>5</sup>, Philine Thomasius<sup>5</sup>, Christian Unkelbach<sup>5</sup> & Jan De Houwer<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ghent University, <sup>2</sup>Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, <sup>3</sup>University of Tennessee, <sup>4</sup>Institute of Psychology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, <sup>5</sup>University of Cologne, <sup>6</sup>Université catholique de Louvain, <sup>7</sup>University of Florida, <sup>8</sup>Cornell University, Department of Psychology, <sup>9</sup>University of Texas at Austin, <sup>10</sup>GESIS, Mannheim, Germany, <sup>11</sup>Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Department of Psychology, <sup>12</sup>Harvard University, Department of Psychology.

**5. BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE THE RESEARCH PROJECT (AT MOST 200 TO 400 WORDS, ALSO UNDERSTANDABLE TO PEOPLE THAT ARE NOT ACQUAINTED WITH THE SUBJECT). EMPHASIZE WHAT ACTUALLY WILL HAPPEN DURING THE RESEARCH, FROM RECRUITING TO REPORTING (NOT THE THEORETICAL BACKGROUND).**

Evaluative conditioning (EC) is one of the most widely-studied and highly applicable pathways for establishing and changing attitudes. Although many paradigms have been used to study EC, the surveillance task (Olson & Fazio, 2001), is one of the most cited, and purportedly generates attitudes that are claimed to occur without awareness. The ability for EC effects to occur without awareness continues to fuel conceptual, theoretical, and applied developments. Yet few published studies have used this task, and those that do are characterized by small samples and very small effect sizes. This project represents a high-powered (N = 1200 after exclusions), pre-registered replication attempt designed to provide a strong test of EC effects produced by this task.

Participants will be recruited locally (at UGent via the SONA system) and at 11 other institutions in Europe and the USA (see above). Prior to the study they will be informed that they will complete an experiment. The standard privacy and consent policy will be provided which they will read and agree to prior to initiating the experiment. This information will indicate that their data will be stored publically, used for research purposes, and stored separately from their demographic information. Participants will be informed that they can send the researchers an email if they have any questions about their rights and privacy and that they can terminate the study at any point (by contacting the researcher).

During the experiment itself they will complete an evaluative conditioning task (the 'surveillance task'), along with self-report measures of liking, an implicit measure of liking (the Implicit Association Test), and several exploratory questions about their experience during the task.

**The surveillance task** consists of a stream of (distractor) stimuli and requires participants to detect and respond to a set of target stimuli. Ten positive words, ten negative words, ten positive images, and ten negative images will serve as unconditioned stimuli. The positive (Useful,



Calming, Desirable, Appealing, Worthwhile, Relaxing, Beneficial, Valuable, Terrific, Commendable) and negative words (Inferior, Harmful, Offensive, Troublesome, Upsetting, Terrifying, Unhealthy, Useless, Dislikable, Undesirable) are identical to those used in Experiment 5 of Jones et al. (2009). The positive and negative images were originally selected from the International Affective Picture System (IAPS; Lang, Bradley, & Cuthbert, 1997) or the web. Twenty Pokémon characters will be used as conditioned stimuli. Participating labs will be instructed to pretest these twenty characters onsite in order to identify the nine characters that are most neutral and least familiar to participants at that specific lab.

Following training, self-reported (and implicit) attitudes will be assessed. Participants will then complete post-hoc questions to gauge if they noticed the critical stimulus pairings during the surveillance task. After the study they will receive a full debriefing about the experimental purpose (i.e., the design and intent of the study).

For a detailed overview of the study, from recruiting to reporting, please see the attached pre-registration which has received Stage 1 acceptance at *Psychological Science*.

6. **DOES THE RESEARCH PROJECT IMPLY ANY THREATS TO THE PARTICIPANTS' HEALTH? HAVE YOU ALSO SUBMITTED A REQUEST TO THE MEDICAL ETHICAL COMMITTEE?**

No.

7. **ARE THE PARTICIPANTS HAVING ANY DIFFICULTIES KNOWN BEFOREHAND? IF SO, SPECIFY WHETHER THE RESEARCH PROJECT COULD INTERFERE WITH THESE DIFFICULTIES AND WHAT PRECAUTIONS YOU WOULD TAKE.**

No.

8. **IF THE PARTICIPANTS ARE ADULTS INCOMPETENT TO GIVE THEIR CONSENT, WHOM WILL BE ASKED PERMISSION TO?**

Not applicable

9. **IF THE PARTICIPANTS ARE MINORS, WHOM WILL BE ASKED PERMISSION TO? (ATTACH THE REQUEST FORM YOU WILL USE).**

Not applicable

10. **WILL DECEPTION BE USED DURING THE RESEARCH PROJECT? IF SO, DESCRIBE AND MOTIVATE.**

No.

11. **IN WHICH WAY WILL THE PARTICIPANTS BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF THE**



**RESEARCH PROJECT? WILL THERE BE A DEBRIEFING?**

The experimental agenda will be shared after the experiment via the debriefing page. Here we will describe what the experiment was about and what we were hoping to find. Interested participants will also be able to find all results, the pre-registered protocol, final paper, and all other materials at the Open Science Framework URL for this project (<https://osf.io/hs32y/>). These will be made publically available as soon as each component is completed.

**12. WILL STUDENTS BE CALLED IN TO ASSIST TO THE RECRUITMENT OF PARTICIPANTS, DATA COLLECTION OR DATA ANALYSIS?**

Yes

**IF SO, HOW WILL THIS PROCEED AND HOW WILL THE STUDENTS BE PREPARED?**

A job student will be hired to recruit our sample (n = 150) at UGent. The student will be fully informed about the purpose of the study and trained in the delivery of the experiment, as well as how to debrief participants following the study. They will also be given training in how to deal with, and respond appropriately to, participant questions and issues that may arise during the course of the study.

**13. WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR DATA-MANAGEMENT, DURING AND AFTER THE PROJECT? PLEASE FOCUS ON ETHICALLY RELEVANT ASPECTS. HOW WILL YOU INFORM THE PARTICIPANTS ABOUT YOUR PLAN?**

Data collected at the other 11 laboratories will be sent to the research team coordinators (SH and TM) at UGent. This data, along with the data collected at UGent, will be privately stored on our (LipLab) ACL share and made publically available via the Open Science Framework (OSF) (<https://osf.io/hs32y/>). All demographic information will be stored separately from the raw data files to ensure anonymity. During and after the publication process the data will be freely available to other researchers via the above link. Participants will be informed during the consent form that their data will be used for scientific purposes and shared with other scientists following the experiment. We will also indicate that their participation will be anonymous and that no identifying information will be taken at any point.

**14. IN THE CURRENT STATE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT, DO YOU EXPECT OTHER DIFFICULTIES CONCERNING THE GENERAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES AS WRITTEN DOWN IN THE GENERAL ETHICAL PROTOCOL?**

**IF SO, DESCRIBE HOW AND MOTIVATE WHY THE RESEARCH PROJECT SHOULD DO SO.**

No.

**I DECLARE TO TAKE THE FULL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROJECT MENTIONED ABOVE AND CONFIRM THAT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IS CONSISTENT WITH THE FACTS AS KNOWN ON THIS VERY MOMENT. I ALSO DECLARE TO HAVE READ THE GENERAL ETHICAL PROTOCOL FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF THE FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES OF GHENT UNIVERSITY, AND TO SUBSCRIBE TO IT CONCERNING ANY ITEMS 6A TO 6H WHERE NO REMARKS HAVE BEEN MADE. SHOULD DURING THE COURSE OF THE**

RESEARCH PROJECT ETHICAL QUESTIONS ARISE THAT ARE NOT COVERED BY THIS REQUEST, I WILL CONTACT THE ETHICAL COMMITTEE ANEW.

**THE RESEARCHERS**

Sean Hughes and Tal Moran

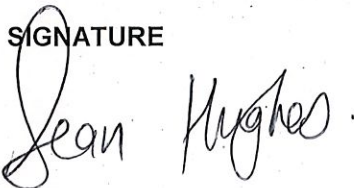
DATE:

29.07.19

NAME:

Sean Hughes

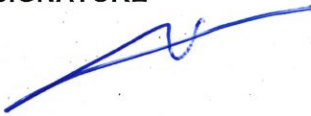
SIGNATURE



NAME:

Tal Moran

SIGNATURE



**THE SUPERVISOR (AGREEMENT)**

Jan De Houwer

DATE:

29.07.19

NAME:

Jan De Houwer

SIGNATURE:

