

Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences

Plain Language Statement

PROJECT TITLE: **Decision-Making in Source Memory**

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Introduction

We would like to invite you to participate in a project on decision-making in source memory. This research aims to investigate the precision and response times in a memory task to determine the nature of how memory fails.

What I would be asked to do?

You will be asked to memorise words located along the outline of a circle. Words will be presented in lists of 10. After performing two-digit arithmetic tasks for 30 seconds, you will be presented with 20 words. You will be asked to indicate if the presented word was previously studied, and if so, where on the circle that word was located using a computer mouse.

What are the risks?

As the study involves measuring task accuracy and response times, the risks to the participant are minimal. The main foreseeable risk is strain resulting from sitting posture in the computer chair, or in the hand from operating the joystick. You will have opportunity to take rest breaks to further minimise these risks. The emotionally neutral words will be randomly selected from a pre-determined list.

What are the benefits?

As a paid participant, you will be paid \$12 per session for your participation. As a participant in the Research Experience Program (REP) you will be granted credit towards participation in the REP. The results of this project will be diagnostic of two competing theories of source memory function, and how memory works in a more general sense. It is possible that these results may be published in a peer-reviewed journal. Funding for this project comes from the Australian Research Council Discovery (ARC) Grant awarded to Prof. Philip Smith.

How would my confidentiality be protected?

Names and data will be stored separately, on password-protected computers in a secure building. The participant ID numbers required to match a participant to their data will be physically kept in a locked filing cabinet, also located in a secure building.

What if I want to withdraw from the Research?

Participation in this research is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw at any time and to withdraw any unprocessed data previously supplied. This would have no effect on your relationship with any member of the School of Psychological Sciences. It would not affect your grades, assessment or any treatment that you would otherwise be eligible for.

Where can I get further information?

If you have not understood any of this information please contact any of the researchers listed above. This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Office for Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Fax: +61 3 9347 6739 or Email: HumanEthicscomplaints@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any

correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.

How do I agree to participate?

If you wish to participate please read and sign the consent form that you will now be provided with.