

School of Psychology



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

UNSW Psychology 1st year students, recruited via SONA

Media and attention

1. What is the research study about?

You are invited to take part in this research study. The research study aims to investigate how people process rapidly presented images, including unpleasant ones. You have been invited because you are a student taking introductory psychology at UNSW.

2. Who is conducting this research?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers: Associate Professor Steven B. Most and Yue Shi Ai, UNSW School of Psychology.

Research Funder: This research is not funded by any outside agency.

3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Before you decide to participate in this research study, you should meet the following criteria:

- UNSW Psychology 1st year student or student completing Introductory Psychology 1.
- You have normal or corrected to normal vision

Please do **not** participate if you are likely to be upset by graphic or gory images.

4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the study at any stage (See Item 11).

5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?

If you decide to take part in the research study, you will be asked to view rapid streams of mostly landscape or architectural images. One of these images will be rotated 90 degrees, and your goal will be to identify whether this image was rotated left or right. There will also be some images of people, some of which will be unpleasantly graphic or violent (e.g., depictions of injury or loss of life; you will have a chance to view samples prior to beginning the experiment and may withdraw at any time). These images will be presented rapidly, at a rate of 10 per second, but you will see them again for a longer duration at the end of the experiment. You will also be asked questions about your emotional style and consumption of violent media.

We don't expect this research to cause any harm. However, if you do not wish to answer a question, you may skip it and go to the next question, or you may stop immediately. If you become upset or distressed by this research project, the research team will be able to arrange for counselling or other appropriate support. Alternatively, free contactable support services are included at section 12. Any counselling or support will be provided by qualified staff who are not members of the research team and will be free of charge. Please let the researchers know if you need any assistance for any reason.

6. Total participation time

In total, participation in this study will require approximately 30 minutes.

7. Recompense to participants

You will receive 0.5 SONA credits as compensation for your participation.

8. What are the possible benefits to participation?

We cannot promise that you will receive any benefits from this study, but we hope to use the findings from this study to build upon research about the impact of emotional stimuli on perception and cognition.

9. What will happen to information about me?

The information that you provide us will be kept indefinitely after the project's completion. We will store information about you in a non-identifiable format on a password-protected server at UNSW's School of Psychology. Non-identifiable data from the experiment may also be placed in a publicly accessible digital repository.

Researchers at UNSW are requested to store their aggregated research data in the UNSW data repository, this is a system called ResData. Once the aggregated data are deposited into this repository (or a similar publicly accessible repository), they will be retained in this system permanently, but in a format where your data will not be individually identifiable.

Your information will be used for an Honours thesis. The data may also be reported at professional conferences and journal articles. However, in all cases, data will be de-identified and reported in aggregate form.

The information you provide is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).

10. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

The research team intend to publish and/ report the results of the research study in a variety of ways. All information published will be done in a way that will not identify you. If you would like to receive a copy of the results you can let the research team know by contacting lead investigator A/Prof Steven Most at s.most@unsw.edu.au.

11. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. If you withdraw before starting the experiment, you can do this by closing the browser window. If you withdraw in the middle of the experiment, you can do so by clicking on the "Q" key. If you withdraw from the research, we will destroy any information has already been collected. Once you have completed the experiment, however, we will not be able to withdraw your responses as the questionnaire is anonymous.

Your decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study will not affect your relationship with UNSW. If you decide to withdraw from the research study, the researchers will not collect additional information from you. Any identifiable information about you will be withdrawn from the research project.

12. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems that may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

Research Team Contact Details

Chief Investigator	Steven Most
Position	Associate Professor
Telephone	(02) 9385 3827

Email	s.most@unsw.edu.au
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Student Investigator	Yue Shi Ai
Position	Honours Student
Email	a.ai@student.unsw.edu.au

Contact for feelings of distress

If at any stage during the study, you become distressed or require additional support from someone not involved in the research please call:

Name/Organisation	Lifeline Australia
Telephone	13 11 14
Online	https://www.lifeline.org.au/

Name/Organisation	Beyond Blue
Telephone	1300 22 4636
Online	https://www.beyondblue.org.au/

What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

Complaints Contact

Position	UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator
Telephone	+ 61 2 9385 6222
Email	humanethics@unsw.edu.au
HC Reference Number	3762