

Northeastern University, Department of Psychology

Name of Investigator(s): Jorge Morales

Title of Project: Perceptual Awareness and Decision-Making

Request to Participate in Research

We would like to invite you to participate in a web-based online study. The survey is part of a research study whose purpose is to investigate how what you see, hear or imagine (e.g., color, shape, duration, motion, sounds, etc.) and what you experience and think (e.g., appearances, conscious awareness, judgment, confidence, decision-making, planning etc.) interact.

Key Information

- Your consent is being sought for participation in a research project and your participation is voluntary.
- The purpose of the research is to understand people's sensory perceptual experiences (things they see, things they hear, things they imagine, etc.), what they think about these experiences, and to measure decisions they make based on those experiences.
- The anticipated amount of time that your participation will take will be between 1 and 120 minutes.
- The procedures that you will be asked to complete will be:
 - Sit in front of your computer
 - Look or listen to stimuli presented on the screen
 - Use your imagination to picture certain images, sounds, sensations
 - Press a key or use the mouse to tell us what you saw/heard/imagined
 - Press a key or use the mouse to tell us what you think about what you saw/heard/imagined
 - Press a key or use the mouse to tell us how you think you are doing in the task
 - Answer some questions about your experience doing the task
- In some versions of the task, we may:
 - Ask you to turn on your camera (computer's webcam) so that we can non-invasively measure your eyes and where they are pointing at on the screen. Your webcam will be activated to track your gaze (eye movements), pupil size, or broad shifts in your head direction. The eye tracker is calibrated at the beginning of the experiment (and every now and then throughout the experiment) by asking you to look at particular regions on the screen. Sometimes you will be asked to keep your eyes fixed on a particular object on the screen for very brief periods of time on each trial (e.g., a cross at the center of the screen). While other times you will be allowed to move your eyes freely. You will have to allow your browser to turn on your camera. You'll then be able to see yourself in a small box in the corner of the screen. The eye tracker works in real time and all the data is processed on your computer while the algorithm assesses where you're looking at. This means that **at no time we will record a video of you and no video will be live streamed anywhere at any point.**
- The possible risks or discomforts of the study are minimal. You may experience fatigue from doing a repetitive task (boredom).
- There are no potential benefits for you

We are asking you to participate in this study via an online participant-recruiting platform to help us better understand the human mind. **You must be between 18 and 65 years old to take this survey, and able to turn on your webcam.**

The decision to participate in this research project is voluntary. You do not have to participate, and you can refuse to answer any question. Even if you begin the web-based online survey, you can stop at any time.

The possible risks or discomforts of the study are minimal. You may experience fatigue from doing a repetitive task (boredom). There will be some breaks built into the study.

There are no direct benefits to you from participating in this study. However, your responses may help us to further understand how perception, cognition and consciousness function.

As a token of our appreciation for completing the survey, you will be financially compensated for your time. We will pay you via the recruiting platform \$12 per hour, approximated to an average completion time for the task on a minute-by-minute basis. For example, if the task takes 20 minutes to complete, then you'll be paid \$4.00 US dollars upon providing the recruiting platform with a completion code. If the task takes 4 minutes, you'll be paid \$0.80 US dollars. If you do not complete the task or fail to provide the correct completion code, payment will not be made.

APPROVED

By NU IRB at 3:32 pm, Jul 26, 2022

Your part in this study is anonymous to the researcher(s), unless you choose to include information in the open-ended questions that makes you identifiable. Your data will be handled in a confidential manner. In addition, because of the nature of web-based surveys, it is possible that respondents could be identified by the IP address or other electronic record associated with the response. Neither the researcher nor anyone involved with this survey will be recording those data. The only individually-identifying data we receive from your crowdsourcing platform or panel are your unique identifier and your country. Your data are also stored on your platform or panel's servers, and the data there are subject to their respective Privacy Notice and Participation Agreements.

No reports or publications will use information that can identify you in any way or any individual as being of this project. The only indicators we will record are your age, gender, handedness, and whether you use corrective lenses or not. De-identified data (i.e., your responses but not who provided them) will be shared with scientific collaborators and hosted on public data sharing websites (e.g., the Open Science Framework, <https://osf.io>).

Future Use of Data

Your de-identified information could be used for future research **without additional informed consent**.

If you have any questions regarding electronic privacy, please contact Northeastern University's Office of Information Security via phone at 617-373-7901, or via email at privacy@northeastern.edu.

If you have any questions about this study, please contact Jorge Morales, Principal Investigator, 360 Huntington Ave., Northeastern University, 125 Nightingale, Boston, MA 02115, Tel. 617-373-5511, Email: j.morales@northeastern.edu.

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, please contact Nan C. Regina, Director, Human Subject Research Protection, Mail Stop: 560-177, 360 Huntington Avenue, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115. Tel: 617.373.4588, Email: n.regina@northeastern.edu. You may call anonymously if you wish.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Northeastern University Institutional Review Board (#22-06-13).

By clicking on the “accept” button below you are indicating that you consent to participate in this study. Please print out a copy of this consent screen or download a copy of the consent form for your records.

Thank you for your time.

Jorge Morales
Principal Investigator

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