School of Psychological Science

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Ethics Approval Code: 16076

You are invited to participate in a research study. Before you decide whether you would like to participate, please take the time to read the following information thoroughly and contact me if you have any queries.

**What is the purpose of this research?**

The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of Short-form media context switching on cognitive performance. More specifically, it aims to examine the effects of fast context switching of increasingly popular media forms (TikTok etc) on Prospective Memory Performance. This research is being conducted by Nick Barton. I am a BSc student enrolled in the School of Psychological Science at the University of Bristol and I am undertaking this research as my dissertation project.

**Who can take part?**

You can take part if you:

* Are over the age of 18 years.
* Are fluent in English.
* Do not have any visual difficulties.

**What will taking part involve?**

Consenting participants will complete multiple-choice and open text questions about their demographics, social media usage and addiction. Following this, you will take part in the pre-condition Prospective memory task. Next, you’ll be allocated to one of three conditions: Control, Controlled Short form media context switching, Unlimited Short form media context switching. After, you will complete the post-condition Prospective Memory task. Finally, self-report questionnaires about your engagement will be asked.

The whole process will last for around 30 minutes. The whole process will include an introduction and a debriefing at the end of the study with an additional opportunity to ask further questions about the study.

**Where will the mindfulness research take place?**

The research will take place in the Priory Road Complex, University of Bristol, 12A Priory Road, Bristol, BS8 1TU

**Are there any risks to taking part in the study?**

It is not anticipated that there will be any risk greater than you would have in every life. However, in case you feel you have been affected in any way from your participation in this study, you will be provided with the contact details of University of Bristol student wellbeing support and alternative NHS mental health support services.

**Are there any benefits to taking part?**

Many people enjoy taking part in psychological research and contributing to scientific research. The findings from this study will help develop current knowledge about short form media and cognitive ability. Also, following completion of the experiment, you will gain 1/2 credit on the experimental hours scheme for your participation.

**Do I have to take part?**

No. It is your decision whether you take part in this study, your participation is voluntary. You can withdraw your consent at any time without explanation or penalty by contacting the researcher. However, after the participation process is completed, your data will be anonymised and so it will not be possible to withdraw your data from the study after your participation is complete.

**What will happen to my data?**

Your responses will be anonymous. There will be no identifiable links between your data and your identity. The data will be analysed and written up as part of a research project which may be published. At the end of the study, your anonymised data will be made “Open Access”. This means that it will be stored in an online database so that it is publicly available.

**What is open access?**

Open access means that data are made available, free of charge, to anyone interested in the research, or who wishes to conduct their own analysis of the data. We will therefore have no control over how these data are used. However, all data will be anonymised before it is made available and therefore there will be no way to identify you from the research data.

**Why open access?**

Open access of research data and findings is considered best research practice and is a requirement of many funding bodies and journals. As a large proportion of research is publicly funded, the outcomes of the research should be made publicly available. Sharing data helps to maximise the impact of investment through wider use and encourages new avenues of research.

**Who has reviewed this study?**

This research has been reviewed by an independent Research Ethics Committee to protect your safety, rights, well-being and dignity. This study has received approval from the School of Psychological Science Research Ethics Committee. (Ethics Approval Code: 16076)

**Data Protection Privacy Notice:**

The University of Bristol is the data controller for the personal data collected for this research project. Your personal data will be processed for the purposes outlined in this participant information statement. The legal basis for processing your personal data will be that this research is a task in the public interest, that is the University of Bristol considers the lawful basis for processing personal data to fall under Article 6(1)(e) of GDPR (public task) as the processing of research participant data is necessary for learning and teaching purposes. All research with human participants by staff and students has to be scrutinised and approved by one of The University of Bristol’s Research Ethics Committees. However, in the unlikely event that you feel you need to make a complaint regarding the use of your information, you can contact the Data Protection Officer at the University of Bristol: Henry Stuart, Tel: 01173 941824, Email: data-protection@bristol.ac.uk.

**Who do I contact to ask further questions about the study?**

If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact the researcher, Nick Barton at gm21932@bristol.ac.uk or the research supervisor Dr Michael Smyth at m.smyth@bristol.ac.uk. If you have any concerns regarding your participation in this study or wish to make a complaint, you can notify the university Research Governance Team (RGT) via research-ethics@bristol.ac.uk

**If I want to take part in this study who do I contact?**

If you want to take part please contact the researcher Nick Barton gm21932@bristol.ac.uk

*Thank you for taking the time to consider your participation in this study!*