

## Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences

### Plain Language Statement

PROJECT TITLE: **Understanding the structure of familiar categories**

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#### Introduction

The purpose of this project is to acquire data about how people perceive familiar real-world categories. The data will be used to better understand the structure of these categories and what kinds of inferences people can make based on that structure.

#### What will I be asked to do?

After answering some optional demographic questions, you will be shown a series of images from familiar categories like dogs or tables. For each image, you will need to answer a few questions (all requiring judgments on a scale from 1 to 7). There are no “right” or “wrong” answers, and many of the questions will seem to you to be trivially easy: that is fine, we just need data about what normal people perceive about these categories. Please just do your best and pay attention but give your natural response without overthinking too much.

#### What are the risks?

Risks are minimal. The survey does take ten minutes or so and thus represents a time investment. It is also not the most exciting thing in the world, so there is some risk of boredom, although you may enjoy thinking a bit about category structure. If you are frightened or distressed by any particular common animals or items in the world and you happen to get one, this will not be pleasant and you may not want to participate. That said, all items are very common and not particularly emotionally charged so we expect distress to be unlikely.

#### What are the benefits?

Although much is known about the overall structure of common categories, we have surprisingly little data about item-by-item variation within those categories. The purpose of this experiment is to try to approximate that. The data will be used to better model and understand differences between categories as a function of differences in within-category similarity. You will be paid for your contribution at a rate of \$10/hr.

#### How would my confidentiality be protected?

As an Amazon Worker, we do not have access to any of your personal details. You will be optionally asked to contribute some demographic details but no effort will be made to link these up with your WorkerID or personal information in any way. Our sample size will be large, making it even more difficult to identify any one person.

#### What if I want to withdraw from the Research?

Participation in this research is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw at any time without penalty (other than not getting paid). Your data will not be used in the full sample unless you complete the experiment.

#### Where can I get further information?

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, Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: [humanethics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:humanethics-complaints@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. Funding is provided by ARC Discovery Project grant DP180103600.

#### How do I agree to participate?

If you wish to participate please read and click ‘Next’ after reading the consent form on the next page.