



**Department of Psychology**  
University of Toronto  
100 St. George Street  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5S 3G3

### **LETTER OF INFORMATION & PARTICIPANT CONSENT**

We are pleased to invite you to participation in the research study outlined below. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you can withdraw at any time without penalty.

**Study Title:** Neural mechanisms of perceiving dynamic real-world environments.

**Investigator:** Dr. Dirk Bernhardt-Walther, 416-978-6193,  
email: [bernhardt-walther@psych.utoronto.ca](mailto:bernhardt-walther@psych.utoronto.ca)

#### **Purpose of research:**

The purpose of this study is to investigate how people can categorize, remember, and interact with real-world environments that contains a great deal of complex perceptual information. In this study, a variety of natural and artificial images and sounds will be used to find which aspects of real-world environments drive our subjective feeling of "being in a scene."

#### **The procedures for the study are explained below (all that are checked apply):**

- ☐ In the experiment you will be asked to respond with mouse clicks or button presses to images on the screen and/or sounds that you will hear with headphones.
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- ☐ Eye movements will be recorded with a video-based pupil tracking device (SR EyeLink 1000Plus). This means that small cameras will be positioned such that they can record infrared light reflected from your cornea, the transparent front part of the eye. The system is lightweight and noninvasive.
- ☐ You will be asked to trace contours of photographs using a digital graphics tablet and/or to draw copies of images of natural scenes from the screen and/or from memory.

#### **Time commitment:**

The study takes approximately 60 minutes to complete, but could last up to 90 minutes. There will be opportunities to rest during testing. You will be fully debriefed as to the rationale and hypothesis underlying this experiment upon its completion.

#### **Compensation:**

- ☐ You will receive course credit for participation.
- ☐ You will receive \$15 per hour for participation.

#### **Voluntariness/Early Withdrawal:**

This study is entirely voluntary. **You are free to leave the experiment at any time, and you will still receive remuneration for your participation regardless. Early withdrawal will not have any undesirable consequences.**



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**Risks/Benefits:**

There are no known physical or psychological risks associated with your participation in this study beyond those typically associated with work on a computer (eye strain, fatigue). There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this research study other than the opportunity to learn about the scientific method and its direct application in addressing specific research questions.

**Results/Confidentiality:**

Data on your performance will be used exclusively for scientific purposes and will be recorded and maintained in confidence and in anonymity by, and available only to Dr. Bernhardt-Walther and researchers working under his supervision. The data will be kept in a secure location with restricted access and will be retained for up to three years after the end of the study. Anonymous group data will be retained and may be shared with other researchers for scientific purposes.

**Dissemination of Results:**

Results from this research may be presented in local or international meetings or conferences or in print in scientific journals or books or in digital form on websites. If you wish to be informed about any publications resulting from this research, then please inquire with the PI Dirk Bernhardt-Walther ([bernhardt-walther@psych.utoronto.ca](mailto:bernhardt-walther@psych.utoronto.ca)).

**General information:**

If you have any questions about the research, please feel free to contact Dr. Bernhardt-Walther by phone (416-978-6193), or email ([bernhardt-walther@psych.utoronto.ca](mailto:bernhardt-walther@psych.utoronto.ca)).

If you have questions about your rights as a participant you can contact the Office of Research Ethics at 416-946-3273 or email: [ethics.review@utoronto.ca](mailto:ethics.review@utoronto.ca).

A copy of this consent form will be provided to you for your reference.

**Participant consent:**

I have read and understood the information above regarding the procedures and risks involved in this study and have received satisfactory answers to my questions related to this study.

I understand that if I have any questions or concerns resulting from my perception in this study, I may contact the experimenter or the laboratory director (Dr. Dirk Bernhardt-Walther, 416-978-6193, [bernhardt-walther@psych.utoronto.ca](mailto:bernhardt-walther@psych.utoronto.ca), Sidney Smith Hall, room #4040).

I am aware that I may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. With full knowledge of all foregoing I agree, of my own free will, to participate in this study.

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Print Name

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Signature of Participant

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Dated at Toronto, Ontario

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Witnessed