SCRIPT

CONVERSATION

First of all, thank you for agreeing to take part in our project. My name is Sophie van der Zee and it’s good to meet you. This shouldn’t take more than about an hour. You are free to stop taking part in this study at any time. If you do decide to withdraw, you don’t have to explain your decision. If you have any questions or concerns, then please don’t hesitate to interrupt me at any point.

Our research is interested in telling and detecting lies and truths. We anticipate using short sections of the video recordings that we will be taking in the final part of this session to illustrate our findings in lectures or training. However, if you’d prefer that we did not use clips from this session for this purpose, you are given the opportunity in the consent form and at other stages to opt out of this. We also hope to publish our findings in an academic journal. In everything we do, you can be assured that your personal details will be kept confidential. Do you have any questions at all at this stage? …

So this hour will be split into three sections, the first will consist of a puzzle game, the second is a board game, and the third will be an interview scenario in which you will be asked questions about these two games by an interviewer.

So for this first section, I’m going to be giving you a puzzle that you need to work out the solution to together. You’ll only have 5 minutes to do this in, but don’t worry it’s really simple so it should be easy enough. Before that though I’m just going to leave you to just get to know each other a little bit, so just have a chat together and find out a bit about each other. Is that okay? Okay I’ll be back in 5 minutes to let you just do that first and then I’ll come back and give you the puzzle to solve.

*[leave, wait 5 minutes (set alarm), return]*

Okay here’s the puzzle *[take from box and put both puzzle and box on the table as the phone “rings”]* oh do you mind if I just take that quickly? I’ll be back in 5 minutes so just carry on with doing the puzzle.

*[leave, “answer phone” as rushing down to the stairs, return after 5 minutes]*

Oh, did you see the solution? Okay well it’s all right, you’ll just have to pretend that you didn’t cheat when you get asked about this part. Okay, so for the second task we’re splitting you into two groups, so … (insert name confederate) if you come with me I’ll drop you off with the other researcher, \_\_ if you just want to wait here, I’ll be back in a minute.

*[leave with …, go to the end of the corridor in silence then return]*

Okay, so for this part of the task you’re going to have to use your imagination a bit. Not only will you have to conceal the fact that you cheated during the puzzle game, but now you’re going to have to make up a story about playing a game of cluedo with 3 other players. … has just gone to meet these three other players but this game is a bit of a set-up in that we know the outcome of the game, and the other players have been instructed to act in certain ways. So we’ve actually got some information that the interviewer will be given, and the interviewer will be instructed to try and work out who was the 4th player in this game out of you and …. So you’re not going to meet these 3 other players, and neither are you going to play cluedo! But you’re going to have to pretend that they did come, and that you did play it. And if you can persuade the interviewer that you were the 4th player, and also that you didn’t cheat in the puzzle game, you will be put into a prize draw at the end to win an iPod shuffle. So this is the information that the interviewer will know

*[show participant the cluedo materials, the faces and the board game itself]*

Do you have any questions at the moment?

Okay I’m just going to leave you here for a few minutes to give you some time to process this information, but I’ll be back soon to take you to the interview.

*[leave to meet the interviewer]*

Hello, thanks for coming, come in and take a seat. Okay so this shouldn’t take more than about 30 minutes. You’re free to stop taking part in this study at any time. If you do decide to withdraw, you don’t have to explain your decision. If you have any questions or concerns, then please don’t hesitate to interrupt me at any point.

Our research is interested in telling and detecting lies and truths. We anticipate using short sections of the video recordings that we will be taking in the final part of this session to illustrate our findings in lectures or training. However, if you’d prefer that we did not use clips from this session for this purpose, you are given the opportunity in the consent form and at other stages to opt out of this. We also hope to publish our findings in an academic journal. In everything we do, you can be assured that your personal details will be kept confidential. Do you have any questions at all at this stage? …

Okay so your role in this study is as an interviewer. You will in a few moments be introduced to a participant who has just undertaken a number of possible tasks. The first was an informal conversation with another participant. The second was a wooden puzzle game in which he and the same participant had to try and work out the solution to. The third was a game of cluedo played with 3 other players. For the informal conversation he may be telling the truth about this conversation, or he may be making it up. For the puzzle game he may or may not have cheated. For the cluedo game, he may have been the 4th player along with these 3 other confederates, or he may be making it all up and will not have played at all, although in this case he will still have been given this same information.

Your job is to work out how truthful this participant is being for each section by asking these set questions that I’m about to give you. You are not allowed to ask any other questions other than these, but please feel try to feel at ease and engage with the other participant as you would in a normal interaction. You will be given a short questionnaire after each set of questions for you to judge the truthfulness and the interaction. If you correctly guess the truthfulness you will be put into a prize draw at the end to win an iPod shuffle.

Do you have any questions at all?

Okay I’ll now go and fetch the other participant and we can get started. Have a look at this information while I’m gone.

*[Leave to collect interviewee, tell interviewee what’s going to happen on the way back]*

okay so these things that we’re going to be using to measure your body movement are called witilts. Don’t worry they’re not measuring anything else, they’re not heart rate monitors and they’re not lie detectors or anything like that, they’re just measuring how you move. I’m sorry if they’re uncomfortable, just try and ignore that you’re wearing them! So first of all while I’m just setting up just chat between yourselves but don’t mention anything about the task.

Okay great, now we’ll start with the first question. Could you read off exactly what it says on your piece of paper?

Etc.

DEBRIEF

Thank you. So, the research you’ve just taken part in is interested in looking at how nonverbal behaviour differs when lying and when telling the truth, specifically when the lies are hard and easy. During this task the conversation question was truthful, he had to conceal the fact that you cheated during the puzzle question, and he had to fabricate a story about playing cluedo, so it was one simple truth, one simple lie and one harder lie. The person that you interacted with earlier was a confederate, so she didn’t do anything other than come and encourage you to cheat basically!

The video-recordings and body movement measurements will hopefully show us whether there are differences, and we suspect that there will be. They will also show us to what extent your movements were synchronous with one another, that is, how much you mimicked the movements of each other. So we’re also looking at mimicry and how that changes when lying and telling the truth. We think that mimicry will be neglected as the lie gets too hard.

We will now take your data and store it securely until we come to analyse it, and we hope to use what we learn to teach police officers and others through training sessions using short video clips as examples of how people behave when they are lying and telling the truth. We also hope to publish our findings in an academic journal. In all cases you personal details will be kept confidential. If you decide at a later stage that you want to withdraw your results, there are details on the bottom of this factsheet telling you how to do that.