Categorization Experiment – Instructions for Research Assistants

- Before the participant(s) arrive(s)
  o Log onto SONA to see what participants you have. You also should have received an email the evening before. The study runs under the SONA protocol "Judgment and Choice", and each timeslot is an hour long (though most subjects will likely not take the full hour to complete the study).
  o Start the computers in Ubuntu if needed, logging into the 'Experiment' user (see Sean for the password).
  o Determine which computers the participants will be sitting in. We will run a maximum of 6 participants at a time.
- When the participant(s) arrive(s)
  o Let the participants into the lab one at a time.
  o **We no longer need to use physical consent forms. The experiment itself will handle consent.**
    ▪ **Note: if for some reason a participant does not consent to be in the experiment, the experiment will abruptly end and they can leave. You can still give them credit on SONA.**
  o Find the **next UNIQUE subject number** from the running sheet (clipboard next to the shelves).
  o Tell the participant that the study will take place in the next room, on a computer. Tell them that the computer will walk them through the whole procedure, including consent, instructions, the experiment itself, and debriefing. You will walk them in, start the experiment, and then leave them to participate. They can leave their belongings in the room with you if they wish. Encourage them to leave their phones, which we would prefer they not have with them as to avoid distractions during the experiment.
- Running the experiment
  o Walk the subject to the computer.
  o Start the experiment by double-clicking the icon "Rectangle_exp1_F22.desktop", found on the desktop screen.
  o Type in the subject number. If you forgot it, it's okay to go back and check to find it.
  o All participant instructions are on the computer.
- Go back to the main lab room and follow these same instructions for any remaining subjects.
- Add their participant number (and any other relevant info) to the runsheet.
- NOTE: The participant may ask you questions after reading through the experimental instructions. Here is some general information about the study to help you answer any potential questions:
  o On each trial, they will see a set of three rectangles. It will appear briefly on the screen, followed by a prompt asking which of two rectangles is larger.
  o They should respond using the appropriate keys on the keyboard.
- After the participant(s) is/are done:

- o See if they have questions. If they mention anything confusing about the experiment, or if they mention **anything that I may want to know about for data analysis, add it to the "notes" section on their row of the runsheet**.
- o If they want a copy of the debriefing form, give them one. I will not keep many debriefing forms in the lab at once, so if you happen to notice that we are low, let me know. I will also try to keep track of it.
- o When all participants are done, go to their station(s). The browser should be displaying the debriefing or a blank screen. If it shows the debriefing, press the j key and close out of the browser. The computer will have saved their data automatically. You are not responsible for their data being saved.
- o Sanitize all stations, including table, keyboard, and mouse, using Lysol wipes.
- o Prepare for the next participants.
- o Assign participants credit on SONA. If a participant doesn't show up during the timeslot, give them an unexcused absence. If they contact you at any point with a valid reason, give them an excused absence.
- **Please keep the lab door shut at all times**, to ensure the safety of participants and their belongings.
- You are not required to stay past your available timeslots. For example, if a participant shows up late enough that you would not have enough time to run them before your availability window ends, please do not run them. Rather, mark them as an excused absence on SONA and encourage them to re-sign up for another timeslot.
- Please do not come into the lab if you feel sick! If you feel unwell, contact Sean and the participants ASAP to let them know you can't make to a session. We want to maintain safety for everyone during these difficult times and are more than okay with participants not being run if you are sick.
- If you need **anything** (e.g., help with computer issues, help with SONA, running out of wipes/sanitizer, running out of forms, etc.) please do not hesitate to email Sean at spconway@umass.edu . You can also frequently (but not always) find him in his office down the hall (Tobin 517).
- Sean is usually very responsive to email, but there are times when he has class or meetings and **may be delayed in responding by a few hours**.