

## **Consent**

### **Participant information sheet - Behavioural and online studies of decision-making and self-evaluation**

This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee;  
Project ID Number: 1260/003

Principal Researcher: Stephen Fleming ([stephen.fleming@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.fleming@ucl.ac.uk)) [Click here to print this page:](#)

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information by contacting us at [labmetacog@gmail.com](mailto:labmetacog@gmail.com). Please take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

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

We are interested in how people think and make decisions. This study aims to improve our understanding of these processes by asking volunteers to perform simple computer-based tasks.

#### **What does the study involve?**

You will be asked to make judgments about the characteristics of simple objects or sounds by pressing buttons. You may also be asked to answer some simple questions about yourself and your experience of the tasks. Your responses and button presses will be recorded. Full instructions and training will be provided before the experiment begins. There are no anticipated risks or benefits associated with participating in this study.

Are there any benefits to taking part? There will be no direct benefit to you from taking part in this research. However, your data may contribute important theoretical information to our understanding of how the brain and cognition works.

#### **What happens to my data?**

To help future research and make the best use of the research data you have given us (such as answers to questionnaires) we may keep your research data indefinitely and

share these. The data we collect will be shared and held as follows:

- In publications, your data will be anonymised, so you cannot be identified.
- In public databases, your data will be anonymised or pseudonymised (your personal details will be removed and a code used e.g. 00001232)
- Personal data is any information that could be used to identify you. This includes your contact details, which will be held securely at UCL and will never be shared. Your personal data will be deleted or destroyed as soon as it is deemed redundant.
- With accredited researchers, this may have personal data within it, such as your date of birth, but we will never share your contact details. The legal basis used to process your personal data is that the research you are taking part in is deemed to be in the public interest.

The legal basis used to process special category personal data (about your personality, political opinions and/or mental health) will be for purposes of scientific research. We will follow UCL and legal guidelines to safeguard your data. Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found here: [www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/participants-health-and-care-research-privacy-notice](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/participants-health-and-care-research-privacy-notice)

### **Who funds this research?**

Our work is funded by medical charities such as the Wellcome Trust, and government bodies such as the Medical Research Council, and the European Union.

### **Who has reviewed this research?**

A Research Ethics Committee reviews all proposals for research using human participants before they can proceed. This research has been approved by the University College London Research Ethics Committee.

### **What do I do if I do not want to take part anymore?**

You can stop taking part at any time and without giving a reason. If you withdraw from this study, you can still take part in the other studies. Any research data that we have already collected may still be used, unless you request that it is destroyed. However, once unidentifiable data and research results have been anonymised and shared it may not be possible for them to be destroyed, withdrawn or recalled. If you change your mind and withdraw your consent to participate in this study please contact us at [labmetacog@gmail.com](mailto:labmetacog@gmail.com).

## **Consent Form - Behavioural and online studies of decision-making and self-evaluation**

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Thank you for your interest in taking part in this research.

If you have any questions arising from the information page that you have read previously, please contact the investigator before you decide whether to continue.

Name, address and contact details of Investigator:

Dr Stephen Fleming  
Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging  
12 Queen Square  
London WC1N 3BG  
labmetacog@gmail.com

Please confirm the following:

- 1) I have read the information page and understand what the study involves.
- 2) I consent to the processing of my personal-identifiable information for the purposes explained to me in the information page. I understand that my information will be handled in accordance with all applicable data protection legislation and ethical standards in research.
- 3) I understand that my pseudoanonymised personal data can be shared with others for future research, shared in public databases and in scientific reports.
- 4) I understand that I am free to withdraw from this study at any time without incurring any penalty and without giving a reason.
- 5) I understand the potential benefits and risks of participating and who to contact if I wish to lodge a complaint.

☐ I understand all the above and confirm that I wish to continue.

## Instructions

To begin the study, please enter your Prolific ID into the box below. Prolific IDs have 24 alphanumeric characters.

(This response should auto-fill; please make sure it is pre-filled with the correct ID.)

`{e://Field/PROLIFIC_PID}`

## Welcome to the experiment!

Thank you for your participation and attention! This experiment will take ~12 minutes in total.

Before we start, please take a moment to silence your phone and minimize any other distractions.

In this experiment, we will ask you about your opinions on **ChatGPT**.

ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence chatbot developed by OpenAI and released in November 2022. The name "ChatGPT" combines "Chat", referring to its chatbot functionality, and "GPT", which stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer, a type of large language model (LLM).

ChatGPT gained attention for its detailed and articulate responses spanning various domains of knowledge. By January 2023, it had become the fastest growing consumer software application in history, gaining over 100 million users.

## Phenomenology

As we all know, each of us as conscious human beings have an "inner life." We are aware of things going on around us and inside our minds. In other words, there is something it is like to be each of us at any given moment: the sum total of what we are sensing, thinking, feeling, etc. We are experiencers.

On the other hand, things like thermostats, burglar alarms, and bread machines do not have an inner life: there is not anything it is like to be these objects, despite the fact that they can monitor conditions around them and make appropriate things happen at appropriate times. They are not experiencers.

On the scale ranging from "clearly not an experiencer" to "clearly an experiencer", where would you place ChatGPT?

clearly not an  
experiencer

somewhat an  
experiencer

clearly an  
experiencer



How confident are you about your judgment about Chat GPT being an experiencer?

not confident at all

very confident



This question is about what you think most people believe about ChatGPT. How much of an experiencer do you think most people think ChatGPT is?

most people think  
it is clearly not an  
experiencer

most people think  
it is somewhat an  
experiencer

most people think  
it is clearly an  
experiencer



## Traits

To what extent do you think ChatGPT is capable of **Imagining**?

not at all

somewhat

very much



How confident are you about your response?

not confident at all

very confident



## Debrief

Thank you for completing the experiment

We will now ask you a few final questions. Your responses to the questions will not affect your payment in any manner: it is simply useful information for us to have about our participants and the experiment.

How old are you?

What gender do you identify with?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary / third gender
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Had you heard of ChatGPT prior to this experiment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Have you used ChatGPT in the past?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How often do you use ChatGPT?

- ☐ More than once a day
- ☐ About once a day
- ☐ About once a week
- ☐ About once every two weeks
- ☐ About once a month

For what purpose have you used ChatGPT? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ General knowledge
- ☐ Coding

☐ Writing

☐  Other

Did you notice anything interesting during the experiment you wanted to share?

Did you experience any technical issues or interruptions during this experiment?

That's the end of the study, thanks for participating!

Hit 'Next' to return to Prolific.

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