

## **Participant Information Sheet**

### **Title of the study:**

*A Study on Embodiment and Emotional Responses in Virtual Reality*

### **Purpose of the study:**

We are developing a virtual reality (VR) experience to study how people perceive and react to controlling a non-human body. Specifically, we are interested in how participants feel during the embodiment of a spider-like body in VR and how this is associated with emotional reactions, such as fear.

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

You will wear a VR headset and take part in an interactive virtual environment in which you control a spider-like body. Over the course of the experiment, you will experience six different short VR scenes involving this spider avatar. After each scene, you will be asked to answer a few short questions inside the VR environment (e.g., using a slider).

### **How long will it take?**

The entire session will take approximately 30 minutes.

### **Are there any risks or discomforts?**

You might experience mild discomfort, fear, or uneasiness due to the virtual embodiment of a spider. The spider is animated but not highly realistic. If you feel uncomfortable at any point, you are free to pause or stop the experiment at any time without giving a reason. No invasive procedures will be used.

### **Do I have to take part?**

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You can withdraw from the study at any time and without giving a reason. There will be no consequences for deciding not to take part.

### **What will happen to my data?**

Your responses will be stored pseudonymously under a participant code. No names or identifying data will be collected. The data will be stored securely and only used for research purposes related to this study.

### **Will I be recorded?**

No audio or video recordings will be made. A physiological signal (such as heart rate) might be collected during the VR experience, depending on the final setup. If so, this will also be anonymized and securely stored.

### **Who is conducting the study?**

This study is conducted as part of a Master's thesis at Karolinska Institutet and is supervised by Prof. Philip Lindner.

### **Contact:**

If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact:

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