



School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences  
Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6AL

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## Study: Analysing how AX-CPT Procedural Changes Alter Participants' Responses

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### STUDY INFORMATION SHEET

Supervisors:	Email	Phone:
Prof. Philip Beaman	<a href="mailto:c.p.beaman@reading.ac.uk">c.p.beaman@reading.ac.uk</a>	0118 378 7637
Experimenter:		
Christopher Dobson	<a href="mailto:c.g.dobson@pgr.reading.ac.uk">c.g.dobson@pgr.reading.ac.uk</a>	

We would be grateful if you could assist us by participating in our online study '*Analysing how AX-CPT Procedural Changes Alter Participants' Responses*'.

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

The study comprises a single, online testing session that takes approximately **45 minutes** to complete. It must also be completed in one go; the study cannot be paused once started.

Procedurally, you will be required to complete two 'AX' continuous performance tasks (AX-CPT), provide feedback in relation to task difficulty and how you found the experiment, and play the arcade game Tetris. The AX-CPT works by displaying two letters, one at a time, and requires you to respond using your keyboard to state whether a specific pair of letters appeared in sequence (i.e., the letter A followed by the letter X) or whether a different pair of letters was displayed. The difference between the two AX-CPTs you will complete is that one task has more experimental trials and a longer delay between the first and second letters being displayed compared to the other. You will play the arcade game Tetris for 5 minutes between completing the two AX-CPTs.

Once you have completed both AX-CPTs, provided your feedback, and played Tetris you will complete a short demographics questionnaire, collecting information about your age, educational attainment, ethnicity, employment status. After this, you will have finished the study and will be debriefed to its overall aims.

#### Who can participate in this study and are there any benefits to taking part?

You can participate in this study if you are over 18 years old and have access to an internet connected computer with a physical keyboard – as this is required to respond during the AX-CPT. If you do not meet either of these requirements, please withdraw from the study before starting.

There is no financial payment for taking part in this study, but participants can either complete the study via SONA (for which 0.75 credits will be awarded upon completion) or be entered into a draw (made once data collection has finished) to win a £10 Amazon gift voucher.

#### Are there any risks or disadvantages to taking part?

As this study does not include the use of emotionally evocative stimuli or require participants to disclose highly personal or distressing information it is felt that there is no personal risk to you from your participation. It is prudent, however, to remind you that should you wish to withdraw from the study at any point you are free to do so without detriment or penalty. You can withdraw from the study by simply closing your internet browser window and, should you decide to withdraw from the study, any data collected from your participant will be deleted and not included in the final dataset.



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### **What will happen to my data/how will it be protected?**

Your data will be kept anonymous, confidential, and securely stored, with only a random ID identifying it. The final dataset collected from this study will be preserved and made available in anonymised form, so that data can be re-used by others. This dataset will contain the descriptive statistics for both AX-CPTs, giving task performance scores across multiple scoring mechanisms, as well as your basic demographic information. No personally identifiable information will be contained within the dataset made available to others.

### **Who can I contact about data privacy and storage?**

The organisation responsible for protection of your personal information is the University of Reading (the Data Controller). Queries regarding data protection and your rights should be directed to the University Data Protection Officer at [imps@reading.ac.uk](mailto:imps@reading.ac.uk), or in writing to: University of Reading, Information Management & Policy Services, Whiteknights House, Pepper Lane, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6UR.

The University of Reading collects, analyses, uses, shares, and retains personal data for the purposes of research in the public interest. Under data protection law we are required to inform you that this use of the personal data we may hold about you is on the lawful basis of being a public task in the public interest and where it is necessary for scientific or historical research purposes. If you withdraw from a research study, which processes your personal data, dependant on the stage of withdrawal, we may still rely on this lawful basis to continue using your data if your withdrawal would be of significant detriment to the research study aims. We will always have in place appropriate safeguards to protect your personal data.

As part of consenting to take part in this study, you will be asked if you are happy to be contacted about future research. This is entirely optional; you can still take part in the study even if you do not wish to be contacted in the future about other studies. Additionally, if you agree to be contacted but later change your mind, you can be removed from the list by emailing the study supervisor – Prof. Philip Beaman ([c.p.beaman@reading.ac.uk](mailto:c.p.beaman@reading.ac.uk)).

You have certain rights under data protection law which are:

- Withdraw your consent, for example if you opted in to be added to a participant register.
- Access your personal data or ask for a copy.
- Rectify inaccuracies in personal data that we hold about you.
- Be forgotten, that is your details to be removed from systems that we use to process your personal data.
- Restrict uses of your data.
- Object to uses of your data, for example retention after you have withdrawn from a study.

Some restrictions apply to the above rights where data is collected and used for research purposes. You can find out more about your rights on the website of the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) at <https://ico.org.uk>. You also have a right to complain the ICO if you are unhappy with how your data has been handled. Please contact the University Data Protection Officer in the first instance.



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Who has reviewed this study?

This application has been reviewed by the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences Research Ethics Committee and given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct (2024-056-PB; expiry date: 31/03/2025).

Where can I get more information/who I can contact about this study?

Before taking part in this study, please make sure that you have asked any questions you may have and that you have received a satisfactory answer. If you do have questions and/or concerns about this study, please contact Christopher Dobson ([c.g.dobson@pgr.reading.ac.uk](mailto:c.g.dobson@pgr.reading.ac.uk)) before continuing.

Thank you for taking part in our study.

Prof. Philip Beaman and Christopher Dobson



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**STUDY CONSENT FORM**

Supervisors:  
Prof. Philip Beaman

Email  
[c.p.beaman@reading.ac.uk](mailto:c.p.beaman@reading.ac.uk)

Phone:  
0118 378 7637

Experimenter:  
Christopher Dobson

[c.g.dobson@pgr.reading.ac.uk](mailto:c.g.dobson@pgr.reading.ac.uk)

Please read the following, and tick the box preceding it, to confirm you have read and agree to it.

- ☐ I understand participation is entirely voluntary and that I have the right to withdraw from the study at any time, without detriment, by simply closing my browser window.
- ☐ I have read the information sheet regarding the project: '*Analysing how AX-CPT Procedural Changes Alter Participants' Responses*' and understand what the experimental procedure entails.
- ☐ I confirm that I have contacted the researchers prior to starting this study to ask any questions that I may have about the study, and these have been answered to my satisfaction
- ☐ I understand what information is collected about me, how it will be used in relation to the study, how it will be kept safe, and my rights in relation to my data.
- ☐ I understand that the data collected as part of this study will be preserved and made openly available in an anonymized form, so that they can be consulted and re-used by others.
- ☐ I understand that I can download the 'Study Information Sheet' and this 'Consent Form' by clicking the link at the bottom of this form, or by requesting copies by emailing the experimenter listed above.
- ☐ I confirm that I am over the age of 18 and am completing this study on a computer with a physical keyboard.
- ☐ I understand that no financial payment will be made for taking part in this study.
- ☐ Please tick the preceding box if you are happy to be contacted about future studies (optional)
- ☐ I understand that by clicking '**Consent & Start**' that I am providing **informed consent** to take part in this study.

Name:

Email Address:

*This study has been reviewed by the School Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct (2024-056-PB; expiry date: 31/03/2025).*

Thank you for taking part in our study.

Prof. Philip Beaman and Christopher Dobson