
**Study: Investigating the impact of online disinhibition
on the behavioural effects of swearing**

STUDY INFORMATION SHEET

Supervisor:	Email	Phone:
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Experimenter:		
Christopher Dobson	c.g.dobson@student.reading.ac.uk	

We would be grateful if you could assist us by participating in our study '*Investigating the impact of online disinhibition on the behavioural effects of swearing*'. Previous research has shown that swearing can have interesting behavioural effects. For instance, it has been found to alter a person's pain tolerance and physical strength. However, the strength of any effect appears dependent on the testing location. One potential explanation for this confound in result is online disinhibition; the idea that there is increased anonymity in online interactions. We are, therefore, interested in understanding the role online disinhibition has in altering the behavioural effects of swearing.

The study comprises three testing sessions and each session will take approximately 10 - 15 minutes. Each session comprises the same set of tasks starting with a short demographic questionnaire. After that, you then undertake a balloon inflation task where you collect points each time you pump up the balloon without it bursting. During this task you will have to repeat either a swearword (fuck) or a non-swearword (flat) out loud. After completing the balloon inflation task, you will provide an offensiveness rating for the word you have to repeat, as well as completing a lexical decision task where you respond by stating whether a displayed word rhymes with the previously repeated word or not. After this, you will then repeat these three tasks but repeating the other possible word during the balloon inflation task. Lastly, you will complete a questionnaire measuring state-anxiety.

Your data will be kept confidential and securely stored, with only an anonymous number identifying it. No information linking that number to you will be stored. This study is being conducted within an open science framework. This means that the following data will be made openly available in anonymised form after it is complete: your average number of balloon pumps; your offensiveness ratings and your state anxiety score. As stated, however, these data will be fully anonymised and cannot be traced back to you.

Taking part in this study is completely voluntary and you may withdraw at any time and without reason. No financial payment is available for taking part, unless you were recruited through SONA whereby 0.75 SONA credits are available for your participation once all three sessions are complete. You are free to contact the Experimenter (using the details provide above) to ask any questions you may have about this study before you begin.

This study has been reviewed by the University Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct (#####; expiry date: ##/##/####).

Thank you for taking part in our study.

Dr Anthony Haffey and Christopher Dobson



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STUDY CONSENT FORM

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

- ☐ I have read the information sheet regarding the project: Investigating the impact of online disinhibition on the behavioural effects of swearing.
- ☐ I understand the experimental procedure as explained on the information sheet and that it will involve repeating aloud the swearword 'fuck'.
- ☐ 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 participation is entirely voluntary and that I have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without detriment.
- ☐ I understand that I can withdraw at any time by simply closing my browser window.
- ☐ I understand that the data I provide will be anonymous and cannot be linked back to me.
- ☐ I understand that the data collected as part of this study will be preserved and made available in an anonymized form, so that they can be consulted and re-used by others.
- ☐ I understand that I can download copies of 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.
- ☐ I confirm that I am a native English speaker.
- ☐ I confirm that I accept that data from this study will be made openly available once it is complete.
- ☐ I understand that by clicking 'continue' (which begins this study) that I am providing informed consent to take part in this study.

This study has been reviewed by the University Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct (#####; expiry date: ##/##/##).

Thank you for taking part in our study.

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