

Consent Form for Participation in a Research Study  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

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**Researcher(s):** Dr. Rosemary Cowell, Dr. David E Huber, Tejas Savalia  
**Study Title:** Visuomotor Adaptation

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**1. WHAT IS THIS FORM?**

This form is called a Consent Form. It will give you information about the study so you can make an informed decision about participation in this research. We encourage you to take some time to think this over and ask questions now and at any other time. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to sign this form and you will be given a copy for your records.

**2. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THIS RESEARCH STUDY THAT I SHOULD BE AWARE OF?**

Your participation in this study is voluntary. This consent form seeks your agreement for the same. This study is a part of a larger investigation into adaptation and learning mechanisms in the brain. This study will last between 30 minutes and 2 hours and you will be asked to follow simple on-screen instructions. There are no health risks for participating in this study except you may get bored during the task. You may not directly benefit by being a part of this study however, we hope that your participation will provide some educational benefit by experiencing the nature of behavioral research. This study, as a part of a broad investigation, might help us understand the nature of a few relevant neurological disorders.

**3. WHY ARE WE DOING THIS RESEARCH STUDY?**

This study investigates adaptation and learning for simple stimuli (e.g., words, shapes or images of objects). We are not interested in how well you perform in general (we are not studying individual differences). Instead, we will examine how your adaptation performance differs in different situations. The pattern of results will help us to identify the reason how people adapt to novel situations and the mechanisms behind the same.

**4. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY?**

You must be at least 18 years old, in general good health to participate in this study and have normal or corrected-to-normal vision.

**5. WHERE WILL THIS RESEARCH STUDY TAKE PLACE AND HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL PARTICIPATE?**

This study will take place on the second floor of Tobin Hall. This study is part of a larger investigation into the nature of adaptation that will include several similar studies. In total, we expect to collect data from 1000 volunteers over the course of 4 years for this larger investigation. If you are interested in learning more about this study, we will inform you of our hypotheses immediately after you complete the study. We will not contact you again after you complete the study, although you are free to contact us at any time if you have any additional questions or concerns, or if you would like to learn the outcome of this study.

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## **6. WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO AND HOW MUCH TIME WILL IT TAKE?**

If you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked to sit at a computer and follow the on-screen instructions. You will view a stimulus towards which you will be required to move the mouse cursor using the mouse or designated keyboard keys. The material will be everyday objects, words, or faces that are not offensive or provocative. This study will take between 30 minutes and 2 hours. We will not contact you again after you complete the study, although you are free to contact us at any time if you have any additional questions or concerns, or if you would like to learn the outcome of this study.

## **7. WILL BEING IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY HELP ME IN ANY WAY?**

You may not directly benefit from this research; however, we hope that your participation will provide some educational benefit by experiencing the nature of behavioral research on adaptation and learning. For this reason, we encourage you to speak with the researcher after conclusion of your participation so that you can learn more about the design and hypotheses of this study.

## **8. WHAT ARE MY RISKS OF BEING IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY?**

There are no expected risks to this study beyond the potential that you may become tired and/or bored with the memory task. To reduce the possibility that this will occur, you will be given the opportunity to take breaks and the test of your memory will be self-paced. Loss of confidentiality is a risk (i.e., someone may inadvertently gain access to our records). Below we explain the procedures we will use to minimize this risk. As with any study, there may be unforeseen risks, although in the course of our research, hundreds of volunteers have completed similar tasks without any negative outcomes or loss of confidentiality.

## **9. HOW WILL MY PERSONAL INFORMATION BE PROTECTED?**

The following procedures will be used to protect the confidentiality of your study records. In this study we will electronically record your keyboard and mouse responses. The researchers will keep all study records on a campus computer. That computer will be password protected and the office containing that computer will be locked when not in use. Only the members of the research staff will have access to the password. A paper list will contain the names of the individuals who participated in this study along with an associated subject number. This list is maintained to ensure that you properly receive compensation for your participation. After the study is completed, or 6 months after your participation, whichever is sooner, the list will be destroyed, thus removing any record of your identity. The data file that contains your keyboard and mouse responses will not contain any identifying characteristics aside from your subject number. Signed consent forms will be stored securely and separately from research the data.

At the conclusion of this study, we may publish the results of this study in a scientific journal. Information will be presented in summary format and you will not be identified in any publications or presentations (in fact, we will no longer be able to determine which data file is yours).

After the list of names is destroyed at the end of the study, someone could still attempt to learn your identity if they cross-referenced the day that your data file was created with the database that was used to schedule your participation, or with paper copies of this consent form. However, such cross-referencing would be inexact because most days we run more than one person in this study.

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## **10. WILL MY INFORMATION (BIOSPECIMENS OR PRIVATE INFORMATION) BE USED FOR RESEARCH IN THE FUTURE?**

The data file containing your responses will be kept for a minimum of 6 years beyond publication of this study. After publication, we may share your data file with other researchers who may wish to re-analyze the results. However, there will no longer be any record of your identity at that time. This disclosure of the data is purely for scientific purposes and the data will only be shared with qualified academic researchers.

## **11. WILL I BE GIVEN ANY MONEY OR OTHER COMPENSATION FOR BEING IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY?**

For your participation in this study today, you will receive 1 SONA credit rounded up to every half hour spent doing the task. This credit can be applied towards extra course credit, provided that you are taking a course that accepts SONA credits. How much this affects your grade is determined by the guidelines of that course (this should be listed in the syllabus, but otherwise seek the advice of your instructor). Please understand that this is not the only way to receive extra credit towards your course. You may contact your instructor who will offer you an appropriate alternative activity.

## **12. WHO CAN I TALK TO IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Take as long as you like before you make a decision. We will be happy to answer any question you have about this study. If you have further questions about this project or if you have a research-related problem, you may contact the primary investigator(s), David Huber (413) 545-1559 and Rosemary Cowell (413) 545-1832, or the Psychology Department Chair via Laura Wildman Hanlon (413) 545-2387. If you have any questions concerning your rights as a research subject, you may contact the University of Massachusetts Amherst Human Research Protection Office (HRPO) at (413) 545-3428 or [humansubjects@ora.umass.edu](mailto:humansubjects@ora.umass.edu).

## **13. WHAT HAPPENS IF I SAY YES, BUT I CHANGE MY MIND LATER?**

You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to. If you agree to be in the study, but later change your mind, you may drop out at any time. There are no penalties or consequences of any kind if you decide that you do not want to participate. If you decide to withdraw during the study, you will still receive credits for your participation based on how long you participated in the study.

## **14. WHAT IF I AM INJURED?**

The University of Massachusetts does not have a program for compensating subjects for injury or complications related to human subjects research, but the study personnel will assist you in getting treatment.

## **15. SUBJECT STATEMENT OF VOLUNTARY CONSENT**

When signing this form I am agreeing to voluntarily enter this study. I have had a chance to read this consent form, and it was explained to me in a language which I use. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have received satisfactory answers. I have been informed that I can withdraw at any time. A copy of this signed Informed Consent Form has been given to me.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

By signing below I indicate that the participant has read and, to the best of my knowledge, understands the details contained in this document and has been given a copy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person  
Obtaining Consent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

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