New York University Abu Dhabi Department of Psychology

Debriefing (E-MEG)

Thank you for participating in these experiments. Its purpose is to examine how semantic association of certain word pairs affect the processing and to understand the relationship between eye-movements and underlying brain activity. Sometimes words were related, e.g. doctor-nurse, whereas sometimes they were not bread-socks. For this experiment, the independent variable is semantic association. The dependent variables are accuracy on detect on the nonwords (1st and 3rd experiments) or accuracy on the comprehension questions (2nd experiment), and reading times. These measures inform us about the processes of how people read.

We know from previous studies that reading times are faster for the second word in the pair when they have a semantic relationship to the first word in the pair. We also know that the amplitude of the brain activity is smaller when they are related and larger when they are not. Our goal is to see if we can predict how long a person will spend on a given word (reading time) given their brain activity. Another goal is to be able to predict whether the second word in the pair was proceeded by a related or an unrelated word using on the brain activity.

Please ask the experimenter any questions you may have on the experiment itself, or on the general issues this research is exploring.