

**NYU**Human Research
Protection Program**RESEARCH INFORMED CONSENT FORM - GENERAL****STUDY TITLE:** Study of Human Memory (IRB-FY2025-10338)**INVESTIGATOR(S):** Sebastian Michelmann, Nikita Sossounov, Zihan Bai**INVITATION TO BE A PART OF A RESEARCH STUDY**

You are invited to participate in a research study. This form has information to help you decide whether or not you wish to participate - please review it carefully. Your participation is voluntary. Please ask any questions you have about the study or about this form before deciding to participate.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study is to find out how the everyday knowledge we already carry around in our heads (for example, knowing that staplers usually belong in an office) helps or sometimes hinders our ability to remember new pictures and picture-word pairs. In plain terms, we want to see whether matching new information with familiar themes makes it easier to recognize and recall it later, or whether it can also lead to mix-ups. By understanding these effects, we hope to learn more about how memory works in real-world situations and how people can both benefit from and be tripped up by what they already know.

ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

You are eligible to participate in this study if you: (1) are proficient in English and currently reside in the United States; (2) are 18–35 years old; (3) have normal or corrected-to-normal vision (contact lenses are fine); and (4) can complete the study on a desktop or laptop computer (mobile phones and tablets are not allowed).

You should not participate if (1) you are currently outside the United States or do not feel comfortable reading and answering questions in English; (2) you are under 18 or over 64 years old; (3) you do not have normal or corrected-to-normal vision; (4) you intend to take the survey on a phone or tablet instead of a desktop or laptop computer; or (5) you have already taken part in this study through another recruitment link (each person may participate only once).

To determine if you are eligible, we will (1) Pre-screen through the recruitment platform; (2) ask the same questions again at the start of the survey (you will confirm your age, U.S. residence, and English proficiency in a short Qualtrics form).

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY PROCEDURES

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to:

1. Complete consent and basic information (5-10 minutes). You will first read a short consent

page on your computer screen and click a box to agree. Right after that, you'll answer a few simple questions about your age, gender, and language background.

2. Complete computer-readiness check and practice (about 3 minutes). The survey automatically checks that you are using a laptop or desktop (not a phone) and that your screen is large enough. You then read plain-language instructions and try a few practice trials so you know exactly what to do.

3. Complete the main task(s) (70-80 minutes). Depending on the link you clicked, you will: possibly make quick choices about which of two pictures looks "more typical", and possibly decide if single pictures are "old", "similar", or "new". All responses are simple key-presses or mouse-clicks; no audio or video is recorded.

4. Compensation (2-5 minutes). At the end, you will be compensated for your time.

RISKS OR DISCOMFORTS

This study involves the following risks or discomforts: Loss of confidentiality (unlikely, low risk). A breach could link responses to a person. Mitigation: no names, audio, or video are collected; data are stored under random IDs on encrypted NYU servers; signed cash receipts are kept in a locked file cabinet, separate from all electronic data.

Please tell the researchers if you believe you are harmed from your participation in the study.

BENEFITS

It is hoped that this study will contribute to knowledge about how our everyday "schemas" (familiar themes such as kitchens, offices, etc.) influence what we remember and what we forget. Pinpointing when schemas help versus hurt memory can: (1) guide teaching methods that link new lessons to students' prior knowledge, (2) suggest memory-support strategies for older adults or people with brain injury, and (3) improve real-world tasks that depend on accurate recall, such as eyewitness interviews or digital tools that cue our memories.

No direct medical or personal benefits are expected; however, participants may find the tasks interesting and enjoy learning more about how memory research is done.

COMPENSATION

You will be compensated at a base rate of \$12 per hour, plus a one-time performance bonus of up to \$2.

If the main task experiment detects more than 2 minutes of inactivity, it will end. A warning message will appear before this happens. Please perform our task to the best of your knowledge and ability. In cases where response patterns suggest intentional disregard for the instructions or the appropriate performance of our task, we may disqualify you from the experiment.

Should you **withdraw** before the end of the study or experience a **technical issue** preventing you from completing the study, a partial payment will be made for the duration of your participation. **To receive this payment, you must notify the researcher immediately.** Timing out of the study may result in you being disqualified, and your payment withheld. In cases where response patterns suggest intentional disregard for the instructions or the appropriate

performance of our task, we may disqualify you from the experiment and withhold your payment. There will be no cost to you associated with participation in this study.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Participating in this study is completely voluntary. You may choose not to take part in the study or to stop participating at any time, for any reason, without penalty or negative consequences.

PRIVACY & DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

In this study, you may be asked to provide information that could be used to identify you personally. This information will be kept confidential. Only researchers and others that will keep the information confidential (e.g., regulatory agencies or oversight groups) may access information that could personally identify you.

Future Use of Data

Information about you collected for this study may be shared with other researchers, used for other research studies, or placed in a data repository. These studies may be similar to this study or completely different. All information that could identify you will be removed before sharing the data or using it for other research studies. We will not ask you for additional permission before sharing the information.

ACCESS TO YOUR STUDY INFORMATION

We will not give you access to the information that is collected about you in this study.

CONTACT INFORMATION

You are encouraged to ask questions at any time during this study. For information about the study, contact Sebastian Michelmann at (609) 285-6734, s.michelmann@nyu.edu.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant or if you believe you have been harmed from the research, please contact the NYU Human Research Protection Program at (212)998-4808 or ask.humansubjects@nyu.edu.

AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE

Participant: By checking below, you are agreeing to participate in this study. Make sure you understand what the study involves before you agree. If you have questions about the study after you agree to participate, you can contact the research team using the information provided above. You may [print/keep] a copy of this form.

- ☐ I agree to participate in this research study.

Person Obtaining Consent: Your signature below means that you have explained the research to the participant/participant representative and have answered any questions they may have about the research.

Name of Person Obtaining Consent (print)

Signature of Person Obtaining ConsentDate
