



## **metadata**

Thank you for your interest in participating in the memory study conducted by the Michelmann Lab at NYU. Please continue below.

## **consent**

**RESEARCH INFORMED CONSENT FORM – SONA**  
**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

**One session of this task will take approximately 90 minutes.**

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. Debrief (2–5 minutes). At the end, you read a plain-English summary of what we were studying.

## **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 receive 2 hours of research credit for completing this study.**

If you withdraw before the end of the study or experience a technical issue and are unable to complete the entire experiment, you will receive credit for the time you have completed. To receive this credit, you must contact the researcher immediately. If you choose not to participate, you can fulfill the course requirement in other ways besides participating in this study. There will be no cost to you associated with participation in this study.

Should you withdraw before the end of the study, or experience a technical issue preventing you from completing the study, partial credit may be granted for the duration of your participation. In order to receive partial credit, you must notify the researcher immediately. Timing out of the study may result in you being disqualified, and your research credit 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. There will be no cost to you associated with participation in this study.

If you choose not to participate, you can fulfill the course requirement in other ways besides participating 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](mailto: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](mailto:ask.humansubjects@nyu.edu).

As a part of your participation in the study, if the researchers learn that you may be having thoughts about suicide or harming yourself, we may reach out to you privately to offer mental health resources. You will have the option to decide whether you would like us to connect you to NYU's Wellness Exchange or other professional services. We will not contact anyone on your behalf without your explicit permission, unless there is an immediate risk of serious harm.

## 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 understand the procedures and potential risks, and I consent to participate in this study, including being contacted by the research team if my responses raise concern about my emotional well-being.

- ☐ I understand the procedures and potential risks, and I consent to participate in this study, including being contacted by the research team if my responses raise concern about my emotional well-being.

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

By selecting “I agree” below, you are confirming that you have read the above information, that you are aged 17–64 years old, that you are currently residing in the United States, that you are proficient in the English Language, and that you have decided to participate based on the information provided.

☐ I agree

☐ I DO NOT agree

## demographics

What is your current age in years?

What is your gender identity?

☐ Male

☐ Female

- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐  Specify
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Are you of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Race: select all the apply

- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black and/or African American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
- ☐ White/Caucasian
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐  Another (specify)

Handedness:

- ☐ Ambidextrous
- ☐ Left-handed
- ☐ Right-handed
- ☐ Prefer not to say

## **enter\_ID**

Please enter your SONA ID. This ID is how we will link your responses across different parts of the study. If you lose it, you will not be able to start the experiment.

## **redirect**

Thank you for answering these questions. You will now be directed to the experimental task.

Powered by Qualtrics