# Debrief Form

Now that the study is done, we would like to present the underlying justification and theory behind the questionnaire and instructions you saw today.

The study was based on inattentiveness when responding to surveys, and how to detect it. There is literature that states around 5% of individuals respond to surveys in an inattentive manner. Our goal as methods researchers is to implement a statistical model that can classify this inattention, but also detect when an individual switches from a normal response pattern to an inattentive one.

Participants of this study were randomly selected to four treatment conditions: normal instruction, warning instruction, cautionary inattentiveness, and explicit inattentiveness. Individuals in the warning instruction category were told that the researchers have an advanced statistical model that can identify if the respondent isn’t answering with care. In the cautionary and explicit inattentiveness categories, individuals were told to start responding poorly at a random point during the questionnaire.

The ability to detect inattentiveness is related to a research area called dynamic latent class analysis. The general idea is that there are underlying classes to which each respondent is a member of, such as a “normal response” group, or an “inattentive response” group. Those who are responding poorly to the survey get their membership changed from “normal response” to “inattentive” during the testing. Traditional classification method focused on persons (saying that a person is inattentive throughout the survey) but not behavior and its underlying changes during the testing (e.g., persons start motivated but may get bored or tired during the survey).

The design of the study could not be communicated to you beforehand because it could have influenced how you responded to the questionnaire. This research is important because poor responses can contaminate and obscure significant effects in applied research. Additionally, detecting when an individual goes from attentive to inattentive can result in innovative approaches and methods for researchers to obtain their data. This results in more accurate data for the researcher to analyze.

Again, we would like to remind you of your right to withdraw from the study at this time.

Thank you for participating in this study! If you have any further questions, please contact me at: *holger.brandt*@ku.edu