

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Comprehending complex events

Dear Participant,

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

1. What is the purpose of the study?

The aim of the present study is to investigate how we organize information into meaningful events to understand and remember complex experiences. In this study, we will investigate memory for life-like stories.

This study is being conducted by Dr Petar Raykov (pr228@sussex.ac.uk), a post-doctoral research fellow in the School of Psychology at University of Sussex, under the supervision of Prof. Chris Bird (cb356@sussex.ac.uk). The research is funded by a European Research Council (ERC) grant awarded to Prof. Chris Bird.

2. Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been chosen because you responded to our study advert posted by the researchers on the standardized platform for online behavioral testing ("Prolific"), and because you fulfil the criteria required to take part to this study. To take part you need to fall into the age range 18-40 and be a fluent English speaker. It is up to you to decide whether or not you wish to join the study. We will describe the study and go through this information sheet. If you agree to take part, we will ask you to sign a consent form.

3. What will I do if I take part?

If you decide to take part, we will ask you to complete a computer-based task. The task involves carefully watching 24 short videos, each lasting about a 1 minute. Whilst watching the videos you will be asked to make simple judgments about them, such as "Does the action depicted in the clip take place outside or inside". Immediately after the first session you will be asked to complete a second online session. In this session you will be asked to remember the clips you saw in the first session. You will be asked to type in your responses using a keyboard. After this, we will ask you to rate your memory of the clips on a 0-100 scale according to various characteristics, e.g. how vividly you remember the clip? Each task will last about a half hour.

4. Will I need to prepare in any way?

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You need to make sure that you have access to a stable internet connection throughout the task. You will also need to have a working computer microphone that can record your memory of the stories (see previous section ‘*What will I do if I take part?*’).

5. Are there any risks or benefits to taking part?

No, there are no possible risks related to taking part in this study. The content of the study has been checked and moderated for sensitive topics. As for the benefits, you will be paid for your time in completing our task (£6/hour). Also, you will help the research aimed at understanding how the brain processes and remembers complex experiences.

6. What will happen to the results and my personal information?

All the information about your participation in this study and all the data collected during this study will be kept strictly confidential. All data will be stored securely on a secure password-protected computer, only accessible by the research team. The results of this study will be then analyzed, written up and peer-reviewed in scientific journal.

7. What will happen if I don’t want to carry on with the study?

You are free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. If you decide to withdraw or not join the study, this will not affect the standard of care you receive. Note you will be able to withdraw your data only before it is completely analyzed and submitted for journal review. This should not happen before August 2022.

8. What happens next?

To consent to participate in this study, please read the consent form and indicate your agreement with each statement by typing your name in the space below the caption “Your Full Name”. Please note that this information will be stored separately from your anonymized data.

This research has been approved (ER/PR228/11) by the Sciences & Technology Cross-Schools Research Ethics Committee (C-REC). If you have any ethical concerns, please contact the ethics chair (crecscitec@sussex.ac.uk) or project supervisor (cb356@sussex.ac.uk). The University of Sussex has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

You may print/copy this information sheet for your own records if you wish.

If you have any questions or complaint about the study, please contact Dr Petar Raykov
pr228@sussex.ac.uk