INFORMATION SHEET

Date: 18th May 2012

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide to participate, 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 and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for reading this.

**What is the purpose of this study?**

Factors that influence how people perceive emotion in faces are a topic of current scientific debate. With biological and evolutionary origins, facial expressions are largely considered universal. Yet, some groups consistently misinterpret basic facial expressions, resulting in communication breakdown. Given the importance of emotion communication for social integration, it is imperative to better understand the facial signals that support accurate emotion communication across different groups. As a result, we are investigating how people from different cultures (Eastern and Western) conceive of different emotion terms and perceive emotions from faces.

**Why have I been chosen?**

You have been chosen because you are a white Western Caucasian with no substantial previous experience of other cultures and/or ethnicities. We have also recruited from a large population (i.e., the School of Psychology Subject Pool), which we hope will result in obtaining a variant sample that is representative of the population.

**Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and asked to sign a consent form a copy of which you will also be given. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving reason. A decision to withdraw at any time, or a decision not to take part will not adversely affect you in any way.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

You will be shown a series of facial animations and be asked to decide which emotion the face is expressing. You will be required to select a response from on-screen options indicating the emotion you think is being expressed, or click the “don’t know” button if you do not know which emotion is being displayed by the facial animation. You will also be asked to rate the intensity of the emotion on a scale of 1-5. The typical time for a given experiment is one session of about 45 minutes. You will be asked to complete around 12 sessions in total. The task will be the same in each session.

**What do I do before or after the experiments?**

When you come to participate you must not be sleep deprived or under the influence of any substances (e.g. alcohol).

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

None.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

The research is essentially altruistic, meaning that there is no intended direct benefit to any individual research participant, however you will be compensated for your time at the standard rate of £6 per hour.

**Will I be told my results?**

At the end of the study you will be debriefed explaining some of the key concepts used in this study and providing you with references and contact details for further information. However, since your name will at no point be linked to the results it will not be possible to tell you your actual scores.

**Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

All information that is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential within the experimental team.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

If published, your data from these sessions will be anonymised so that you cannot in any way be identified from it.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

Ethics Committee of the College of Science and Engineering, University of Glasgow.

**Contact for further information**

* **Dr Rachael E. Jack** (project supervisor)

School of Psychology

University of Glasgow

58 Hillhead Street

Glasgow G12 8QB

Rachael 0141 330 5047

**You will be given a copy of this information sheet and a signed consent form to keep.**

**You will also receive a Debriefing sheet at the end of the experiment.**

*Thank you for taking part in this study*