WC – SUBJECT DEBRIEFING (PART 3)

*Why you were recruited*

You were recruited to participate in short study involving the ratings of words. You were recruited on the basis that you are a native English speaker with no other primary language, with no history of or symptoms of dyslexia, synaesthesia, and/or any psychological, psychiatric or neurological condition that affects vision-based emotion and/or face processing (e.g., depression, Autism Spectrum Disorder, prosopagnosia).

A second group was also recruited – native Mandarin speakers – as the current study focuses on cross-cultural differences.

*The Task*

In this study, you performed a facial expression recognition task. Here, you viewed a series of facial animations and asked to categorize each by emotion using emotion terms derived from the prior tasks. Although not revealed to you at the time, the facial animations presented to you were *random facial movements.* By asking you to categorize them, we can assess which facial movements you associate with each emotion category. This allows us to understand the specific facial movements you believe constitute each facial expression of emotion. As a result, we constructed each observer’s *internal representation* of each emotion.

*The purpose of the study*

The purpose of this study was to determine if different cultures think about emotions in different ways. First, we constructed culture-specific emotion lexicons to assess the conceptual landscape of emotions (i.e., do Easterners and Westerners think that disgust and anger have the same meaning?) Secondly, we reconstructed the *internal representations* of some of these emotions words to understand how different cultures represent the corresponding facial expressions.

Together, these data will help us to understand whether different cultures have the same basic emotions; and how facial expression signals differ across cultures. We hope our work will facilitate clearer channels of communication between diverse groups and promote better understanding.

Thank you for participating in our study. Please do not discuss the details of the experiment with other students, as we want participants to behave as naturally as possible, rather than having preconceived ideas about the study. Feel free to come by or to contact us at [rachael@psy.gla.ac.uk](mailto:rachael@psy.gla.ac.uk) to find out about the results, or to find out more about our research projects.