**INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS**

*REC Reference Number: PNM/13/14-74*

**YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET**

**Cross cultural Cognitive Biases**

We would like to invite you to participate in this original research project. You should only participate if you want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation 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.

What are the aims of this research?

Cognitive processing refers to the way we direct our attention and the way we interpret information we receive from the world around us. To date the vast majority of research on cognition has focussed exclusively on Western samples (European and North American). This could be due in part to the over-representation of English-language materials on a global scale. But we are living in an increasingly globalised society, with more people migrating from their home country in order to pursue study, work or for other reasons. We are interested to compare Western and Eastern cultural patterns of cognitive processing for different types of material, positive (e.g. happy faces), negative (e.g. aggressive animals) and neutral (e.g. ordinary household objects).

In order to accurately test cognitive processes in Eastern samples we are developing a set of tasks in Mandarin. The comparability and reliability of these tasks needs to be tested in relation to their current English counterparts. In order to do this accurately, we need a number of people fluent in both Mandarin and English to try out the tasks in both languages. These tasks can then be put into use in a later study to inform us more accurately of cultural differences in cognitive processing.

How is this project being funded?

This project is a three-year project funded by the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC).

Who do we need to take part in the study?

Participants interested in taking part in this study need to meet the following criteria:

1. Be aged between 16 and 65.
2. Speak fluent English and Mandarin.
3. Have no current major physical illness (such as stroke, heart disease, cancer).
4. Have no current psychological disorder, nor be receiving any psychological therapy or medication for psychological conditions

If you are eligible and interested in participating, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form.

What will I be required to do if I agree to take part?

If you agree to take part, you will be invited to attend a testing session. If you agree to participate, you are still free to withdraw at any point during the session. You will be asked to complete a series of cognitive tasks in both English and Mandarin as well as some personality questionnaires in your native language.

The format of the testing session will be as follows. You will be asked to:

1. Unscramble words in order to make meaningful sentences. You will reorder five out of six scrambled words to produce grammatically correct sentences.
2. Read a series of passages of text and rate a series of answers related to the passages. These passages reflect a variety of situations commonly experienced (This task is computer-based).
3. State the ink colour of each word in four lists of twenty words. Lists will vary in their emotional content, but the language used is similar to that encountered in everyday life.
4. Identify a probe letter as quickly and as accurately as possible. The probe letter will be presented immediately after the presentation of two images. (This task is computer-based).

Steps 1-4 will take place two times in total, once in English and once in Mandarin.

1. Complete a set of mood and personality questionnaires about yourself. This will occur only in your native language (either English or Mandarin).

Where will the testing session take place and how long will it last?

The testing session will take place at the Institute of Psychiatry (16 De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London, SE5 8AF) and will last approximately 2-3 hours.

Will I be reimbursed for my time?

You will be paid a flat rate of £20 to compensate for your time and travel expenses.

What are the benefits of participation?

There are no direct benefits of participation to you. We are confident that the results of this study will enable us to develop a comprehensive set of tasks in Mandarin allowing us to accurately measure cognitive processing in Eastern samples. This in turn will enable us to develop a deeper understanding of cross cultural differences in cognitive processing, which may eventually have benefits for the way information is presented and communicated in an increasingly globalised world.

What are the risks of participation?

There are no known significant risks associated with this study. There is a small chance that you may find some of the content of the tasks or questionnaires (words, passages or images) unpleasant. All the content used is the type of information that people generally encounter in everyday life, for example in newspapers or on television. There is also a lot of positive information contained in the tasks. The mood and personality questionnaires ask about how you have been feeling over recent weeks and what kind of person you consider yourself to be. These questions are of a personal nature and ask about both positive and negative personality traits and moods. Some questions might have the potentially to be upsetting, for example if you happen to be particularly stressed or pressured around the time you choose to participate in the study.

If you find any item or question unpleasant/ upsetting then you may choose to skip that item. Alternatively, if you feel it is necessary you can ask the researcher to stop the session entirely. You can also contact researchers if you feel upset or concerned about anything after the session. Please note you have the right to decline or withdraw from the study at any point without reason or penalty.

Will I get any support?

In case you need any support or help, at the end of the testing session we will routinely provide all participants with a document listing relevant support organisations and other useful resources, which you can contact individually to receive help or support.

Will my data remain anonymous?

All information you tell us will remain completely confidential within the limits of the law, whether or not you finished the experiment procedures. An identification number will be used to substitute your name on all personal data to ensure anonymity. It is a requirement by the funders of the study that anonymised data is deposited in the UK Data Archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>) for use by other researchers. You may withdraw your data from the project at any time up until the 31st May 2014, when the data collection phase of the study has been completed.

Will the results of the study be published?

Once completed, the study will be written up and published in the form of a report to funders and as one or more scientific publications.

How can I find out about the results of the study?

Results will be made available on the Principal Investigator’s (Jenny Yiend) KCL webpage in the form of progress updates, summaries of reports to funders and scientific publications.

It is up to you to decide whether to take part or not. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw from the study at any time and without giving a reason.

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact the researcher using the following contact details:

* Michelle Leung: [wing\_gi.leung@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:wing_gi.leung@kcl.ac.uk)
* Louise Smith: [louise.7.smith@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:louise.7.smith@kcl.ac.uk)

If this study has harmed you in any way, you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

Dr Jenny Yiend (Senior Lecturer, and Principal Investigator)

[jenny.yiend@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:jenny.yiend@kcl.ac.uk)

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*Thank you for considering participating in this study and for taking the time to read this sheet.*