

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Differences in magnocellular and parvocellular functioning in synaesthetes

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

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

This project will investigate whether people with certain types of synaesthesia (experiencing coloured letters or numbers; or experiencing numbers or time in a spatial sequence) perform differently on tests of visual perception (e.g. involved in seeing motion, colour, contrast, and shape) relative to control participants.

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

You have been chosen either as someone who has synaesthesia or to act as a control for this study. By comparing these groups, we can help to advance the understanding of the neural processes which underlie synaesthesia, and perhaps also brain functioning of the wider population.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART?

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. Should you choose to part take, you will be asked to sign a consent form, communicating your willingness and free will in participating. Signing the consent form still means you have the right to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason, and can have your data removed from the study even after completion of the experiment. For students, your decision to take part or not will have no impact on your marks, assessments or future studies.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF I TAKE PART?

If you chose to take part, you will be asked to complete a variety of on-screen computer based tasks, making simple typed responses to visual stimuli. The whole study should take no longer than 40 minutes. There are no potential disadvantages or risks in taking part in the study.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

Your participation in this study will be invaluable in furthering our understanding of the topic, which is currently a fairly un-investigated area of scientific study.

WILL MY INFORMATION IN THIS STUDY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

All information collected during this study will be kept strictly confidential (subject to legal limitations) and confidentiality, privacy and anonymity will be ensured in the collection, storage and publication of research material.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WANT TO TAKE PART?

If you wish to take part in the study, please email Jamie Ward (jamiew@sussex.ac.uk) if you have synaesthesia or Lucy Snelson (ls335@sussex.ac.uk) if you wish to act as a control for the study.

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WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH STUDY?

The results of this study will be used as part of an undergraduate dissertation as part of a Psychology (BSc) degree. If you are interested in the results of the study, you may contact the researcher after completion of the project (expected in May 2014).

WHO IS ORGANISING AND FUNDING THE RESEARCH?

I am conducting the research as a student of University of Sussex as part of the School of Psychology.

WHO HAS APPROVED THIS STUDY?

This study has been approved through the School of Psychology ethical review process.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the study, contact Jamie Ward (jamiiew@sussex.ac.uk). This is also who you should contact in the first instance should you have any concerns about the way in which the study has been conducted.

THANK YOU

Thankyou very much in advance for your time and participation.

DATE

18/10/2013