

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: VIRTUAL REALITY

INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDY:

Information Sheet for *PARTICIPANTS* in Research Studies

You will be given a copy of this information sheet.

Title of Project: **The Response to Conflicting Requests...**

This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee (Project ID Number): **5413/001**

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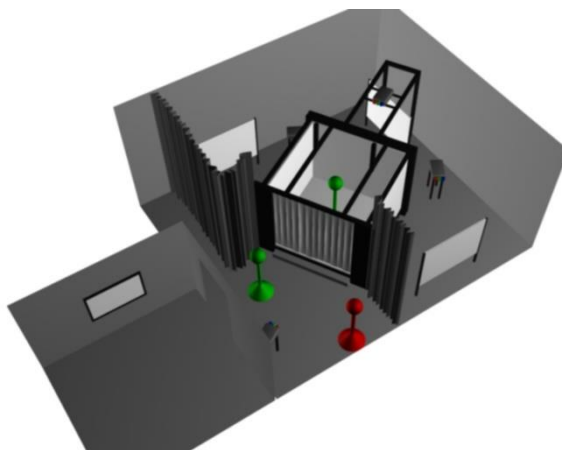
<http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk/staff/m.slater>

We would like to invite over 18 year old individuals to participate in this research project.

Details of Study:

Thank you for participating in our study. This study has been approved by *The UCL Research Ethics Committee*. Please read through this information sheet and feel free to ask any questions. The experimenters will answer any general questions; however specific aspects regarding this study cannot be discussed with you until the end of the session. The whole study will take about **1 hour**.

You will be using the Cave system. See figure below. The Cave is a Virtual Reality system made up of 3 walls measuring roughly 3m x 3m x 2.2m. You will wear VR glasses. The virtual reality viewing equipment can be worn over eyeglasses. In addition to the glasses, you will also be fitted with physiological equipment designed to measure your heart rate, respiration and galvanic skin responses whilst you are in the immersive virtual environment.



In this particular study you will be interacting with a virtual character. You will be reading out sets of 5 words. The first word each time is a cue, and the next four words are in potential associations with the first word, but only one of which is correct (the correct answer will be in capital letters). The virtual character will call out one of the words. If it is correct you will proceed to the next set, otherwise, you will administer a 'shock' to the character using a machine on the desk in front of you, read out the correct answer and then move on to the next set. You will be instructed on how to use the

interface and will have a few minutes of training to get used to it. If you are interested you can have a look at the full set of paired words in the attached document.

You should be aware that some people may find the experience stressful. Remember that you can stop at any time.

Please discuss the information above with others if you wish or ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Please ask any questions that come to mind.

It is up to you to decide whether to take part or not; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. If you do decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

Information that we collect will never be reported in a way that specific individuals can be identified. Information will be reported in a statistical and aggregated manner, and any verbal comments that you make, if written about in subsequent papers, will be presented anonymously.

All data will be collected and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

All Video and Audio data collected will be destroyed after 6 months.

IMPORTANT

When people use virtual reality systems, some people sometimes experience some degree of nausea. If at any time you wish to stop taking part in the study due to this or any other reason, please just say so and we will stop.

There has been some research, which suggests that people using head-mounted displays might experience some disturbances in vision afterwards. No long term studies are known to us, but the studies which have been carried out do testing after about 30 minutes, and find the effect is still sometimes there.

There have been various reported side effects of using virtual reality equipment, such as 'flashbacks' (e.g. illusory experiences of motion).

With any type of video equipment there is a possibility that an epileptic episode may be generated. This, for example, has been reported for computer video games.

Please note that you will not be able to participate in the study if you have consumed alcohol within the last 6 hours.

PROCEDURES

- You will be asked to read, understand and sign a **Consent Form**. If you agree to take part in this experiment then we will ask you sign it, and the study will continue with your participation. Otherwise your involvement will cease at that point. **Note that in any case you can withdraw at any later time without giving any reasons.**
- You may be asked to switch off mobile phones before using the VR equipment.
- You will be asked to complete a number of questionnaires, so that we can try to understand your actions during the study.
- You will interact inside the virtual reality Cave system.
- During the study you will be video recorded. The video data (as with all other data) will be used only by the experimenters to understand how well the navigation interface works.
- After the virtual environment experience you will complete a questionnaire.
- Finally there will be a short discussion with the experimenters about your experience. This interview may be audio recorded.
- You will be paid 15 pounds/hour for your participation.
- Because this study is ongoing, please do not discuss it with others for about **three months**.
- **Thank you** for your participation.
- *Any other questions?*

Remember, if at any time you do not wish to continue participating in the experiment, you are free to withdraw without being required to give reasons

Consent Form:

Informed Consent Form for *Participants* in Research Studies

Please complete this form after you have read the Information Sheet and/or listened to an explanation about the research.

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Thank you for your interest in taking part in this research. Before you agree to take part, the person organising the research must explain the project to you.

If you have any questions arising from the Information Sheet or explanation already given to you, please ask the researcher before you to decide whether to join in. You will be given a copy of this Consent Form to keep and refer to at any time.

Participant's Statement

I

- have read the notes written above and the Information Sheet, and understand what the study involves.
- understand that if I decide at any time that I no longer wish to take part in this project, I can notify the researchers involved and withdraw immediately.
- consent to the processing of my personal information for the purposes of this research study.
- understand that such information will be treated as strictly confidential and handled in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.
- agree that the research project named above has been explained to me to my satisfaction and I agree to take part in this study.
- have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study.
- have received satisfactory answers to any questions asked about the study.
- understand and accept the risks associated with the use of virtual reality equipment.
- agree to be videotaped.
- agree to be audio taped.
- agree to be physiologically monitored.
- certify that I do not have epilepsy.
- certify that I will not be driving a car, motorcycle, bicycle, or use other types of complex machinery that could be a danger to myself or others, within 3 hours after the termination of the study.
- certify that I have not consumed alcohol within the last 6 hours.
- agree to be contacted in the future by UCL researchers regarding this study.
- understand that the information I have submitted will be published. Confidentiality and anonymity will be maintained and it will not be possible to identify me from any publications.
- understand that I am being paid for my assistance in this research.

Signed:

Date:

In case you have any enquiries regarding this study in the future, please contact:

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Tel: 020 7679 370

Information that we collect will never be reported in a way that individuals can be identified. Information will be reported in aggregate, and any verbal comments that you make, if written about in subsequent papers, will be presented anonymously. Audio and video will be destroyed after 6 months.

Debrief Form:

Dear Participant

Thank you very much for taking part in our study. You may be interested to read the following book which provides a full account of the original studies on which this experiment was based. The original study was highly controversial, yet revealing and important.

Milgram S (1974) Obedience to Authority: McGraw-Hill.

You may also find the following web site useful:

<http://www.stanleymilgram.com/milgram.html>

If you would like to receive a copy of any publication arising from this study please write your name and address on the attached sheet, and we will write to you. This may of course be many months in the future.

If you have any further queries or observations arising from this study, please feel free to write to us by email or post.

Yours sincerely,

Mel Slater.