**CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH:**

**Emotion and decision making processes across development**

**For Adults**

Please consider this information carefully before deciding whether to participate in this research.

**Purpose of the research:** The purpose of this study is to examine developmental changes in emotion processing and decision making. In particular, this study is designed to test how these processes change from childhood to adulthood. This study will use a series of computer tasks and skin conductance measurements (sweat response on the fingertips) and we will compare these across people of different ages. Sometimes, we might ask you to complete these computer tasks in the presence of a peer. We will also ask you to answer some questions about thoughts and feelings.

**What you will do in this research:** Your participation in this study consists of completing a series of tasks presented on a computer. During these tasks, you will view questions or be asked to make judgments about information on a computer screen. You may be asked to decide between different gambling scenarios, or to choose cards that might signal gains or losses. You may also be asked to rate or judge faces, pictures, and/or words that range in emotional qualities from positive to negative. In all tasks, you will register a decision by pressing a key and we will record your choice and how long it took you to press the key. Your heart rate and skin conductance (sweat response on the fingertips) may be collected with sensors attached to your fingers with tape. This part of the session will last up to 3 hours.

We will also ask you some questions about common thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, about friends, and about your background and demographics. These questions will require 1 hour or less to complete. At the end of the experiment, you will be given a detailed explanation of the purpose of the study.

In some cases, we may be interested in re-contacting you for additional information or to participate in a follow-up experiment. If we do, your participation is completely optional and you would be compensated appropriately for your time. If you would prefer that we refrain from re- contacting you, please initial below to indicate this.

**Initial if you would prefer NOT to be re-contacted following this study**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Time required:** Participation will take 3.5 hours or less.

**Risks:** You will be asked a series of questions about your tendency to feel positive and negative emotions and about risk-taking. All answers will be kept strictly confidential. If you feel uncomfortable in discussing such information, you should not participate. You do not need to tell us why you have chosen not to participate. It is possible that the study’s procedures will cause boredom or frustration. You may end your participation in this study anytime you choose with no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

**Benefits:** At the end of the study, we will provide a thorough explanation of the study and of our hypotheses. We will describe the potential implications of the results of the study both if our hypotheses are supported and if they are disconfirmed. If you wish, you can send an email message to the laboratory ([andl@wjh.harvard.edu](mailto:andl@wjh.harvard.edu)) to be placed on a list of individuals who are interested in receiving a copy of any manuscripts based on the research (or summaries of our results).

**Compensation:** All participants are eligible for cash payment, and students and affiliates of Harvard University may earn course credit for participating in this research. If you are eligible for course credit, you may choose to receive a cash-only payment or a cash-plus-credit payment for this study. If you choose the cash-only payment**,** you will be paid $10 for the first half hour and $10 per hour after the first half hour in cash at the end of your session at the lab for participating in this study. If you choose course credit, you will earn 1 credit per hour for your participation. You may also choose to split your payment between credits and cash. We may also reimburse you for transportation to Harvard campus, or provide a free parking space if you drive to the study.

**Confidentiality:** Your participation in this study will remain confidential, and your identity will not be stored with your data. Your responses will be assigned a code number, and the list connecting your name with this number will be kept in a locked room and will be destroyed once all the data have been collected and analyzed. All digitally-collected data are encrypted for added security.

**Participation and withdrawal:** Your participation in this study is completely voluntary, and you may refuse to participate without penalty or loss of benefit to which you may otherwise be entitled. Also, you may choose to withdraw at any time without penalty or loss of benefit to which you may otherwise be entitled. You will receive payment even if you withdraw early. You may withdraw by informing the experimenter that you no longer wish to participate (no questions will be asked). You may skip any question in the assessments, but continue to participate in the rest of the study.

**To Contact the Researcher:** If you have questions about this research, please contact Leah H. Somerville, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Northwest Science Building, 52 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA, 02138, somerville@fas.harvard.edu.

Whom to contact about your rights in this research, for questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints that are not being addressed by the researcher, or research-related harm: Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research at Harvard University, 1414 Massachusetts Avenue, Second Floor, Cambridge, MA  02138.  Phone:  617-496-CUHS (2847).  Email: cuhs@fas.harvard.edu.

**Agreement:**

The nature and purpose of this research have been sufficiently explained and I agree to participate in this study. My questions have been answered, and I am free to withdraw at any time without incurring any penalty.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have discussed with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the above procedures, explicitly pointing out potential risks or discomforts. I have asked whether any questions remain and have answered these questions to the best of my ability**.**

Investigator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(1/26/10 version)