Appendix A

Sussex student (outgroup condition) Information Sheet

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Study title**

‘The difference in susceptibility to itch contagion between different groups.’

**Invitation paragraph**

*You are being invited to take part in a research study for a final year project. Before you decide whether or not to take part, please take time to read the following information carefully, as it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and how it will be carried out.*

**What is the purpose of the study?**

We are interested to know what happens when people observe other people itching.  Do you sometimes feel itchy too?  Previous research has found that itching is ‘contagious’. Our study will help us to understand how observing itching affects the urge to itch. We are looking at the extent to which this effect differs between different groups of people. In particular, this study will measure differences between **Sussex students and Brighton students,** first by looking at the effect on **Sussex students.**

You will be asked to watch a video of a **Brighton student** itching. Questionnaires will be given to you to fill out before and after this video. You will also be filmed during the video. This should take no longer than 20 minutes.

**Why have I been invited to participate?**

There are a total of 45 participants included in this study, and you have been selected at random to take part.

**Do I have to take part?**

*If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. You will be free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason up to the point at which I submit my report*.

All data collected during this study will remain confidential. The video recording will be coded by me and one other person and will not be seen by anyone other than my project tutor and myself. The results of this research will be used in my dissertation.

**What should I do if I want to take part?**

If you wish to take part in this study, you must sign the consent form.

**Who is organising the research?**

I am organising and conducting the research as a Psychology student at the University of Sussex.

**Contact for Further Information**

For further information, please contact me (name) on my e-mail address: name@sussex.ac.uk. If you have any concerns about the way in which the study has been conducted, you may also contact my supervisor (John Drury) on his email address: j.drury@sussex.ac.uk.

University of Sussex has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

As a compensation for your time you will be entered into a £25 prize draw. Your personal details will only be used to contact you if you win the prize draw, and will be destroyed afterward.

**Thank you** for your time.

Appendix B

Student (ingroup condition) Information Sheet

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Study title**

‘The difference in susceptibility to itch contagion between different groups.’

**Invitation paragraph**

*You are being invited to take part in a research study for a final year project. Before you decide whether or not to take part, please take time to read the following information carefully, as it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and how it will be carried out.*

**What is the purpose of the study?**

We are interested to know what happens when people observe other people itching.  Do you sometimes feel itchy too?  Previous research has found that itching is ‘contagious’. Our study will help us to understand how observing itching affects the urge to itch. We are looking at the extent to which this effect differs between different groups of people. In particular, this study will measure differences between **students** and **non-students**, first by looking at the effect on **students.**

You will be asked to watch a video of a **Brighton student** itching. Questionnaires will be given to you to fill out before and after this video. You will also be filmed during the video. This should take no longer than 20 minutes.

**Why have I been invited to participate?**

There are a total of 45 participants included in this study, and you have been selected at random to take part.

**Do I have to take part?**

*If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. You will be free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason up to the point at which I submit my report*.

All data collected during this study will remain confidential. The video recording will be coded by me and one other person and will not be seen by anyone other than my project tutor and myself. The results of this research will be used in my dissertation.

**What should I do if I want to take part?**

If you wish to take part in this study, you must sign the consent form.

**Who is organising the research?**

I am organising and conducting the research as a Psychology student at the University of Sussex.

**Contact for Further Information**

For further information, please contact me (name) on my e-mail address: name@sussex.ac.uk. If you have any concerns about the way in which the study has been conducted, you may also contact my supervisor (John Drury) on his email address: j.drury@sussex.ac.uk.

University of Sussex has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

As a compensation for your time you will be entered into a £25 prize draw. Your personal details will only be used to contact you if you win the prize draw, and will be destroyed afterward.

**Thank you** for your time.

Appendix C

Control group Information Sheet

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Study title**

‘A study on itch contagion.’

**Invitation paragraph**

*You are being invited to take part in a research study for a final year project. Before you decide whether or not to take part, please take time to read the following information carefully, as it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and how it will be carried out.*

**What is the purpose of the study?**

We are interested to know what happens when people observe other people itching.  Do you sometimes feel itchy too?  Previous research has found that itching is ‘contagious’. Our study will help us to understand how observing itching affects the urge to itch.

You will be asked to watch a video of a **Brighton student** itching. Questionnaires will be given to you to fill out before and after this video. You will also be filmed during the video. This should take no longer than 20 minutes.

**Why have I been invited to participate?**

There are a total of 45 participants included in this study, and you have been selected at random to take part.

**Do I have to take part?**

*If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. You will be free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason up to the point at which I submit my report*.

All data collected during this study will remain confidential. The video recording will be coded by me and one other person and will not be seen by anyone other than my project tutor and myself. The results of this research will be used in my dissertation.

**What should I do if I want to take part?**

If you wish to take part in this study, you must sign the consent form.

**Who is organising the research?**

I am organising and conducting the research as a Psychology student at the University of Sussex.

**Contact for Further Information**

For further information, please contact me (name) on my e-mail address: name@sussex.ac.uk. If you have any concerns about the way in which the study has been conducted, you may also contact my supervisor (John Drury) on his email address: j.drury@sussex.ac.uk.

University of Sussex has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

As a compensation for your time you will be entered into a £25 prize draw. Your personal details will only be used to contact you if you win the prize draw, and will be destroyed afterward.

**Thank you** for your time.

Appendix D

**CONSENT FORM FOR PROJECT PARTICIPANTS**

**PROJECT TITLE**: The differing effects of itch contagion between groups.

I agree to take part in the above University of Sussex research project. I have had the project explained to me and I have read and understood the Information Sheet, which I may keep for records. I understand that agreeing to take part means that I am willing to:

1. Allow the study to be video taped
2. Use a computer to watch a series of videos
3. Fill in a questionnaire
4. Allow the researcher to have access to my personal details (email) ONLY for use in the £25 prize draw.

I understand that any information I provide is confidential, and that no information that I disclose will lead to the identification of any individual in the reports on the project, either by the researcher or by any other party.

I give my full consent that my data can be used for analysis, and I consent to the videotape being shown to other researchers and interested professional parties.

I consent to the processing of my personal information for the purposes of this research study. I understand that such information will be treated as strictly confidential and handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

I understand that my participation is voluntary, that I can choose not to participate in part or all of the project, and that I can withdraw at any stage of the project up to the point at which (name) submits her dissertation without being penalised or disadvantaged in any way.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_

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

Email Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Appendix E

Ethical Review Confirmation of Approval