

Description of the Excel file

This data file contains columns of raw questionnaire data, as well as columns that refer to recoded items or to new created variables (dummy coded variables, total scores of scales and subscales etc.). Columns can be identified by their names in the first row. In the separate document entitled 'Recoded variables' you can find details about how each variable was coded. Please also note that participants' answers which are part of a scale, are transformed into numbers (considering reverse scoring), so that they reflect the scoring of each item according to the relevant scale.

Brief description of the columns:

Column A: '1' identifies neurotypical participants from UK without any health condition.

Columns B:H: Information related to the progress/completion of the questionnaire.

Columns I:O: Refer to the section of 'Thoughts on Touch'.

Columns P:CA: Refer to the section of 'Where do you like to be touched'.

Participants could indicate if they like, dislike or feel neutral about touch to various body parts.

Columns CB:CU: Refer to the section of 'Social Touch Questionnaire'.

Columns CV:EA: Refer to the section of 'Emotion Communication'.

Columns EB:EE: Refer to the section of 'Touch Hunger/Loneliness'.

Columns EF:EK: Refer to the section of 'Tactile Imagery'.

Columns EL:EP: Refer to the section of 'Tactile Sensitivity'.

Columns EQ:EW: Refer to the section of 'WEMWBS Short'.

Columns EX:FL: Refer to the section of 'BFI-S'.

Columns FM:FP: Refer to the section of 'Work'.

Columns FQ:GO: Refer to the section of 'Demographics'.

Columns GP:GR: Refer to the section of 'Touch and Objects'.

Columns GS:HA: Refer to the section of 'Touch and Tech'.

Columns HB:HO: Refer to the section of 'Touch and Health'.

Columns HP:IA: Refer to the section of 'TEAQ'.

Please note that 12 items were selected from the TEAQ for use in this survey. These included the two highest-loading items on each of the six subscales. Original question numbering as per Trotter et al. (2018) is used in the data file.

Columns IB:IM: Refer to the section of 'Psychotherapy Questions'.

Columns IN:IQ: Refer to the section of 'Social Topology of Touch-Short'.

Columns IR:JC: Refer to the section of 'ECR-12'.

Columns JD:JX: Refer to the section of 'Interoceptive Accuracy Scale'.

Columns JY:KC: Refer to the section of 'Dresden Body Image/ Body Acceptance'.

Columns KD:KH: Refer to the section of 'Body Perception'.

Columns KI:LB: Refer to the section of 'UCLA Loneliness'.

Columns LC:LL: Refer to the section of 'EQ-10'.

Please note that items corresponding to Muncer and Ling's (2006) Cognitive and Emotional Reactivity subscales were used here.

Columns LM:MM: Refer to the section of 'Sleep'.

Columns LW:LY refer to the drag and drop questions. Each column represents a box (e.g. “It would have a negative effect on my sleep quality”) and participants answers are listed with commas between them.

Columns LZ:MQ refer to how participants ordered their choices into the boxes. For example if they have placed ‘gentle stroke’ as the first element in the box that indicates having negative impact on their sleep, this can be found in the relevant column that refers to the negative impact & gentle stroke with the number ‘1’.

Columns MN:OJ: Refer to the subscale and total scores for scales included in the Touch Test. Columns ending in “IF ALL” contain scores calculated only if participants have completed all relevant scale items. Where there are a sufficient number of items, “IF 80” columns are also included. These refer to scale scores calculated if participants have completed at least 80% of scale items. In this case, where there are missing values, these have been replaced with the mean score for that scale. Note that Columns NC:NF contain values for the IAS ‘Related to Covid’ and ‘Non-related’. Here, ‘Related to Covid’ sums five interoceptive accuracy items related to breathing, cough, temperature, tired/sore muscles and taste. ‘Non-related’ sums the remaining 16 items on the scale.

Column OK: refers to the numerical ID that participants were associated with when completing the questionnaire. This number was generated automatically and randomly by the Qualtrics software.

Columns OL:OS: Refer to recoded demographic variables and variables related to the completion/progress of the questionnaire.

Duration of Part one (P1) and Part two (P2) is coded in seconds

Start/End Date in Days from Launch: Launch day was on 21/1/20.

Month of Test: 1 = January, 2 = February, 3 = March 2020.

Columns OT:PE: Refer to the grouping of people in world regions according to their country of residence. ‘1’ identifies individuals that fall in a given region. The groups are shaped as follows:

- **East Asia:** China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea
- **South & East Asia:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam
- **South Asia:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
- **Sub-Saharan Africa:** Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- **Middle East:** Bahrain, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen
- **Northern Europe:** Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden
- **Eastern Europe:** Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine
- **Mainland Western Europe:** Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Switzerland
- **Southern Europe:** Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain
- **North America:** Canada, U.S.A
- **Central South America:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela
- **Australasia:** Australia, New Zealand

Columns PF:QNRE: Refer to recoded variables of participants' current (identified by the demographics section) or previous (identified by participants comments from part 1 and part 2) health condition and neurodiversity.

- Health condition (1 = no health condition, 0 = any health condition/prefer not to say). '1' identifies people that ticked the box of 'I do not have a disability, long-term condition or impairment'.
- Health condition - none (1 = yes, 0 = no). '1' identifies people who did not ticked any of the neurodiversity/disability or health problems and with '0' people who ticked any of these.

In order to select healthy neurotypical participants (without problems of physical/mental health and without any disability) select '1' from 'Health condition (1 = no health condition, 0 = any health condition/prefer not to say)'.

If you need to study populations with neurodiversity or any disability, there are columns for each category. In the top-level category 'Neurodiversity (1 = yes, 0 = no)', '1' identifies participants with any neurodiversity. Separate categories describe specific conditions, such as ASD. Additional columns describe participants' self-described neurodiversity or health condition (that were not listed in the main categories).

Some participants gave information about their previous health conditions. So, there are also columns of this information. Please, note that these individuals are not included in the top-level 'Health condition (1 = no health condition, 0 = any health condition/prefer not to say)' as '0'. So, if you would like to include participants without previous health condition, you need to select participants with '0' from the top-level category 'Previous health condition (1 = yes, 0 = no)'.

Columns QO:QV: Refer to the recoded answers of the psychotherapy questions.

Columns QW:RF: Refer to dummy coded variables for the substitutes of touch.

Column RG: Refers to the use of substitutes where '1' identifies participants who answered that they use any of the non-social substitutes (Taking more baths or showers, swimming, buying or wearing extra soft or woolly clothes, buying or touching teddy bears or other soft toys/accessories) and '0' participants who did not use any of the substitutes.

Column RH:Q99 Corrected: Refers to the item in column LS: "How long does it take you to fall asleep?". Participants' responses for this item were recorded falsely by Qualtrics Software and this column was replaced by its corrected version in Column SS.

Columns RI:RR: Refer to cases from certain variables that need to be excluded. These participants have commented on issues that they had for specific items while completing the survey.