

Welcome to The Touch Test!

Please read the following information before you decide to take part. If you have any questions, then please contact: touchtest@gold.ac.uk

What is The Touch Test?

The Touch Test is designed to explore our attitudes towards the physical experience of touch.

Some aspects of touch haven't been fully researched and that is where this survey comes in. We want to explore how people's attitudes and experiences might vary across different groups. We want to know how touch might relate to health and well-being and to the way we think about our own bodies.

We know our likes and dislikes when it comes to touch vary widely, so we'd like to know how this impacts on our views on what kind of touch is appropriate in different situations such as a doctor's surgery or a workplace. We're also interested in how new technology is affecting our attitudes towards touch.

To do all this we are using some measures developed specially for The Touch Test and other standardized measures which have been widely tested and which allow us to make comparisons with previous research, but which might feel more old-fashioned in their language. You might find that some of the questions feel personal, but please be aware that you can skip any questions that you do not feel comfortable with.

You can fill in The Touch Test on a computer, smartphone or tablet. You may find that some parts of the survey are easier to complete if you turn your phone or tablet to a landscape orientation.

Who designed The Touch Test?

The Touch Test project is a partnership between Wellcome Collection and BBC Radio 4. Wellcome Collection has commissioned The Touch Test from psychologists at Goldsmiths, University of London.

When can I find out the results?

If you fill in the survey you'll get a sneak preview of a few results at the end, but the main results will be announced at a live event at Wellcome Collection in the autumn, and you'll be able to hear them on BBC Radio 4 and BBC World Service.

What does The Touch Test involve?

The Test is split into two parts. The first part will take about 15 minutes. After completing Part 1 you can decide whether to continue to Part 2, which takes roughly 20 minutes to fill in.

It's up to you whether you do both parts, but touch is an under-researched area, so if you do have the time to complete both we would really appreciate your responses. You do not need to complete the test all in one go. You can return at a later date by

going to www.touchtest.org within a week. The progress bar at the top of the page shows your progress through the entire survey including both Parts 1 and 2.

Do I have to take part?

The study is designed for adults aged 18 or over. It is entirely up to you whether you participate. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason. To do so, simply close your web browser and exit the survey. The answers you have already given will be saved, but you can contact us to request them to be erased. To do this please contact touchtest@gold.ac.uk stating your anonymous participant number, which will be given to you at the start of the survey. You can do this at any point until the data is no longer associated with a participant number in our records (typically 3 weeks from completion of the survey)

If you are unhappy about the handling of your data or your participation in the study, please contact touchtest@gold.ac.uk in the first instance. If this response is not satisfactory, you may also contact the Goldsmiths Data Protection Officer (dp@gold.ac.uk) concerning your rights to control your personal data, or the Chair of the Goldsmiths Research Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee (reisc@gold.ac.uk) for any other aspect of the study.

Will anyone know what I do or say during the experiment?

No, your responses are confidential and we do not collect any identifiable information such as your name, email or address.

Are there any risks involved in taking part?

The study has received full ethical approval by the Research Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee at Goldsmiths, and was judged to have no perceived risks. However, in the unlikely event that you do experience any distress as a result of your participation then we would advise you to stop filling in the questionnaire. If you live in the UK and need to seek immediate support, sources include: Samaritans 116 123 (lines are open 24hrs) and SANEline 0300 304 7000 (lines are open from 4.30pm-10.30pm).