**INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**

**(Version1; 17/11/16)**

Study Title: ***Attentional Control under Emotionally-loaded tasks: An eye-tracking study***

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ERGO ID 24457

**Please read this information carefully before deciding to take part in this research. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.**

*You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part and remember that your participation is voluntary*.

My name is Athina Manoli and I am a PhD student at the University of Southampton. I would like to invite you to take part in my research study that is being done as part of my degree. Before you decide whether to take part, I would like to explain why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. I will go through this information sheet with you and answer any questions you may have.

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

The aim of the study is to examine oculomotor control in simple computer tasks using emotional and non-emotional stimuli. The study will measure eye-movements in young adults to understand how attentional control can be modulated in the presence of emotional stimuli. Understanding attention in adults will help to compare performance in similar tasks in children and adolescents to identify attentional and emotional processing mechanisms across development.

**Why have I been chosen?**

You have been invited to participate since you are a young adult that has enquired about our advertised study.

**What does this research study involve?**

Initially, we will explain what the study involves and ask you to sign a consent form to say that you are happy to take part. Then, we will ask some general/demographic questions about you and we will carry out a short screening asking you about your psychiatric history, to check that you are eligible to take part in the study. After that, the study involves completion of simple computer tasks during which we will measure your eye-movements as well as completion of four questionnaires.

Eye tracking:

To track your eye movements, you will be seated in front of a computer screen. At the beginning of the experiment you will be adjusted into a comfortable height position in the chair and the chin rest will be positioned in front of you at an appropriate height. You will be asked to place your chin on the chin rest while eye tracker tracking your eyes. You will be asked to remain as still as possible to minimise head movements which can affect the quality of the eye tracking data.

You will have to complete two computer tasks that are divided in 6 blocks in total. Each block takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. The tasks involve identifying and discriminating targets on a computer screen while ignoring distractors (*e.g.* arrows and emotional faces), moving your eyes in respond to some targets and withholding your eye-movements in response to others (*e.g.* coloured squares and emotional faces). You will be given the opportunity to take breaks while you are doing each task, as well as between tasks. After completing the computer tasks you will be asked to complete the questionnaires. These ask you to report your feelings and behaviours and they will take around 15 minutes to complete.

Once you finished, we will explain more about what you were asked to do and why, and you will be provided with a written debriefing statement. In order to thank you for taking part you receive £12 (£6 per hour) or 24 credits for 2 hours (12 credits per hour) for your participation. This is the standard set by the University of Southampton Psychology Ethics Committee. The whole testing session should take no longer than 2 hours.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks for taking part?**

The disadvantage in taking part is the time and effort the study will take. Participants who meet any of the exclusion criteria should not take part in the study. These include diagnosis of various psychiatric disorders such as anxiety disorders depression and schizophrenia. During the session, you may experience some discomfort and boredom due to the length of the computer tasks and because you will be asked to keep still so we can record eye movements clearly. However, we always aim to support you through the tasks and we will allow you to take frequent breaks.

**What are the possible benefits for taking part?**

By taking part in the study, you help us understand attentional mechanisms in emotionally loaded tasks that underlie healthy adults and further compare those mechanisms in development and psychopathology more broadly. Participants who complete the study will receive a payment of £12 or 8 credits (for Undergraduate students) for their time and effort.

**Will information collected during the study be kept confidential?**

All data is anonymized and confidential. Your child’s identity will be protected by changing his/her name into a subject code during analysis. Any information and research study documentation taken for this research will remain confidential and will be available only to the principal investigator and members of the research team directly involved in the study. However, we will tell you if your child reports very high levels of anxiety on the questionnaire measures. In addition, if you need further support or advice in this circumstance, you will be informed (as a parent/guardian) and if you require further support or advice we will provide you with a person you can contact for further advice. All your data and information will be held in confidence, which means that it will only be shared with those who have a need or a right to know.

**What happens if I no longer want my child to participate?**

Even if you and your child decide to take part you both are still free to withdraw from the study at any time without having to give a reason.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

When the study has been completed, data will be analyzed and the findings will be written up for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals and may be presented at scientific conferences. You and your child would not be identified in any way. If you would like to know the results we can provide you with a summary report, or a copy of the final paper.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

The University of Southampton Research Ethics Committee and the South Central Berkshire – B Research Ethics Committee have both reviewed and approved the study.

**Who can I contact for further information?**

If you have a concern or complaint regarding any aspect of this study you can contact the Research Governance at the University, Phone number: 02380 595058, Email address: [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)

For further queries, please contact me or my supervisor via email:

Athina Manoli (email: [am32g13@soton.ac.uk](mailto:am32g13@soton.ac.uk)) or Dr Julie Hadwin (email: jah7@soton.ac.uk)