**Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title**: Exploring Social Interactions Using Professional 360 VR Camera Technology

**Researcher**: Nesli Ozhan, Dr Erich Graf, Prof Matt Garner

**ERGO number: 67176**

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others, but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

**What is the research about?**

I am Nesli Ozhan and you are being invited to take part in my PhD project.

Anxiety disorders are more common than many other psychiatric disorders, follows a complex course of events with low recovery rates and high co-morbidity, and individuals with anxiety often experience reduced quality of life.

In this study we will evaluate the effects of a virtual reality (VR) exposure to social situations. Specifically, we will measure levels of anxiety during VR exposure to social environments on subjective anxiety, autonomic arousal and social performance in a subsequent presentation task (conducted within VR). The presentation task will involve you preparing and delivering a short talk in virtual environments.

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

You have been invited to participate since you have enquired about our advertised studies.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

You will attend a lab session:

**In the lab,** you will prepare and deliver a short talk on a given topic for three minutes in virtual environments. You will also answer some basic maths questions.

Throughout the lab session, you will complete some questionnaires via computers or in virtual environments that ask about your physical and mental health. You will be wearing two Fitbit activity monitors (Fitbit Charge 2) to measure heart rate.

The study can be completed in 75 minutes (maximum).

You will be audio recorded for analysis purposes. Once transcribed, the original recordings will be destroyed. You will need to consent on audio recordings to proceed with the experiment.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

Psychology students will be eligible to receive up to 26 research participation credits. Other participants who complete the study will be able to receive £17.5 if they are not receiving credits. It is your decision to opt for research credits or the financial compensation.

Beyond this you should not expect to directly benefit from taking part in this research study. However, the information we get from this study may help us to understand and treat patients with anxiety disorders in the future.

**Are there any risks involved?**

The experiment procedure will ask you some sensitive questions (i.e., your) and questions about your physical and mental health. Information about local support services will be available to you if you are concerned about your physical and mental wellbeing.

The virtual reality headset will place you in an immersive 360-degree virtual environment. Some individuals can experience dizziness during VR. You will have the opportunity to stop and withdraw from the study at any point if you wish.

**What data will be collected?**

Questionnaire-based data will be collected via online surveys (Qualtrics) and in virtual environments. Your personal information will not be used in the analysis or presentation of the data to ensure that they remain confidential.

Your e-mail addresses will be the only identifiable information that we collect about you. This is to book your lab session. Your online data will be stored in Qualtrics software behind a password-protected login. Only the research team will have access to the online Qualtrics data. Your email addresses will be stored in a password protected file in a separate location (i.e., J:Drive) to the other data. Once you fully complete the experiment and/or your emails are no longer needed, they will be completely deleted from our systems.

Audio recordings will be transcribed before being deleted.

The continuous heart rate data from Fitbit tracker will be collected and stored behind a password-protected login. In addition, any information that may identify you (i.e., e-mail addresses) will not be stored alongside the online activity-monitor data.

All data (self-report questionnaires, physiological measures, and transcribed recordings) will be stored on password protected servers and accessed only by those directly involved in running the experiment or analysing the data: Nesli Ozhan, Erich Graf, Matt Garner.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

All data will be anonymized and confidential. You will be assigned a unique participant number that will be used to identify your data – your identifying information will not be linked with or stored with any of your data. Any information and research study documentation taken for this research study will remain confidential and will be available only to the principal investigator and members of the research team directly involved in the project.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need provide your online consent to show you have agreed to take part.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason. You will only be compensated upon completion of the study.

You might wish to withdraw from the study at any point. If you withdraw from the study, we might keep the information about you that we have already obtained for the purposes of achieving the objectives of the study only. However, you can request full deletion of your online and/or stored data if you wish within A WEEK OF PARTICIPATION (You can contact Nesli Ozhan at [n.ozhan@soton.ac.uk](mailto:n.ozhan@soton.ac.uk) for such request). After that I won’t be able to match your data with your personal identifying information which makes the data deletion impossible.

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

When the study has been completed, the research team will analyse the data and report the findings. The results might be included in research reports written by members of the research team, including research student projects and papers for publication/presentation at scientific conferences.

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent.

If you would like a copy of the final paper, you may request this by contacting me at [n.ozhan@soton.ac.uk](mailto:n.ozhan@soton.ac.uk).

**Where can I get more information?**

For any further queries, please contact Nesli Ozhan

[n.ozhan@soton.ac.uk](mailto:n.ozhan@soton.ac.uk)

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study you should speak to the researchers (Neslihan Ozhan at [n.ozhan@soton.ac.uk](mailto:n.ozhan@soton.ac.uk), Dr Erich Graf at [e.w.graf@soton.ac.uk](mailto:e.w.graf@soton.ac.uk) and Prof Matt Garner at [m.j.garner@soton.ac.uk](mailto:m.j.garner@soton.ac.uk)) who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, ‘Personal data’ means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University’s data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/ls/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University’s policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason (‘lawful basis’) to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the ‘Data Controller’ for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University’s data protection webpage (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@soton.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@soton.ac.uk)).

**Thank you for taking the time to read the information sheet and considering taking part in the research.**