**Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title**: Individual Differences in Super Extinction

**Researcher**: Ovidiu Brudan

**ERGO number:** 47899.A1

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?**

The current study is part of a Phd thesis and it aims to assess the accuracy of a formal model of associative learning. More specifically, it is aimed to examine the predictions of the Rescorla-Wagner model under different conditions. Additionally the study is intended to facilitate our understanding of the role of impulsivity in associative learning. During the experiment, which is expected to last no longer than 45 minutes you will be asked to complete three questionnaires and two computer based tasks.

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

You have been asked to participate because you are a student, member of staff or a visitor at the University of Southampton Highfield campus.

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

The current project will constitute of a single online session in which you will be asked to fill in three questionnaires, each taking roughly 5-7 minutes. Then you will be asked to complete two computer based tasks, which are estimated to last 10-15 minutes each. For the first task you will be asked to press a key if you see a certain stimulus on the screen and a different key if a different stimulus is presented (specific instructions will be given before starting the task). For the second task you will have to learn to predict the occurrence of an event based on the previous occurrence of certain stimuli. More specifically, you will be presented with various types of food. Your job is to learn which types of food a friendly alien enjoys and which it doesn’t, and predict the alien’s reactions to the foods.

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

Your participation will help us understand how individual differences influence associative learning processes, which could lead to improvements in rehabilitation treatments. Student participants can collect research participation credits if they are registered on select modules.

**Are there any risks involved?**

There are no significant risks associated with the current study beyond those which you might encounter in your day to day life. However, if at any point you feel uncomfortable you are free to stop.

**What data will be collected?**

No personal data will be collected as part of the current study and the data that will be collected will be anonymised and all participants will receive a random participant number. The data that is collected regards participants ability to respond to two behaviour tasks and their trait and state impulsivity as measured by three questionnaires.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation in this research will be treated in strict confidence. All of your data will be stored along with a unique ID. Your name and this ID will be linked with a key which will be destroyed once the data has been checked, after that point it will not be possible to identify your data. The key is only kept until data entry is checked in case we need to contact you to verify some information (e.g. a question answered wrongly or answer missing). The anonymised data may be shared with other researchers and responsible members of the University of Southampton or individuals from regulatory authorities who require access for monitoring purposes to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations.

**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 indicate you have agreed to take part by ticking the consent box below.

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

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected.

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

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.

**Where can I get more information?**

If you have any further questions regarding the study please email me, Ovidiu Brudan, at: [ob4g14@soton.ac.uk](mailto:ob4g14@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 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 for your interest in the current study.**