**INFORMATION SHEET**

(Version Number 2, 17/09/2023)

**Study Title:** Fearing the Unknown: An investigation into Intolerance of Uncertainty as risk factor for anxiety.

**Researcher names**: Dr Denis Golm, Professor Matt Garner, Dr Julie Hadwin, David Keep.

**Ethics number**:

*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 provide online consent by ticking a box.*

**What is the research about?**

My name is Dr Denis Golmand I am a Lecturer in Psychologyat the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom. My research focuses on understanding fears and worries in adults including night-time fears.

Early models and research into fear acquisition argued three fundamentals for fear learning; anxiety sensitivity (AS), the fear of negative evaluation (FNE), and fear of injury (FOI). Explicated by Reiss (1991), these key cognitive elements of anxiety would be logically irreducible in identifying explanation of a wide range of fears deviating ‘ordinary’ fears. Proceeding this initial method, recent research into learning fear and fear acquisition have suggested that ‘fear of the unknown’ may be the lowest order construct of fear acquisition (Carleton 2012, 2016), being logically irreducible from other potential fundamentals such as ‘fear of pain’ (Carleton, Abrams, Asmundson, Antony, & McCabe, 2009) and ‘fear of death’.

Having been mostly measured by Intolerance of Uncertainty, the definition of ‘fear of the unknown’ has been sparsely investigated and its measurement has been poorly represented within the anxiety and phobia literature. Whilst research has explored Intolerance of Uncertainty on an experimental level, research has yet to explicitly explore Fear of the Unknown amongst highly anxious and fearful individuals. The current study aims to investigate Carleton’s (2012) model into fear of the unknown with adults who do and do not suffer from an anxiety disorder.

**Why is the study important?**

Understanding why some people experience night-time and other fears can help researchers to think about how best to help so that these do not affect adults during everyday life.

**Why have I been chosen to take part?**

You have been chosen to take part because you have previously responded to an advertisement on Prolific. Participants were contacted based upon answers given in a previous study (i.e., the presence of a mental health problem or neurodevelopmental condition). Participants are required to be over the age of 18 and have the presence of a diagnosed mental health problem.

If you agree to take part, you will continue to the next webpage and complete a survey and task online, lasting 20 minutes. You will be asked to complete a questionnaire and you will also perform an audio task responding to happy and scary sounds. You will then be asked to rate the sounds you have heard. Please do not take part if you are currently taking medication or treatment for your mental health disorder.

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

You will benefit from knowing you are involved in a study which looks to help children to worry less, not be scared at night and to get more sleep. Also, by taking part in this research, students who require university research credits will be reimbursed £3.10.

**Are there any risks involved?**

Sometimes talking or thinking about things that might worry you can be difficult. Also, you may become upset or distressed due to the sounds that you will hear. If so and you get upset by thinking about your own worries and fears, then we encourage you to talk to your GP or another adult who could help.

**What data will be collected?**

You will be asked to complete a consent form before you begin. You will also be asked to provide demographic information regarding your age, ethnicity, job status and marital status. These are required for analysis of data. You will then complete a series of questionnaires where you will ask questions about how you feel in certain situations, your thoughts and experiences. The task you complete will record your data which will also be used for analysis.

Data will be secured in a security locked documents folder. All personal data gathered will not be shared outside the research team (Professor Matt Garner, Dr Julie Hadwin, Dr Denis Golm, David Keep) where the lead researcher, Denis Golm, has the only access.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information we collect about you during 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 these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential. Only those you have told will know about you taking part in this study. No information to where or when will be shared outside the primary research group.

You are assigned identification numbers, so that information stored within electronic data files will be anonymous.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you if you want to be involved in the study. If you decide to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

**What happens if I change my mind about taking part?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time during the experiment without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. To withdraw your data and any contact details you provide, please contact the lead researcher, Denis Golm (nightimestudy1@soton.ac.uk) if you no longer want to take part. If you wish to do so, you have 6 weeks to withdraw your data.

**What happens if something goes wrong?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers (nightimestudy1@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, Head of Research Integrity and Governance (Phone: 023 8059 5058, Email: rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk).In the unlikely event that you feel that you have been placed at risk, you can contact the Chair of the Ethics Committee at the University of Southampton: Phone: +44 (0)23 8059 5058 Call: +44 (0)23 8059 5058, email: risethic@soton.ac.uk.

**Where can we get more information?**

If you have any questions about the study after reading this information sheet, please contact Dr Denis Golm at the University of Southampton. Email: nightimestudy1@soton.ac.uk.

**What should I do if I want to take part?**

If you would like to take part, then complete the consent form on the next page.

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

The results of the research will be analysed and presented both by publishing and presentation. The data will be collected and kept in the Universities archive for 10 years as per University of Southampton policy. Resulting published data will also be made available through the institution repository.

**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 think about whether you would like to be involved in this research.**

**Yours faithfully**

**Dr Denis Golm**