

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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EXPIRES 6/19/05

Consent to Participate in a Research Study: Attentional Processes in Face Perception

“NORMAL PARTICIPANTS”

INVESTIGATORS: Lynn C. Robertson, PhD, Shlomo Bentin, PhD, Robert Knight, MD
Department of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley, 510-642-6270

PURPOSE: The purpose of this research is to better understand how people see faces and objects and how paying attention changes how people see them. We also want to understand why some people’s abilities to discriminate faces never develop. Finally, we want to learn what brain functions cause perception of faces and objects.

PROCEDURES: You will be asked to sit in front of a computer monitor and push a button when a target appears or verbally report what you see on the screen.

Behavioral Study. You will be shown a series of visual stimuli on a computer screen and asked to make judgments by pressing buttons or making a verbal report. Several trials will be presented and a session will last from between 45 minutes and an hour and a half. Frequent breaks will be given, but if you can ask to break at any time.

Electrophysiological Study. If you are in one of the studies that measures brain waves (EEG), a cap with electrodes will be placed on your head. The electrodes are able to measure brain activity from the scalp when properly secured. The electrodes will rest on your scalp. Gel will then be inserted into each electrode to improve its measuring sensitivity. The cap may have to be adjusted by the researcher as well. This preliminary set-up can take between 30-40 minutes. .
After the setup is complete, for the experiment you will be asked to sit in a comfortable chair in a testing booth facing a computer screen. Visual patterns will appear and you will be asked to make judgments about them. Once the experiment begins, you will be asked to remain as still as possible while watching the screen. You will be given breaks every 5 to 6 minutes or whenever you request. The entire experiment will take between 30 minutes and 1 ½ hours. Once the testing is over, you will be given a place to clean up and fix your hair, as the cap and gel can leave a paste on your hair where the electrodes were placed. The gel will wash out completely without harming your hair or scalp.

RISKS: There are minimal physical or mental risks. There is minimal risk of disease transfer from unsanitized caps. We use an anti-viral, anti-bacterial, anti-fungal solution to sterilize the caps and electrodes after every person we test and then wash the cap thoroughly with warm soapy water. These are factory recommended sterilization procedures whether EEG is measured in the clinic or in a research laboratory. Some people have asked about the possibility of electric shock in studies using electrodes to measure brain activity, but risk of electric shock has been eliminated by using low volt batteries (12 VDC) and completely isolating all electrodes and amplifiers from any electrical outlet.

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BENEFITS: The results of this study will not benefit you directly. However, your participation may help uncover information that will be useful in the future in understanding how the brain processes visual information and why certain visual abilities do not develop normally or are affected with brain damage.

COMPENSATION: You will be paid at a rate of \$12/hour.

RIGHT TO REFUSE OR WITHDRAW: Your participation in this research is voluntary and you are free to withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time without penalty.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions or would like additional information about the study, please ask us. If you have additional questions after leaving the laboratory, Dr. Lynn Robertson or one of her associates will be happy to answer them. We can be contacted at the Psychology Department, University of California, Berkeley (510) 642-5292 or in Dr. Robertson's laboratory (510) 642-6266.

Your signature below will indicate that you have decided to volunteer as a research subject and that you have read the information provided above. Your signature also indicates that you have received and signed the "Medical Research Subjects Bill of Rights."

I have read this form and agree to take part in a behavioral study as described

I have read this form and agree to take part in an electrophysiological study as described

Signature of Participant/Date

Signature of Participant/Date

I have discussed this information with the subject

Signature of Investigator/Date

If you have any questions about your rights or treatment as a participant in this research, please contact the University of California at Berkeley's Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (510) 642-7461 or e-mail subjects@berkeley.edu.