

Appendix A: Information sheet

Title of Project: The role of intolerance of uncertainty in the visual search task with uncertainty-based information

Investigators:	Email:	Phone:
Hamza Rasheed	h.rasheed@student.reading.ac.uk	
Dr Nico Biagi	nicolo.biagi@henley.ac.uk	(0) 118 378 4768

We would be grateful to you if you could assist us by participating in our study examining individual differences in affective responses. We will ask you to complete some questionnaires and a computer-based task, which examines how individuals vary in their experiences of visual search.

These notes give information about the study and what it would be like to take part. After the information presented here, to indicate that you understand the purpose of the study and what would be expected of you, we will ask you to tick a box that you consent to take part.

You may find it interesting and informative to participate in research that may contribute to scientific knowledge about emotions associated with individual differences. If you so desire, we would be happy to send you a report on the results of the research. In that case, please leave us your contact details (email). Please do note that the data collection and data analysis often take at least 1 year so we may not be able to inform you about the study results much before that.

Brief outline of tasks and procedure

The entire session, consisting of demographic questionnaire completion, computer based task completion, and debriefing, will take in total approximately 30 minutes. The computer-based task consists mainly of viewing and responding to visual stimuli.

In the computer-based task part of this study, you will be asked to look at the simple visual stimuli on a computer screen and respond using the keyboard. We will be asking you to simply look and respond to each stimulus. At the end of each trial, you will receive feedback on whether you were correct or incorrect.

Potential discomforts

We foresee few risks from the above procedures. Some participants may find filling out the demographic questionnaires to be boring or tiresome, and there may be some feelings of psychological discomfort associated with sharing information about the ways that you monitor your emotions. You are free to stop your participation at any time and for any reason. In addition, if you have any remaining questions or feel upset by any emotions experienced during the study, you may contact Dr. Nico Biagi.

Taking part in this study is completely voluntary; you may withdraw at any time without having to give any reason. Please feel free to ask any questions that you may have about this study at any point by sending an email to the lead researcher. This application has been reviewed by the University Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct.

Data confidentiality, storage and disposal of personal information

As outlined above, your data will be kept confidential and securely stored. With respect to the questionnaire data and behavioural data obtained from the tasks, these will also be kept confidential and securely stored, with only a number attached to each participant, and therefore, it will not be possible to link any set of data with any individual. All questionnaire and behavioural information collected for the project will be destroyed when no longer needed.

The organisation responsible for protection of your personal information is the University of Reading (the Data Controller). Queries regarding data protection and your rights should be directed to the University Data Protection Officer at imps@reading.ac.uk, or in writing to:

University of Reading, Information Management & Policy Services, Whiteknights House, Pepper Lane, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6UR, UK.3

The University of Reading collects, analyses, uses, shares and retains personal data for the purposes of research in the public interest. Under data protection law we are required to inform you that this use of the personal data we may hold about you is on the lawful basis of being a public task in the public interest and where it is necessary for scientific or historical research purposes. If you withdraw from a research study, which processes your personal data, dependant on the stage of withdrawal, we may still rely on this lawful basis to continue using your data if your withdrawal would be of significant detriment to the research study aims. We will always have in place appropriate safeguards to protect your personal data.

If we have included any additional requests for use of your data, for example adding you to a registration list for the purposes of inviting you to take part in future studies, this will be done only with your consent where you have provided it to us and should you wish to be removed from the register at a later date, you should contact Dr. Nico Biagi (nicolo.biagi@henley.ac.uk)

You have certain rights under data protection law which are:

- Withdraw your consent, for example if you opted in to be added to a participant register
- Access your personal data or ask for a copy
- Rectify inaccuracies in personal data that we hold about you
- Be forgotten, that is your details to be removed from systems that we use to process your personal data
- Restrict uses of your data
- Object to uses of your data, for example retention after you have withdrawn from a study

Some restrictions apply to the above rights where data is collected and used for research purposes. You can find out more about your rights on the website of the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) at <https://ico.org.uk>

You also have a right to complain the ICO if you are unhappy with how your data has been handled. Please contact the University Data Protection Officer in the first instance.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The experiment is organised by Hamza Rasheed & Dr Nico Biagi.

For more information, please contact one of the researchers:

Hamza Rasheed (h.rasheed@student.reading.ac.uk)

Dr Nico Biagi (nicolo.biagi@henley.ac.uk)

Thank you for your help.