

Sites of Research: U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, Institute for Creative Technologies-University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, and U.S. Army Research Laboratory-West, Playa Vista, CA

## **RESEARCH PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM ARMY RESEARCH LABORATORY**

**Project Title:** Replication of an Online Semantic Vigilance Task

**Sponsor:** Department of Defense, Army Research Laboratory

**Principal Investigator:** Alexis R. Neigel, Building 321, Army Research Laboratory, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005

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You are being asked to join a research study. This consent form explains the research study and your part in it. Please read this form carefully before you decide to take part. You can take as much time as you need. Please ask questions at any time about anything you do not understand. You are a volunteer. If you join the study, you can change your mind later. You can decide not to take part right now or you can quit at any time later on.

### **Why is this research being done?**

This research is being conducted to replicate a new, novel vigilant attention task used in a published journal (Thomson, Besner, & Smilek, 2016; Thomson & Hasher, 2017). Vigilance is the ability to pay attention over time. Replication is the cornerstone of good science. You are here because you are older than eighteen years of age, have normal or corrected-to-normal vision, and have indicated a willingness to participate in the study.

### **What will happen if you join this study?**

If you choose to sign this form, we will ask that you complete a computer-based attention task through an online platform called Volunteer Science. The attention task requires you to detect four-legged creatures from other types of creatures and non-creatures. You will also complete several questionnaires about yourself.

### **How much time will the study take?**

Your participation will likely take approximately 30 minutes, with a maximum of 40 minutes.

### **What are the risks or discomforts of the study?**

You may experience discomfort from prolonged sitting as this experiment will take place entirely on a computing device. We ask that you stand, stretch, or take a short break prior to participating in the attention task. You may also discontinue your participation in the study at any moment without providing a reason.

**Are there benefits to being in the study?**

You will receive no benefit from participating in this research, but you may learn more about semantic attention.

**Will you be paid if you join this study?**

If you are a member of the military, a civilian employee of the U. S. Government, or a family member of an employee of the Human Research & Engineering Directorate, you will not be compensated. If you are a student at the University of Central Florida, you will be compensated with course extra credit (0.5 credits for 30 minutes completed).

**How will your privacy be protected?**

Your participation in this research is confidential. The data will be stored and secured on password-protected computer drives. Publication of the results of this study in a journal or technical report or presentation at a meeting will not reveal personally identifiable information. This consent form will be retained by the principal investigator for a minimum of three years after the close of the study. After which, it will be destroyed.

The research staff will protect your data from disclosure to people not connected with the study. However, complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed because officials of the U. S. Army Human Research Protections Office and the Army Research Laboratory's Institutional Review Board are permitted by law to inspect the records obtained in this study to ensure compliance with laws and regulations covering experiments using human subjects.

**Where can I get more information?**

You have the right to obtain answers to any questions you might have about this research both while you take part in the study and after you leave the research site. Please contact anyone listed at the top of the first page of this consent form for more information about this study. You may also contact the Human Protection Administrator (HPA) of the Army Research Laboratory at (410) 278-5928 with questions, complaints, or concerns about this research, or if you feel this study has harmed you. The HPA can also answer questions about your rights as a research subject. You may also call the HPA if you cannot reach the research team or wish to talk to someone who is not a member of the research team.

**Voluntary Participation**

Your decision to be in this research is voluntary. You can stop at any time. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to answer. Refusal to take part in or withdrawal from this study will involve no penalty or loss of benefits you would receive by staying in it.

Military personnel cannot be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for choosing not to take part in or withdrawing from this study, and cannot receive administrative sanctions for choosing not to participate.

Civilian or contractor personnel cannot receive administrative sanctions for choosing not to participate in or withdrawing from this study.

Once your questions about the study have been answered, and if you want to continue your participation in this study, please sign below.

**WE WILL GIVE YOU A COPY OF THIS CONSENT FORM**

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Signature of Participant	Printed Name	Date
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Signature of Person Obtaining Consent	Printed Name	Date
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