

DISSERTATION PROPOSAL 2020-21

Student Name	AN Other
Provisional Dissertation Supervisor	
Date submitted	

Title of Research (this must reflect the essence of your proposed research question, study design and study population and should be more specific than the broad topic area provided in the dissertation topics selection book).

Pain and attentional bias: a quantitative study

Please state your main research question(s) (specific hypotheses not needed at this stage but may be included)

For this study I want to try and find out whether people in more pain are better or worse at looking at things on a computer.

I expect to find that people in more pain will perform worse and the hypotheses is that there will be a significant difference in scores between these two groups.

What empirical evidence supports your research question? (Please provide a 1500 word review of relevant psychological literature and theory and a minimum of eight references).

Asmundson, Kuperos and Norton (1997)

Kahneman (1973) said that "various messages are filtered in a given situation, allowing the individual to pick and choose which information to focus on based upon how relevant or significant that information is to the individual and to filter out less relevant information".

Dehghani, Sharpe and Nicholas (2004) found that to understand the meaning of what is referred to as 'attention' itself and how it relates to those with chronic pain.

The cocktail party problem says on auditory information with regards to selective attention, the theory still focuses upon the concept of an individual discriminating between different pieces of auditory information.

Schoth, Nunes and Liossi (2012) established a link between the two variables however, there is contention as to what direction the results point towards.

Commented [CP1]: Who are the target participants? What specific type of study design?

Commented [CP2]: Avoid first person – write academically throughout!

Commented [CP3]: Better or worse at what? What specific task/activity?

Commented [CP4]: What things specifically?

Commented [CP5]: Than who? And on what criteria?

Commented [CP6]: Scores on what?

Commented [CP7]: Which groups? Poorly worded hypothesis!

Commented [CP8]: Just including a citation means nothing

Commented [CP9]: Over-reliance on quotes does not allow us to judge your own knowledge and understanding – also looks lazy! (and would need page numbers!)

Commented [CP10]: Don't include sentences that just do not make sense – you need to build a logical rationale for the purpose of the study...you need to make it clear why a particular reference is relevant to your study...

Commented [CP11]: Reference theory/models appropriately!

Commented [CP12]: Make sure you explain the literature so that the reader understands it – and this section needs to end with a clear link back to specific focus of the study.

Please describe your participant group (including anticipated number of participants required) and any specific inclusion/exclusion criteria.

40 participants will be recruited from Psychology & Counselling students at UWTSD over the age of 18. They'll be put into two groups – pain and no pain.

Commented [CP13]: Why 40? Justification? No sample size calculation or previous studies to support this...

Commented [CP14]: How exactly? Through EMS if P&C – if others – explain clearly how you will approach and recruit them.

Commented [CP15]: How is this done? rationale? Number in each group?

Please provide brief details of the anticipated design (e.g., between, within, mixed, regression, focus groups, interviews, experimental, questionnaires) and main procedure for your study (it should be clear from this how you are actually planning to carry out your study, and what will be happening to your participants).

The study is quantitative. It will have an IV(pain or no pain) and a DV (correct responses).

Commented [CP16]: Ok but really basic – what specific design? Experimental? Lab-based? Within, between or mixed?

Commented [CP17]: Unclear – provide a clear operational definition and explain this split (between or within, how decided etc)

Commented [CP18]: To what? Continuous data?

What measures are you planning to use for data collection and how will this data be used in the analysis in order to answer your research question? (Be as specific as possible here – what type of data will you be obtaining, what specific topics/measures/scales/instruments will you be using and what will you do with this data?)

Participants will complete a scale of pain and complete a computer task in the labs at SA1.

Data will be inputted into SPSS for analysis.

Commented [CP19]: Which one? Ref. validated? Psychometric properties? How does it measure pain? Self-report – categories/cut-off etc....

Commented [CP20]: What task? What does it involve? What does it require the participant to do? How arduous/sensitive is it etc?

Commented [CP21]: Awful...! You need to state what specific statistical test you are planning in order to be able to answer your research question e.g. 2X3 mixed ANOVA, multiple regression, series of t-tests. Make sure you explain which each of these will allow you to explore!

Commented [CP22]: Do not ever say this! Always reference BPS code of human research ethics and specifically consider HOW these will be adhered to given the specific design and procedure of your study.

Commented [CP23]: What type? Is a written debrief sufficient? Anything more required?

What are the main ethical issues that you will need to address in this study? (Please note all students will need to complete the full ethics form prior to final approval for data collection being given).

There are few ethical concerns in this study. They only have to complete a questionnaire and computer task and will be given a consent form and debrief.