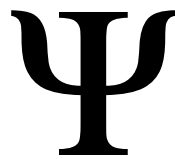


Name: Bronwen Phillips

Research Participation Log 2018/2019



Level 5 Research
Design and Analysis
(M5X00913)

Study One

Study Code: SWAN_credit_AHC2

1) Was the BPS Code of Human Research Ethics followed? (E.g. was informed consent gained? Were you aware of your right to withdraw? Was confidentiality upheld?)

Yes

☒

No

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If not, which guidelines were not followed?

Describe how the ethical guidelines were followed?

As outlined by the British Psychological Society (2014) the following ethical guidelines were adhered to:

Exclusion criteria, in the form of a pre-study questionnaire was administered, to determine suitability for participation within the study. If a potential participant scored too highly, they were thanked for their time but unable to participate further. This minimised potential risk to participants caused by stress and a heightened state of aggression (risk).

Valid consent was gathered both prior to the pre-study questionnaire and study participation, through a consent form, that was required to be signed prior to study participation (Valid consent).

Upon completion of the game play, a five minute meditative exercise took place, with the aim to return the participant to their state at entry (risk). After which a debrief form was presented, alongside the opportunity to discuss any questions with the researcher (debrief).

Collected data was made anonymous within a week of collection (Confidentiality).

Briefly describe/outline the study you participated in (What were you asked to do? Did you understand the purpose before/during the study?)

The first stage of the study involved completing a short questionnaire, focusing on self reported violent tendencies.

The second stage of the study involved playing fifteen minutes of call of duty. Upon entering the lab, after signing a consent form a time line was given of the tasks to complete, and instructions detailing how to use the controller. An electrode was then attached to my non dominant hand. Before beginning the study, I was made aware that scores were not considered, and that the electrode would be measuring skin responses whilst engaging with the game. Once the game was completed the researcher returned into the room, removed the electrode, and began the meditative track. Leaving again and not returning until the five minutes were complete.

The full nature of the study was not revealed until the debrief form was given upon study completion.

Briefly describe your experience of taking part in this research study (positive aspects/issues that may have impacted your participation)

I felt that the researcher was professional and organised. The lab environment was well laid out, with the relevant information accessible at all times. I particularly liked that instructions were provided explaining the buttons on the controller.

The electrode placement on the palm made it somewhat difficult to engage with the game, and acted as a reminder throughout that you were participating in a study. I was also concerned that it was going to fall off, applying pressure every few minutes to ensure that it did not.

The meditation task appeared to be an after thought and it was difficult to sit quietly with no stimulus so shortly after participating within a fast paced game.

How were you fully debriefed after completing the study? Were you given opportunity to discuss with the researcher after completion?

Upon study completion the researcher entered the room, offered a debrief form and briefly explained that the study was investigating whether trait measures of aggression and personality (as identified within the exclusion questionnaire) could have an effect on state aggression as measured using the skin conductance levels after engagement with a violent video game. When I asked her what motivated her to look into this research topic she explained the choice of subject matter being through experience with peers. After which an email was identified through which contact could be made with any questions or if I wished to withdraw my data within the specified date range of one week.

Are there any areas of improvement for this research study? (think about the materials used in the study and how the researcher carried out the study)

I believe that the meditative exercise could have been improved by a guided activity to complete. After completing a high intensity violent game, it was difficult to sit still and listen to a meditative track with no stimulus. Perhaps leaving the electrodes attached to the palm during this exercise could have allowed a comparison between galvanic skin response readings during and after the game play.

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Note:

Personally I found the electrode attachment distracting, as I needed the use of my hand to play the game. The concern of the electrode falling off and data being lost acted as a reminder that I was participating in a study, distracting me from the task at hand.

Study Two

Study Code: Swan_Credit_PP

1) Was the BPS Code of Human Research Ethics followed? (E.g. was informed consent gained? Were you aware of your right to withdraw? Was confidentiality upheld?)

Yes

☒

No

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If not, which guidelines were not followed?

Describe how the ethical guidelines were followed?

As outlined by the British Psychological Society (2014) the following ethical guidelines were adhered to:

Prior to study sign up, eligibility criteria urged that participants that may be upset by gambling behaviour should refrain from participating within this study to minimise the potential for psychological distress (Risk). The nature of the study was described in detail prior to sign up, encouraging informed choice to participate within the research study (Valid consent & Deception minimisation).

All data collected was held confidentially, only the researcher and academic supervisor would be able to access the data collected (Confidentiality).

Briefly describe/outline the study you participated in (What were you asked to do? Did you understand the purpose before/during the study?)

Prior to study participation, information was provided outlining the tasks involved in the study; completion of a balloon task, and two paper based questionnaires. Due to the presence of exclusion criteria, I also understood that the study would involve gambling behaviour.

Instructions were provided as to how to complete the balloon task, involving deciding on a number of pumps to administer before the balloon would burst, ranging from 1 to around 120 pumps. The goal was to obtain the maximum amount of pumps before the balloon burst, and the participant achieving the highest score would receive a prize.

After completing the balloon task, two short paper based questionnaires were given, collecting self reported measures of gambling behaviours and level of risk taking.

Briefly describe your experience of taking part in this research study (positive aspects/issues that may have impacted your participation)

Once the consent form had been signed, instructions were presented and the balloon task began. I feel that the balloon task was well designed and captivating, playing like a game at which was very entertaining. I feel that the fun nature of the task allowed me to forget that I was participating in a research study and focus on the task in isolation.

I feel that the prize draw was an interesting incentive, especially considering the nature of the study investigation, which added to the sense of playing a game more so than participating within a research project.

How were you fully debriefed after completing the study? Were you given opportunity to discuss with the researcher after completion?

Upon study completion I was presented with a debrief questionnaire outlining the aim of the study, to explore the effect of impulsivity and self-reported gambling behaviour on the levels of risk-taking as measured using the Balloon Analogue Risk Taking (BART). Specifically whether participants scoring high levels of impulsivity would be significantly more likely to display increased levels of behavioural risk taking. A brief verbal explanation was given, after which I was informed of the right to withdraw, and directed towards the contact details if any further questions arose after leaving. I was told that I would be informed if I had won the prize at the end of the data collection period and thanked for my participation.

Are there any areas of improvement for this research study? (think about the materials used in the study and how the researcher carried out the study)

I feel that the materials used were appropriate and organised. Perhaps a more user friendly interface could have improved the aesthetic of the balloon task. However I felt that the study was very well designed, and handled.

Name (PRINT): _____

Sign: _____

Date: _____

Note:

Study Three

Study Code: SWAN_CREDIT_AO

1) Was the BPS Code of Human Research Ethics followed? (E.g. was informed consent gained? Were you aware of your right to withdraw? Was confidentiality upheld?)

Yes

☒

No

☐

If not, which guidelines were not followed?

Describe how the ethical guidelines were followed?

As outlined by the British Psychological Society (2014) the following ethical guidelines were adhered to:

Within the study sign up information, eligibility criteria was included specifying that participants must be over the age of 18, and able to read information about a violent incident (Risk).

Valid consent was gathered through the presentation of a consent form prior to study participation, briefly outlining the study and ensuring that the participant was aware of their right to withdraw throughout the duration of the study (valid consent).

All data collected was anonymous, with participant numbers in place of names, to ensure that data was stored safely, minimising participant risk (confidentiality).

A debrief form was presented upon study participation, allowing participants to understand the nature of the study (debrief).

Briefly describe/outline the study you participated in (What were you asked to do? Did you understand the purpose before/during the study?)

Firstly the study involved completion of a brief demographic questionnaire.

Secondly I was asked to read two paper based timeline reports of violent incidents, outlining what was taking place prior to the occurrence of the incident, involving a subject and a victim. The violent incident described and ethnicity of the victim differed in each scenario.

After reading the reports I was firstly asked to indicate at which of the five stages of the incident I was likely to have intervened if I was to be watching these incidents in real life.

Secondly I was asked to describe how violent, serious and dangerous the incident was in both cases, based from the timeline provided.

I did not fully understand the aims of the research study prior to and during participation.

Briefly describe your experience of taking part in this research study (positive aspects/issues that may have impacted your participation)

The timeline reports were comprehensive and detailed, which I felt gave adequate information to understand the chain of events prior to the incident occurring.

I found the paper based questionnaire's collecting information about at which time point I felt that I would intervene a little confusing, having to check with the researcher that I had completed it appropriately before leaving lab after finishing the study.

Although the aim's of the study was not made clear, I had a feeling that the race of the victim was of significance to the study, which may have affected my responses in order to act in a socially desirable manor.

How were you fully debriefed after completing the study? Were you given opportunity to discuss with the researcher after completion?

Upon completion of the study I was handed a debrief form, outlining the study aims and thanked for the participation. The study was investigating attribution and helping behaviour towards in-group and out-group members, through investigating at what point during a series of events you would choose to intervene as a bystander. I was then thanked for my participation and directed towards the contact details of both the researcher and academic supervisor, who could be contacted if any questions arose after leaving the labs.

Are there any areas of improvement for this research study? (think about the materials used in the study and how the researcher carried out the study)

I feel that the response questionnaire could have been more strongly designed, which could have minimised my confusion within recording my responses.

Although not made explicit prior to study completion, I feel that the importance of ethnicity within the study was made obvious when reading the incident timelines, which may affect the responses collected. Perhaps not mentioning the ethnicity of the victim until answering the response questionnaire could reduce the potential for social desirability impacting participant re-

Name (PRINT): _____

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Date: _____

Note:

I found that the crime scenario's varied considerably, which may have impacted the results, with the potential to misinterpret the research findings.

Study Four

Study Code: SWAN_CREDIT_KH

1) Was the BPS Code of Human Research Ethics followed? (E.g. was informed consent gained? Were you aware of your right to withdraw? Was confidentiality upheld?)

Yes

☒

No

☐

If not, which guidelines were not followed?

Describe how the ethical guidelines were followed?

As outlined by the British Psychological Society (2014) the following ethical guidelines were adhered to:

The use of eligibility requirements, stating that participants must be over the age of 18, and advising that if watching a mock crime or mock police interview may cause distress in any way, that participation is not advised (Risk).

The tasks within the study were explained in detail, stating again at the end that if any element that was being described is likely to cause distress, participation is not advised (Risk & minimising deception).

Informed consent was gathered through the detailed description of the expectation of participants during the study, and the issue of a consent form upon entry into the labs (valid consent).

Data was held in an anonymous form, in order to ensure confidentiality.

Briefly describe/outline the study you participated in (What were you asked to do? Did you understand the purpose before/during the study?)

Prior to study participation I was aware that the study would involve watching a clip of a mock crime, followed by a mock clip of a police interview with a witness to the crime, completion of a jigsaw and finally complete a paper based questionnaire about the first clip. The study was very much in line with the description provided prior to sign up. Involving completion of the tasks outlined in sequence.

From the description provided I felt that the study was investigating eye witness testimony and its accuracy/inaccuracies. However the purpose was not made explicit by the researcher.

Briefly describe your experience of taking part in this research study (positive aspects/issues that may have impacted your participation)

The study was run professionally with clear instructions as to what needed to be done as a participant. I felt that this was very positive and peaked my interest, trying to figure out what the study was investigating.

I did notice during the police interview that the gestures were heavily exaggerated and thought that this may play a role in the study aims. However after completion of the distracter task, I did find it difficult to differentiate between the information presented within the initial crime, and the deceptive information provided by the 'police officer'.

I found the distracter task confusing as there was no way to achieve any of the puzzle presented in the five minute time frame given.

How were you fully debriefed after completing the study? Were you given opportunity to discuss with the researcher after completion?

After completing the study I was provided with a debrief sheet outlining the aims of the study. The study was exploring whether the saliency of gestural misinformation effects memory recall. The researcher provided a brief verbal description of the study aims, highlighting the contact information if any questions arose after participation. Also highlighting that this was the last opportunity to withdraw my data before it was made anonymous and no longer be traceable.

Are there any areas of improvement for this research study? (think about the materials used in the study and how the researcher carried out the study)

I was not explicitly told that I was within the extreme misleading condition but I believe this to be the case. Once I noticed the heavy over exaggeration of the gestures, I thought that perhaps they were attempting to distort recall of the events in question. This may have affected my responses as I attempted to ignore the misleading information in order to recall the events of the mock crime accurately.

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Date: _____

Note:

I feel that the distracter task was of limited effectiveness due to the complexity, knowing that it would not be possible to make any meaningful progress limited my motivation to participate.

Online Study Study Code: SWAN_Credit_CW

1) Was the BPS Code of Human Research Ethics followed? (E.g. was informed consent gained? Were you aware of your right to withdraw? Was confidentiality upheld?)

Yes ☒

No ☐

If not, which guidelines were not followed?

Describe how the ethical guidelines were followed?

As outlined by the British Psychological Society (2014) the following ethical guidelines were adhered to:

Upon opening the questionnaire, a consent page was presented, requiring acceptance that the participant was happy to proceed, before being able to answer any of the questionnaire. The participants right to withdraw from the study at any point was also made clear within the consent page. (Valid consent).

Data was made anonymous upon collection, in order to protect the participants and ensure that confidentiality was upheld (confidentiality).

Risk to participants was minimised, through the questionnaire being accessible online, not requiring participants to be within the lab environment when answering sensitive question content (Risk).

Briefly describe/outline the study you participated in (What were you asked to do? Did you understand the purpose before/during the study?)

The study involved the completion of one short demographic questionnaire, and two attitude questionnaires. The study aims were made clear prior to commencement, regarding attitudes towards in-group and out-group members, and how some groups may be impacted on in school settings, including reference to anonymity encouraging truthful answers.

The first attitude questionnaire collected generalised information regarding personal attitudes towards different sub-groups of people within the community. The second questionnaire asked about specific prejudiced groups within a school environment. Both questionnaires utilised a Likert response measure.

Briefly describe your experience of taking part in an online research study and how this experience differed from a lab based study (positive aspects/issues that may have impacted your participation)

I found that the clarity of the study aims and reassurance of anonymity were important in encouraging honest answers. The interface was user friendly and the questionnaires well designed.

Some spelling errors were evident as the questionnaire progressed. I found the repetition of question types in the first questionnaire difficult, struggling to hold interest. Some scenarios were particularly vague making it difficult to give an accurate account. The second questionnaire was easier to follow, providing more varied questions helping to hold interest throughout completion.

I found that the online nature of the research made it easier to participate, as I did not have to book an appointment, and that it allowed me to answer in my own time, and consider the answers given. I also feel that when considering sensitive topics, it can be easier with no researcher present, as there is no way for the researcher to associate answers with the participant, encouraging honest answers to be given.

How were you fully debriefed after completing the study? Were you provided with details of the researcher (e.g. email address) and given the opportunity to discuss with them after completion?

The aim of the study was again mentioned during the debrief, investigating attitudes towards in-group and out-group members and how this could impact some groups within a school setting. E-mail addresses were also provided of both the researcher, and the supervisor if any questioned were raised during the study, allowing for further debriefing to occur.

Are there any areas of improvement for this research study? (think about the materials used in the study and how the researcher carried out the study)

I feel that the study was well designed, including an explanation of the study purpose, with three distinguishable sections for data collection.

I feel that the first questionnaire could have been shortened to hold interest, as there was a reasonable amount of repetition. Also that proof reading for spelling errors could have improved the professionalism and feel of the questionnaire.

Name (PRINT): _____

Sign: _____

Date: _____

References:

British Psychological Society (2014). *Code of human research ethics*.
[online] Leicester: The British Psychological Society, pp.6-27. Available
at: <https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files/BPS%20Code%20of%20Human%20Research%20Ethics.pdf>
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