

Examples of SECTION H: Anticipated Risks

Example 1:

Outline any anticipated risks that may adversely affect any of the participants, the researchers and/or the University, and the steps that will be taken to address them.		
If you have completed a full risk assessment (for example as required by a laboratory, or external research collaborator) you may append that to this form.		
Full risk assessment completed and appended?	Yes	☐
	No	☒
Risks to participants For example: emotional distress, financial disclosure, physical harm, transfer of personal data, sensitive organisational information		
Risk to Participant: 1. The topic area discussed during the questionnaire will be of a personal nature, therefore some participants may become uncomfortable or upset with some aspects of the topic area in which they are being asked. 2. Some questions will ask participants to specify their political alignment some participants may start to worry about being judged. 3. As participants will be asked about their personality traits there is the potential for participants to express any concerns regarding how data could be traced back to them. 4. Participants will be required to complete the research via Qualtrics. A potential risk with using Qualtrics to collect data is that there will be no researcher present during their participation if any issues with the wording of questions arise. (this box should expand as you type)	How will you mitigate the Risk to Participant? 1. In line with UWTSD and BPS research guidelines, participants will be informed of the nature of the study prior to taking part. Therefore, any participant who would prefer not to take part in a study involving a study around political, personality traits or conspiracy theories would have the option to not continue. Participants will also be informed prior to taking part that if they feel they do not wish to continue at any point during the study, they have the right to withdraw without penalty. 2. Participants will be informed of the nature of the study prior to taking part. Therefore, any participants who would prefer not to answer questions on their personality traits, beliefs in conspiracy theories or political alignment would have the option of not continuing with the study. Participants will also have the right to withdraw from the study at any point without repercussions. 3. Data collected from participants will be put into an anonymous format within 48 hours of collection. All data collected will be saved with a unique code and no participant names, p-numbers or EMS numbers will be used. Therefore, there will be no identifying features that could link any data to any individuals. Participants will be informed of this prior to taking part in the study. The researcher would give reassurance to the participant that the data collected will remain anonymous and will only be used for the purpose of the research. 4. At the end of the study participants will be debriefed and informed of the full purpose and aim of the study. They will also be	

	provided with the contact details of the researchers and academic supervisors if they wish to discuss any concerns or have any questions. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
If research activity may include sensitive, embarrassing or upsetting topics (e.g. sexual activity, drug use) or issues likely to disclose information requiring further action (e.g. criminal activity), give details of the procedures to deal with these issues, including any support/advice (e.g. helpline numbers) to be offered to participants. Note that where applicable, consent procedures should make it clear that if something potentially or actually illegal is discovered in the course of a project, it may need to be disclosed to the proper authorities	
N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	
Risks to investigator For example: personal safety, physical harm, emotional distress, risk of accusation of harm/impropriety, conflict of interest	
Risk to Investigator: 1. Researcher emails will be provided to participants. Therefore, a potential risk could be the researcher receiving negative or unwelcomed emails from a participant. 2. The student researchers may find themselves being asked for information outside of their scope of knowledge as an undergraduate student. 3. There is also a potential for the student researcher to be accused of harm/impropriety if the participant feels they are not happy about something that has taken place during the research. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	How will you mitigate the Risk to Investigator: 1. Only university student email address will be provided, and not personal ones. If the researcher does receive any unwelcomed emails from a participant, this will be reported to the research supervisor (module lead) immediately. 2. Any queries sent to the researchers that they are unable to deal with will be passed on to the research supervisor (module lead). 3. It will be ensured that the student researcher follows all UWTSD and BPS researcher codes of conduct and research guidelines, and the study will not take place until all elements have been approved by the supervisor (module lead). <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
University/institutional risks For example: adverse publicity, financial loss, data protection	
Risk to University: 1. The reputation and integrity of UWTSD and the discipline of Psychology could be	How will you mitigate the Risk to University: 1. The University Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice and the BPS Code of Ethics and

endangered if researchers do not adhere to codes of ethics and research protocols. 2. Data could be exposed, leaked, or used for other purposes. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	Conduct will be followed at every stage of the proposed study to minimise any potential risks to the Institution from arising. Professionalism will always be exhibited by all researchers. 2. The data collected will be stored in accordance with UWTSD Research Data Management (RDM) rules and only used for the intended purpose, in compliance with ethical guidelines set out by UWTSD Research Ethics & Integrity Code of Practice policy and British Psychological Society (BPS) code of ethics. To minimise any risk to UWTSD and the psychology department, all collected data will be stored securely through the Qualtrics platform. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
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Example 2:

Outline any anticipated risks that may adversely affect any of the participants, the researchers and/or the University, and the steps that will be taken to address them. If you have completed a full risk assessment (for example as required by a laboratory, or external research collaborator) you may append that to this form.		
Full risk assessment completed and appended?		Yes ☐ No ☒
Risks to participants For example: emotional distress, financial disclosure, physical harm, transfer of personal data, sensitive organisational information		
Risk to Participant: 1. The Conspiracy Theory scale will ask participants about perceptions of their own feelings towards conspiracy theories. The questions do not go into any detail about specific life circumstances or experiences, instead they are broad and generic in terms of asking whether they are aware of certain worldwide events that may be true or false and their beliefs in association to these. Therefore, some participants could be emotionally affected by events, when answering these questions participants may think of specific circumstances they have experienced.	<i>How will you mitigate the Risk to Participant</i> 1. In line with UWTSD and BPS research guidelines, participants will be informed of the nature of the study prior to taking part. Therefore, any participant who would prefer not to take part in the study would have the option to not continue. Participants will also be informed prior to taking part that if they feel they do not wish to continue at any point during the study, they have the right to withdraw without penalty. 2. Again, participants will be informed of the nature of the study prior to taking part. Therefore, any participant who would	

For some participants, asking them to think about and reflect on CT's they may evoke feelings of worry or distress. 2. As the Conspiracy Theory scale asks about a participants' own beliefs and attitudes towards conspiracies, there is the potential for participants to express concern that the data could be traced back to them. 3. Participants will be required to complete the research via Qualtrics. A potential risk with using this method to collect data is that there will be no researcher present during the respondents' participation if any issues with taking part or the wording of questions arose. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	prefer not to answer questions on their levels of belief scale would have the option to not continuing to take part. They will also have the right to withdraw at any point during their study without penalty. 3. Data collected from participants will be put into an anonymous format within 48 hours of collection. All data collected will be saved with a unique code and no participant names, p-numbers or EMS numbers will be used. Therefore, there will be no identifying features that could link any data to any individual. Participants will be informed of this prior to taking part in the study. The researcher would give reassurance to the participants that the data collected will remain anonymous and will only be used for the purpose of the research. 4. Participants will be provided with the contact details of the researchers and academic supervisor at the beginning of the study should they need to contact anyone with any queries. Prior to starting the study, participants will also be informed that they can withdraw at any point by simply closing the browser. At the end of the study participants will be debriefed and informed of the full purpose and aim of the study. They will also be provided with the contact details of the researcher and academic supervisor if they wish to discuss any concerns or have any questions. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
If research activity may include sensitive, embarrassing or upsetting topics (e.g. sexual activity, drug use) or issues likely to disclose information requiring further action (e.g. criminal activity), give details of the procedures to deal with these issues, including any support/advice (e.g. helpline numbers) to be offered to participants. Note that where applicable, consent procedures should make it clear that if something potentially or actually illegal is discovered in the course of a project, it may need to be disclosed to the proper authorities.	
Participants would be made aware of the topic within the description box of the study. The consent form will make it clear that if any participant doesn't want to answer a question or is made uncomfortable by a certain conspiracy theory, they will have the option to skip questions or topic discussed. A debrief form will include a mindfulness video to neutralise any distress caused by the study. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	

Risks to investigator

For example: personal safety, physical harm, emotional distress, risk of accusation of harm/impropriety, conflict of interest

Risk to Investigator:

1. Researcher emails will be provided to participants. Therefore, a potential risk could be for the researcher to receive negative or unwelcome emails from a participant.
2. The student researchers may find themselves being asked for information outside of their scope of knowledge as an undergraduate student.
3. There is also a potential for the student researcher to be accused of harm/impropriety if the participant feels they are not happy about something that has taken place during the research.

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How will you mitigate the Risk to Investigator:

1. Only university student email addresses will be provided, and not personal ones. If the researcher does receive any unwelcome emails from a participant, this will be reported to the research supervisor (module lead) immediately.
2. Any queries sent to the researchers that they are unable to deal with will be passed on to the research supervisor (module lead).
3. It will be ensured that the student researcher follows all UWTSD and BPS researcher codes of conduct and research guidelines, and the study will not take place until all elements have been approved by the supervisor (module lead).

(this box should expand as you type)

University/institutional risks

For example: adverse publicity, financial loss, data protection

Risk to University:

1. The reputation and integrity of UWTSD and the discipline of Psychology could be endangered if researchers do not adhere to codes of ethics and research protocols.
2. Data could be exposed, leaked, or used for other purposes.

(this box should expand as you type)

How will you mitigate the Risk to University:

1. The University Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice and the BPS Code of Ethics and Conduct will be followed at every stage of the proposed study to minimise any potential risks to the Institution from arising. Professionalism will always be exhibited by all researchers.
2. The data collected will be stored in accordance with UWTSD Research Data Management (RDM) rules and only used for the intended purpose, in compliance with ethical guidelines set out by UWTSD Research Ethics & Integrity Code of Practice policy and British Psychological Society (BPS) code of ethics. To minimise any risk to UWTSD and the psychology department, all collected data will be stored securely through the Qualtrics platform.

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