



DEBRIEFING FORM

Project Title: Attention to Groups

Principal Investigator (PI): Dr. Dana Hayward (dana.hayward@ualberta.ca)

Thank you for your participation in our study. Your time and commitment to psychological research at the University of Alberta is greatly appreciated. The goal of this study was to investigate how we process and attend to groups of people. While most of the research has investigated how people pay attention to a single face, there has been some recent work looking at attention in group settings. Some recent findings regarding attention in groups suggest that participants pay close attention to what others are doing, however this finding changes depending on the location and if the participant feels as though they are being 'watched'. Our goal is to investigate group-based attention across different settings to get a clearer picture of how attention acts in groups.

For the study you participated in, we altered how useful the different people or spatial locations were at predicting the location of an upcoming target. Specifically, in one computer task a particular face looked towards the upcoming target location on 100% of the trials when it appeared, while the other three faces were not informative of target location. In the other computer task a face located in a particular spatial location (e.g., the top left location) would 100% look in the direction of the target on trials when a face appeared in that location, while the gazes at the other three locations were uninformative. We will look at changes in attention over time to determine which type of set-up is more apt to change one's attention.

Finally, we also collected various questionnaire measures in order to see whether different personality traits affect how we attend to social and nonsocial information.

If you have any further questions about this research, please do not hesitate to contact the PI, Dr. Dana Hayward, at dana.hayward@ualberta.ca. If you would like to withdraw your data from the study after testing is completed you may do any time up until 7 days after your testing session was completed. This can be done by contacting the PI. If you have any questions about research participation, contact our Research Participation Coordinator at (780) 492-5689, or rescared@ualberta.ca. The plan for this study has been reviewed for its adherence to ethical guidelines by a Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta. For questions regarding participant rights and ethical conduct of research, contact the Research Ethics Office at 780-492-2615. This office is independent of the researchers.

For further reading on similar issues you may want to consult this interesting article:

Sun, Z., Yu, W., Zhou, J., & Shen, S. (2017). Perceiving crowd attention: Gaze following in human crowds with conflicting cues. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 79, 1039-1049.

Thank you very much for participating. Without the help of volunteers like you, we could not answer many important scientific questions in psychology. We have one last request: **Please don't tell other people about what we asked you to do in this study, as it is very important that they approach the study as you originally did, i.e., without expectations and without full awareness of our objectives.** This is important because it is the only way we can obtain objective and valid information.

Yours truly,
Dr. Dana Hayward
Assistant Professor