



## DEBRIEFING FORM

Project Title: Attention across contexts

Principal Investigator (PI): YanFei Song (yanfei2@ualberta.ca)

Faculty Supervisor: 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 information across different social contexts. While most of the research in this area has asked two people to search for items collaboratively or competitively while knowing what the other person is looking at, there is limited research investigating whether attention can also change if we merely **believe** we are searching in pairs. Some research suggests that searching in pairs is beneficial, however it is unclear whether this benefit results from partners being physically in the presence of each other, or if it is a result of the cognitive beliefs that they hold about collaborating with someone. Therefore, we want to investigate performance on a visual search task across different social presence and type of interaction manipulations to get a clearer picture of how attention is affected by perceived social context.

In this study, we manipulated the **perception** of social interaction (cooperative/competitive), however in all cases participants were completing the task by themselves. The lowest level of social interaction consisted of merely being told there was another person cooperating or competing with the participant. Intermediate levels had a schematic face or picture of an individual on-screen to represent the other participant. The highest level of social interaction began with a short initial zoom session, followed by a picture on-screen of the other participant. Of note, the other participant was a lab member who did not complete the task, and thus we did not take any pictures of you, as this was also one of our manipulations. Finally, we collected various questionnaire measures in order to see whether different personality traits are more or less susceptible to our manipulations or vary in their effect on search performance.

If you have any further questions about this research, please do not hesitate to contact YanFei Song at yanfei2@ualberta.ca or Dr. Dana Hayward at dana.hayward@ualberta.ca. You will not be penalized in any way if you chose to withdraw at any point throughout the experiment. If you would like to withdraw your data from the study after testing is completed, you may do so at any time up until 30 days after your testing session was completed. This can be done by contacting the PI or the faculty supervisor. If you have any questions about research participation, contact our Research Participation Coordinator at (780) 492-5689, or rescrcd@ualberta.ca.

For further reading on similar issues you may want to consult these interesting articles:

Brennan, S. E., Chen, X., Dickinson, C. A., Neider, M. B., & Zelinsky, G. J. (2008). Coordinating cognition: The costs and benefits of shared gaze during collaborative search. *Cognition*, 106(3), 1465–1477. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2007.05.012>

Brennan, A. A., & Enns, J. T. (2015). When two heads are better than one: Interactive versus independent benefits of collaborative cognition. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 22(4), 1076–1082. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13423-014-0765-4>

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 imperative 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 for us to obtain objective and valid information.

YanFei Song  
Graduate student

Dr. Dana Hayward  
Assistant Professor