



DEBRIEFING FORM

Project Title: Action-Response Study

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Faculty Supervisors: Dr. Dana Hayward & Dr. Anthony Singhal

Thank you for participating in our study. Your time and commitment to psychological research at the University of Alberta is greatly appreciated. The goal of this study is to determine how “in-control” someone feels when someone else is performing an action. Usually, when someone feels as though their specific action (pressing a button) results in a response (i.e. tone or light), the amount of time between the action and response is underestimated. This is called the “intentional binding effect”.

Interestingly, when pairs of participants are asked to perform the action, the person “leading” the action will exhibit more of this effect than the follower, even though both are physically pressing the buttons. In contrast, experiments using pairs but measuring other aspects of action, found that participants performed better with romantic partner. Some believe that this is because partners create a “shared identity”. Therefore, we wanted to test if there is a difference between romantic partners compared to roommates.

In this study, we asked you to judge how long the time delay was for the leader and the follower intervals. This was measured using three different time delays. We expect to find a stronger intentional binding effect (an underestimation) for shorter time delays, and that this will occur only for the “leader” of the condition as they are the ones “controlling” the trials. We will be comparing this across pairs (romantic partners, roommates, strangers) to see if there is an effect of relationship. We also collected questionnaire responses on “Sense of Agency”, which asks explicit questions about how “in-control” you felt, as well as how much power you felt, and what your feeling towards your partner was at the end of this experiment. This was to help us connect your implicit feeling of being in control with explicit feelings of control.

If you have any further questions about this research, please do not hesitate to contact the PI, Ruby Prinsen, at ruby.prinsen@ualberta.ca. 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. Note that if you choose to do this, you can keep any compensation you received. If you have any questions about research participation, contact our Research Participation Coordinator at (780) 492-5689, or rescred@ualberta.ca.

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

Haggard, P., Clark, S., & Kalogeras, J. (2002). Voluntary action and conscious awareness. *Nature*, 5(4), 382-385. DOI: 10.1038/nm827.



Pfister, R., Obhi, S.S., Rieger, M., & Wenke, D. (2014). Action and perception in social contexts: intentional binding for social action effects. *Front Hum Neurosci*, 8: 667. DOI: 10.3389/fnhum.2014.00667

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.

Thank you,
Ruby Prinsen
Doctoral student