



## DEBRIEFING FORM

Project Title: Variations in attention across groups

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Thank you for your participation in our study. Your time and commitment to psychological research at the University of Alberta is greatly appreciated. While prior studies have shown variations in attention across different individual factors, there is currently limited research on the ways in which attention varies between certain clinical populations and non-clinical populations.

Our aim was to understand the potential differences in attention between people with and without borderline personality disorder by systematically varying the level of trustworthiness and emotional expressions of faces. We measured attention by looking at how fast and accurate you were at responding to targets that were on-screen with faces of different emotional expressions. We also measured your perception of how trustworthy the faces were and how often they appeared on-screen.

Our independent variables for this study were 1) the validity of gaze cues, and 2) the emotional expression of faces. Some people always looked at the target (valid) while other people never looked at the target (invalid), and the emotional expressions were happy, angry, and neutral. Finally, we collected various questionnaire measures in order to see whether different personality traits (such as social awareness, mood, and stress susceptibility) are more or less affected by our manipulations. Crucially, our research's aim is to evaluate general trends in attention and we are not evaluating people on an individual level at all.

If you have any further questions about this research, please do not hesitate to contact 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 so at any time up until 30 days after your testing session was completed without any penalty, and you will still retain your credit. 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 this interesting article:

Bayliss, A. P., Griffiths, D., & Tipper, S. P. (2009). Predictive gaze cues affect face evaluations: The effect of facial emotion. *The European journal of cognitive psychology*, 21(7), 1072–1084. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09541440802553490>

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.

Dr. Dana Hayward  
Assistant Professor