

WHO AM I?

Live Science

Information sheet

IS THERE A LINK BETWEEN YOU AND ME?

Dear Visitor,

You are invited to take part in a real research study as part of the Science Museum's Live Science programme. Live Science is an ongoing project where real scientists come into the Museum to carry out their research with Museum visitors as volunteers.

WHAT IS THE EXPERIMENT ABOUT?

What do you notice about your own body? What do you focus on when you see other people move? Come and help our Live Science researchers from Middlesex University and City, University of London discover more about the relationship between ourselves and others.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE EXPERIMENT?

There are four separate tasks. You can choose to take part in some of the tasks or all of them. If you decide to take part in all of them, you will be asked some questions about how you focus attention on your own body, respond to stimulating taps on your fingertips, and make decisions (in two separate tasks) about images on a screen. Each task takes approximately 4–5 minutes to complete. The whole experiment will take 20 minutes if you decide to do all four tasks. We will also ask for some basic information about you, such as your age, gender and whether English is your first language. This information will be kept strictly confidential.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS STUDY?

We know that we are good at focusing attention on our own bodies if we need to. We are also good at getting information about other people when looking at them. However, we know very little about whether there is a link between how we focus attention on our own body and how we perceive others. This research will shed light on the relationship between ourselves and others.

WHO CAN TAKE PART IN THE STUDY?

Anyone is welcome to take part, but we recommend the experiment for ages 7 and over.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO IF I WANT TO TAKE PART?

If you would like to take part, please ask one of the researchers. If you are aged 18 or over you will be asked to sign a consent form to give the researcher permission to carry out the study. If you are under 18 your parent or legal guardian will be asked to sign the permission form. If you are aged 13 to 17 you will also be asked to sign this form. Please let the researchers know if you would like your own copy. This is standard procedure for all research with visitors.

CAN I CHANGE MY MIND?

You can change your mind at any time during the experiment. It is completely voluntary and you do not have to give a reason if you want to stop at any point. You can choose to withdraw your data after you take part by contacting the researchers with your unique participation code. Your data will then be destroyed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THIS RESEARCH?

Your recorded data will be stored in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Any personal details recorded will be stored securely at Middlesex University for a period of 10 years and then destroyed. Only authorised researchers will have access to this information.

The study results may be published in scientific journals or presented at scientific conferences. We can provide a summary and a final report to participants on request.

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE STUDY?

You are very welcome to ask the researchers directly if you have any questions. You may also e-mail questions to Jon Silas or Alex Jones: JonesSilasLab@mdx.ac.uk

For more information and to see the results of this study please visit our website: jones-silas-lab.com

If you subsequently have a complaint, please contact:

Middlesex University Psychology Research Ethics Committee (Project ID: 1846), Middlesex University, Hendon, London NW4 4BT

Or you can e-mail Dr N Brunswick (n.brunswick@mdx.ac.uk) or Dr L Marzano (l.marzano@mdx.ac.uk).

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