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Subliminal Affective Priming: A Spatial Crowding Paradigm.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

We would be grateful if you could participate in our study. We are using psychophysical methods to investigate the effects of conscious and unconscious primes on the emotional judgement of faces.

What will I be asked to do?

Your participation will take no longer than 2 hours. During this time, you will complete a task on a computer. During the task, you will be focusing on a fixation point in the centre of the screen, while a face surrounded by textures is presented in your peripheral vision. A second face will then be presented to you for a brief period. You will then answer three questions: What was the sex of the first face? How well could you see the first face (continuous rating scale 1-4)? What was the emotion of the second face? You will respond to these questions using the keyboard and mouse.

The scale for rating how well you could see the first face is described below:

1	2	3	4
<u>No experience</u>	<u>Weak experience</u>	<u>Almost clear experience</u>	<u>Clear experience</u>
You had no impression at all of something being shown.	A 'glimpse'. You feel like you saw something but couldn't specify what.	You saw most of the image but not all. You are pretty confident in which emotion was shown.	You have no doubt in what you saw. You are completely confident in which emotion was shown.

There will be another opportunity to read these descriptions at the beginning of the task. Please ask the researcher now if you have any questions about this scale.

The task should take you approximately 1 hour. There will be opportunity to take a break every 15 minutes.

After the experiment, you will be asked to fill out two adapted questionnaires on traits of anxiety and trauma-related disorders.

Taking part in this study is completely voluntary; you may withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason.

The full instructions will be repeated at the beginning of the task. Please ask the researcher any questions you may have about the study before it begins: they will be sat in a separate room as you complete the task.

Who can participate in this study?

You must be 18 or older to participate in this study.

Our study involves the following additional inclusion criteria:

- You have normal, or corrected-to-normal vision.

Are there any risks or disadvantages to taking part?

Behavioural task

As the task is estimated to take 1 hour, you may experience some eye strain while looking at the computer screen. Please use the allotted breaks to give your eyes a rest.

You will also need to stay as still as possible during the task, please also use the allotted breaks to adjust your sitting position to avoid any discomfort.

Questionnaires

We have adapted the questionnaires we will give you to minimise any form of distress, however there are still some questions that may be uncomfortable and relate to traumatic experiences. We will not ask you to recount any traumatic experiences. Your answers to these questions are anonymous, and cannot be traced back to you.

We want to make sure you feel completely comfortable taking part in our study. Please speak to the researcher if you have any concerns about what the study involves.

What will happen to my data/how will it be protected?

All demographic, behavioural and questionnaire data will be stored alongside your anonymous participant number, which will make sure it cannot be traced back to you. The consent form, which contains your name and signature, and questionnaires will be kept in a secure and locked filing system, and will not be shared.

The anonymised data will be stored on two password-protected computers, to which only Nicholas Hedger, Etienne Roesch and Aimee Westbrook will have access. Pre-processing and analysis of the behavioural data will be performed by Aimee Westbrook.

Once we have conducted our analysis, the anonymised data will be made available in the University research data archive, so that data can be re-used by other researchers.

Who can I contact about data privacy and storage?

The organisation responsible for the protection of your personal information is the University of Reading (the Data Controller). Queries regarding data protection and your rights should be directed to the University Data Protection Officer at imps@reading.ac.uk, or in writing to the University of Reading, Information Management & Policy Services, Whiteknights House, Pepper Lane, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6UR, UK.

The University of Reading collects, analyses, uses, shares, and retains personal data for the purposes of research in the public interest. Under data protection law we are required to inform you that this use of the personal data we may hold about you is on the lawful basis of being a public task in the public interest and where it is necessary for scientific or historical research purposes. If you withdraw from a research study, which processes your personal data, depending on the stage of withdrawal, we may still rely on this lawful basis to continue using your data if your withdrawal would be of significant detriment to the research study aims. We will always have in place appropriate safeguards to protect your personal data.

You have certain rights under data protection law which are:

- Withdraw your consent, for example, if you opted in to be added to a participant register.
- Access your personal data or ask for a copy.
- Rectify inaccuracies in personal data that we hold about you.
- Be forgotten, that is your details to be removed from the systems that we use to process your personal data.
- Restrict use of your data.
- Object to uses of your data, for example, retention after you have withdrawn from a study.

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Some restrictions apply to the above rights where data is collected and used for research purposes.

You can find out more about your rights on the website of the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) at <https://ico.org.uk>

You also have a right to complain to the ICO if you are unhappy with how your data has been handled. Please contact the University Data Protection Officer in the first instance.

Who has reviewed this study?

This application has been reviewed by the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct (**SREC NUMBER**).

Where can I get more information/whom I can contact about this study?

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact:

Nicholas Hedger (Investigator)

Email: n.hedger@reading.ac.uk, Tel: +44-(0)118 378-5545

Aimee Westbrook (Researcher)

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Thank you for your help.
