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## RESEARCH CONSENT FORM

**Title of Research Study:** Computer Models of Language Meaning – Online

**Principal Investigator(s):**

Dr. Alona Fyshe, [alona@ualberta.ca](mailto:alona@ualberta.ca), [fyshelab@ualberta.ca](mailto:fyshelab@ualberta.ca)

Dr. Brea Chouinard, [breac@ualberta.ca](mailto:breac@ualberta.ca), [fyshelab@ualberta.ca](mailto:fyshelab@ualberta.ca)

**Purpose:** We are interested in: (1) how humans communicate emotion and sentiment to each other; and (2) whether current computer models of language accurately capture sentimental and emotional nuance. To do this, we study human language processing at different levels of language (e.g., words, phrases, sentences, etc.), in different ways (e.g., decision tasks, ratings), using different populations (e.g., autistic, non-autistic). The results will be used to develop and refine theories of how people communicate with each other, as well as to improve computer models of language.

**Participation:** We are interested in anyone 18 or older. If you wish to participate, please complete the tasks and questions included in the study. If you participate, you will complete a decision task that includes images. You will also answer questions about your social preferences. The whole study should take you no more than 55 minutes. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to answer. Please remember that there are no right or wrong answers on the social preferences questionnaire.

For the tasks, you will be asked to respond as quickly and as accurately as you can. We may record any or all of: your responses, response times, how your mouse moves (mouse-tracking), and where you are looking on the screen during the task (eye-tracking). The researcher will let you know what is being recorded before you agree to participate. You will be asked to indicate either “yes” or “no” to both the mouse- and eye-tracking separately. Regardless of whether you consent to either or mouse- or eye-tracking, you will still be able to participate in the study.

**Note:** There is NO eye-tracking in the current study.

**Benefits:** You will not personally benefit from participating in this study. However, participating in the study provides the educational benefit of learning about an area of psychological research.

**Risks:** This study does not present any risk or inconvenience to you, other than the time spent to complete the tasks and questions.

**Confidentiality and Anonymity:** Your confidentiality and anonymity will be protected by labelling all your data using a participant number. The information that you share will remain

strictly confidential and will be used solely for the purposes of this research. The only people who will have access to the research data are the research team. In order to minimize the risk of security breaches and to help ensure your confidentiality, we recommend that you use standard safety measures such as signing out of your account, closing your browser, and locking your screen or device when you are no longer using them / when you have completed the study. Results will be published in pooled (aggregate) format. Anonymity is guaranteed since you are not being asked to provide your name or any personal information.

**Data Storage:** Digital data will be kept on secure, password-protected computers, which are behind locked doors when unattended or they will be in the University of Alberta's Google Drive services that will only be accessed by the primary investigators. The data will be kept in a locked filing cabinet for a minimum of five years, as stipulated by University policy as outlined in section 2.0, or until the analysis is completed, whichever is later.

**Voluntary Participation:** You are under no obligation to participate and if you choose to participate, you may refuse to answer questions that you do not want to answer. Should you choose to withdraw midway through, simply close the link and no responses will be included. Given the anonymous nature of the survey, once you have submitted your responses, you will need the participant code assigned to you to withdraw your data from the study. Please keep a record of your code. You have up to one week after you complete the study to withdraw your data.

**Remuneration and Participant Time:** This experiment should take no longer than an hour. You will receive 1 credit towards your Psychology 104/105 Research Participation requirement.

If you choose not to participate in the study but would like your 1 credit for participation, you may complete an alternative educational activity that involves reading a paper and answering some questions about it. The time it takes to complete the alternate activity will be no longer than the time it takes to participate in the study.

**Contact Information:** If you have any questions or require more information about the study itself, you may contact the primary investigator, Dr. Brea Chouinard ([breac@ualberta.ca](mailto:breac@ualberta.ca)) or Dr. Alona Fyshe ([alona@ualberta.ca](mailto:alona@ualberta.ca)).

The plan for this study has been reviewed by a Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant or how the research is being conducted, you may contact the Research Ethics Office at [reoffice@ualberta.ca](mailto:reoffice@ualberta.ca).

If you have any questions about psychology research participation, contact our research participation coordinator at 780-492-5689 or [rescred@ualberta.ca](mailto:rescred@ualberta.ca).

To keep a copy of this form for your records, click [here](#).

Completion and submission of the tasks and survey means you consent to participate.

1. Do you understand that you have been asked to be in a research study? (yes checkbox)
2. Have you read the information on the previous pages? (yes checkbox)
3. Do you understand the benefits and risks involved in taking part in this research study? (yes checkbox)
4. Do you understand that you are free to withdraw from the study at any time, without having to give a reason? (yes checkbox)
5. Do you understand that your confidentiality and anonymity will be protected at all times? (yes checkbox).
6. Do you understand that you are free to contact the researchers ([fyshelab@ualberta.ca](mailto:fyshelab@ualberta.ca)) if you have any questions about the study? (yes checkbox)
7. Please select one:

I consent to participate in this study WITH mouse-tracking (checkbox)

I consent to participate in this study WITHOUT mouse-tracking (checkbox)

I DO NOT consent to participate in this study (the browser will close and you will not receive course credit) (checkbox)

I want to complete the alternative task (checkbox)