



Participant Information Sheet

Project Title

An examination of voluntary and involuntary autobiographical memory retrieval in autism spectrum.

What is the study about?

We invite you to participate in a research project examining how autism spectrum affects how individuals retrieve previous events, and how they relate to and deal with such memories. The study is being conducted as part of Barbara Dritschel's research programme at the School of Psychology and Neuroscience.

Before deciding on participation in this study, it is important for you to understand what the study entails. We therefore ask you to consider the following points before signing this form. Since we are looking for participants with a specific psychological profile, before you decide to take part in this study, please also consider the following inclusion criteria.

Inclusion criteria: Participants should be between 18 and 65 years old; be native or fluent English speakers. You should also be on the autism spectrum.

Your signature confirms that you have read the form and are happy to participate in the study.

Do I have to take Part?

No. This information sheet has been written to help you decide if you would like to take part. It is up to you and you alone whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be free to withdraw at any time without providing a reason.

What would I be required to do?

You will first be asked to complete several measures of individual differences assessing your mood, your tendency to engage in systematizing behaviours, executive functioning that reflects the style of manipulating, inhibiting and generating information such as numbers and letters. You will also complete a short test of verbal ability as verbal ability can influence autobiographical memory retrieval.

During completion of the memory diary, you will be asked to record a total of 10 voluntary memories and 10 automatically arising memories, maximum 2 memories per day. For each memory, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire about the characteristics of the retrieved memory, and how you relate to and cope with it.

Will my participation be Anonymous and Confidential?

To ensure confidentiality, your data will be identified only by a numerical code (PI). Any identifiable information, such as your participation consent form will always be kept separate from the data collected. Other personally identifiable information within the data sets will be adapted to maintain anonymity.

Data, compiled from the diaries that you have completed, will be held securely in a locked office in a locked filing cabinet with access to the data limited to the researcher. Data from the questionnaires will be held securely on researcher`s password protected computer and USB/ hard drive. The anonymised data will be held securely indefinitely.

Storage and Destruction of Data Collected

The data we collect will be accessible by the researchers involved in this study only, unless explicit consent for wider access is given by means of the consent form. Your data will be stored in an anonymised digital format on a computer system for a minimum of four years.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results of this study will be finalised by June 2020 and will be written up for publication.

Reward

£15 for taking part in the study

Are there any potential risks to taking part?

During this study, you will be asked to complete questionnaires assessing your mood state. You will also be asked to retrieve memories of personally experienced events. If you become worried that you are experiencing low or negative mood, or if you have any concerns about your well-being due to issues covered by, or as a result of completing any of these surveys, please contact the Student Advice and Support Centre or your local General Practitioner. Please feel ensured that you can ask the researcher questions about the study and/or use the contact details provided in the debriefing sheet for further information or discussion.

Questions

You will have the opportunity to ask any questions in relation to this project before completing a Consent Form.

Consent and Approval

This research proposal has been scrutinised and been granted Ethical Approval through the University ethical approval process.

What should I do if I have concerns about this study?

A full outline of the procedures governed by the University Teaching and Research Ethical Committee is available at <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/utrec/Guidelines/complaints/>

Contact Details

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