

Eye Movement in Dynamic and Static Scenes

Dear Sir/Madam,

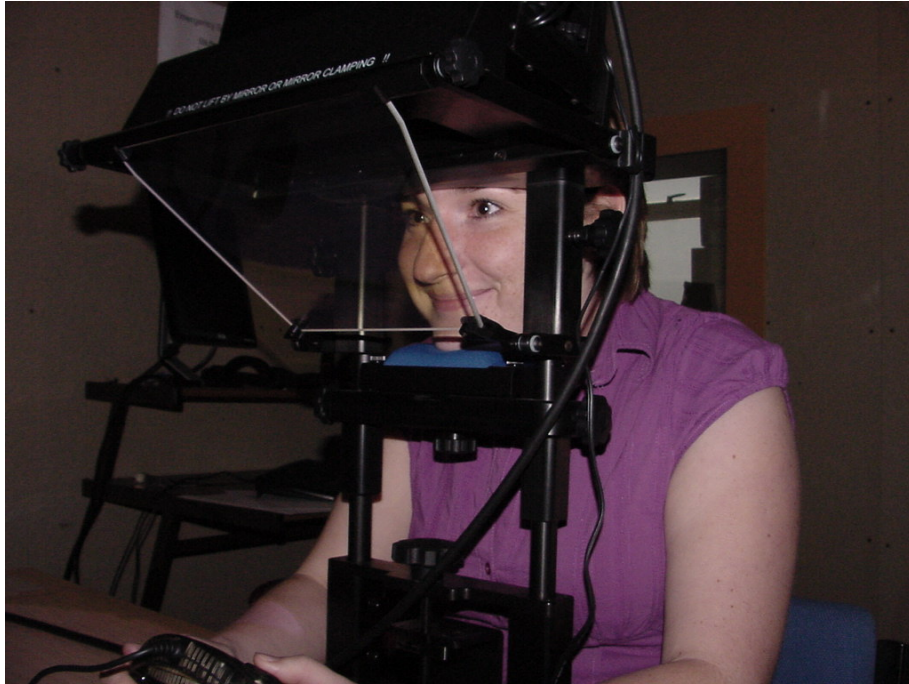
We are writing to ask for your participation in a psychology research project at the University of Southampton. This project will investigate visual attention and eye movement. To examine what people attend to, we are going to record the eye movements of participants whilst they look at displays presented on a computer screen. The aim of our work is to understand the process of visual attention when people look at dynamic versus static scenes.

What would be involved?

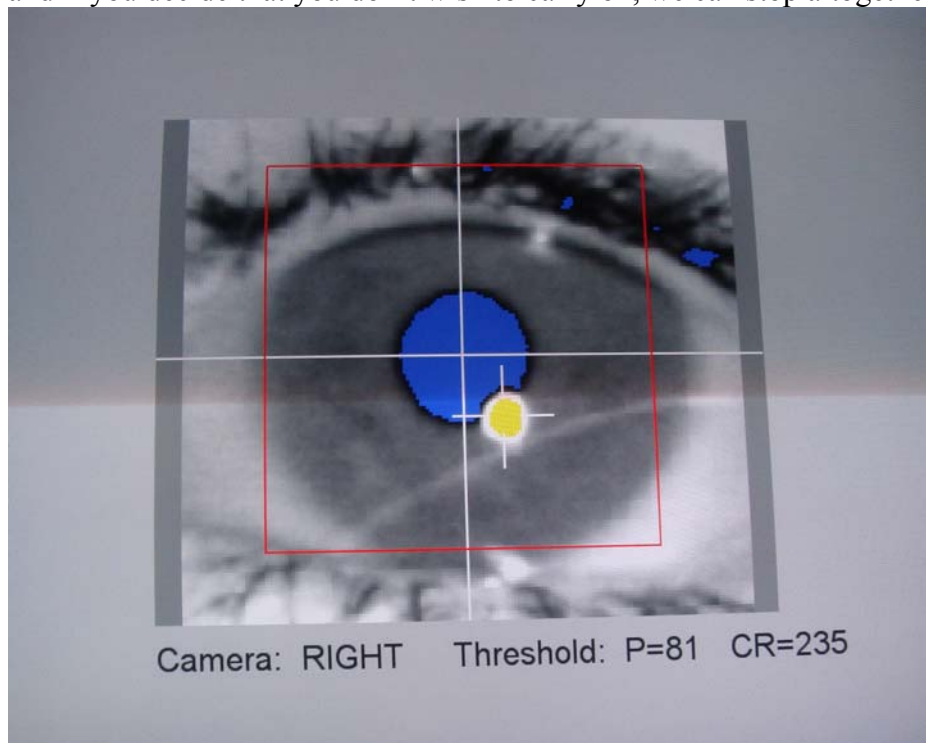
To understand where people look when presented with visual information we will use a very sophisticated machine that records people's eye movements while they watch footage on a computer screen.



The machine is completely harmless. You will just sit in a normal chair and hold your head very still. To help you keep your head still there are some rests for your forehead and a rest under your chin. You will look through two small panes of glass at a screen in front of you.



The machine will record your eye movements but you won't even realise it is happening! If at any point you feel uncomfortable or tired we will stop for a break and if you decide that you don't wish to carry on, we can stop altogether.



Since the eye movement recording equipment is housed in the School of Psychology, at the University of Southampton it would be necessary for you to come to Southampton if you decide to volunteer to take part in this project. There are three ways you could do this. You could travel here independently and we can pay you back you for your travel costs (you will have to keep your receipts). Alternatively, we could arrange for a taxi to pick you up, bring you to the School of psychology and then take you home again. Finally, if the timing is convenient we could pick you up from college or home and bring you in. This is something we would talk about nearer the time.

If you decide to take part in the project, we would ask you to come in to the University and the session would take approximately 3 hours. There are some other parts to the project, as well as the eye-tracking, that we would try to do during that time. For example, we would ask you some questions about words and puzzles, which is something you might have done before. We might also ask you to fill in a short questionnaire about your likes and dislikes.

As well as reimbursing you for your travel costs we anticipate that each participant will receive six pounds per hour for their time, and so a total of eighteen pounds for the session will be paid to you at the end of your visit to the University.

The eye tracking measures that we take will be treated in complete confidence and will be released to no-one without your permission. In any scientific reports that we prepare, we will ensure your anonymity is protected.

What are the benefits of participation?

Taking a wider perspective, we believe that what we will learn from this study will greatly improve our understanding of how people interpret visual information. This will eventually allow us to identify ability areas that are essential to many different aspects of functioning, including academic, performance, and social interaction. The data that you will provide can help us with this longer-term process.

What should I do next?

We very much hope that you will give us your permission to participate in the study we have described.

If you would like to participate, please complete and sign the enclosed consent form, answering “yes” to the question below. Return it in the freepost self addressed envelope provided (you do not need to add postage).

If you are uncertain and have would like to talk to us about these assessments before deciding, please feel free to call us:

- Dr. Valerie Benson, Roberts Research Fellow, Principal Researcher
- Dr. Hanna Kovshoff, Senior Research/Teaching Fellow and the person who will be performing the assessments with you (023 8059 7162), H.Kovshoff@soton.ac.uk.

We are always happy to talk about our work.

With many thanks for your support. We hope to meet you soon!

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Valerie Benson
Roberts Research Fellow
School of Psychology

Dr. Hanna Kovshoff
Senior Research/Teaching Fellow
School of Psychology

Eye Movement in Dynamic and Static Scenes Consent Form for Participation in the Study

I _____ have read the information letter describing
[your name]
the research taking place at the School of Psychology, University of Southampton

I _____ to participate in this assessment study described in the
[agree / do not agree]
letter and summarised below.

I understand that I will have my eye movements measured while watching video footage using an eye tracking machine. I will also respond to some word problems and puzzles. I understand that I will be seen at the University of Southampton for an approximate 3 hour assessment session. Travel arrangements will be made in conjunction with the project organizers and will occur during at a mutually agreed upon date and time. If I wish to stop or not perform the task, than I may do so at any point.

I understand that my individual performance on these measures will not be released to anyone without my consent. A debriefing summary of the study will be provided to me at the end of my visit. All the data provided will be destroyed by the researchers once the study has been completed and the results reported.

I understand that I may withdraw my consent and discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefit. I understand that data collected as part of this research project will be treated confidentially, and that published results of this research project will maintain my confidentiality. I consent to the published reporting of this study so long as my name or any other personal information is never used in the reports. Typically, all of the results will be reported in terms of averages of a group of participants, of which I am one. In signing this consent letter, I am not waving my legal claims, rights, or remedies. A copy of this consent letter will be offered to me.

I understand that the researchers will be happy to answer any questions regarding the procedures of this study. Similarly, requests regarding results obtained from this study will be made available by the researchers. Principal researcher Dr. Valerie Benson and Senior Research/Teaching fellow, Dr. Hanna Kovshoff, can be contacted at the Department of Psychology, Southampton University, Highfield Campus, Highfield, Southampton. The phone number is 02380 597 162 or 02380 524 596.

STATEMENT OF CONSENT FOR EYE MOVEMENT STUDY

My contact details

Name: _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone:

home _____

mobile _____

work _____

Email address _____

Statement of consent

(Circle Yes or No)

I consent to participate in the above study. Yes No

Date

Signature

My Gender (Male/Female)

My Date of Birth and Age

I understand that if I have questions about my rights as a participant in this research, or if I feel that I have been placed at risk, I can contact the Chair of the Ethics Committee, School of Psychology, University of Southampton, Southampton, SO17 1BJ. Phone: (023) 8059 3995.