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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Influence of Depression on beliefs about future life events

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part and remember that your participation is voluntary.

What is the purpose of the study?

Previous research has found differences in how people rate the likelihood of experiencing life events. We are interested in investigating these differences to understand whether they are important in the maintenance and development of depression.

Why have I been invited?

You have been chosen because you have indicated interest in taking part in the study on Prolific.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you would be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to complete a consent form prior to any further procedures.. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. A decision to withdraw at any time, or a decision not to take part, would not affect your future or be held against you in any way.

Am I eligible to take part?

In order to take part you should;

- Be over 18 years of age
- Be able to understand spoken and written English
- Have normal or corrected-to-normal (i.e. glasses or contact lenses) vision

Will I be reimbursed for taking part in this study?

You will receive £10.63 per testing session as a token of thanks for participating. Please note, if you are found to be responding randomly and too quickly, and fail attention checks, you may not be paid for your participation. If you have previously completed the study, you will also not be paid for participating again.

Can I ask question about the study before I decide whether to participate?

Yes, you can. Please feel free to ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What does the study involve?

We will first ask you to complete a short questionnaire online that asks about your experiences of depression. This will take approximately 2-3 minutes to complete. If you are eligible to take part based on your responses to this questionnaire the study team will contact you within 10 working days on Prolific to invite you to take part. If you are not eligible to take part based on your responses to this questionnaire you will be told after completing the questionnaire.

We will ask you to complete some tasks related to how you perceive the likelihood of experiencing future life events and some questionnaires to measure your mood and anxiety levels in a single testing session lasting approximately 85 minutes.

In the session you will first be asked to complete some questionnaires about your mood. This includes questions about low mood and anxiety. Following this you will complete a single task on the computer where you will rate the likelihood of experiencing a number of different life events.

What do I do if I have any concerns after taking part?

If you have any concerns during in, or after, the study you can contact the researchers (c.hobbs@bath.ac.uk). If there are any further issues please direct them to the Department of Psychology Research Ethics Committee (email: psychology-ethics@bath.ac.uk).

During the study you will be asked to fill out certain questionnaires about low mood or anxiety.

If you are worried that you may hurt yourself in some way, there are people you can talk to who want to help:

- call the Samaritans 24-hour support service on 116 123
- go to your nearest accident and emergency (A&E) department and tell the staff how you are feeling
- contact NHS 111
- make an urgent appointment to see your GP

Can I see my results?

We are not able to share individual results from the task completed within this study, as these results are only meaningful in the context of other participants' data. We can provide you with a brief summary of the information that you have shared in the clinical questionnaires upon request.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Any personal information and research study documentation taken for this research study would remain confidential and would be available only to university research staff and government bodies which monitor whether research studies are performed properly.

What would happen to the results of the research study?

When the study has been completed, we would analyse the data we have collected and report the findings. This would be reported in an appropriate scientific journal or presented at a scientific meeting. You would not be identified in any way and if you would like a copy of the final paper, you may request this.

During the study your data is identified by your Prolific ID. The research team do not have access to any personal information you have provided Prolific. To further anonymise your data at the end of the study, we will create a unique ID number for you, and remove any link to your Prolific ID. This means that your study data is fully anonymous. We do not ask you any information that would be possible to identify you from in this study.

At the end of the study your data will become "open data". This means that it will be stored in an online database so that it is publicly available.

What is open data?

Open data means that data are made available, free of charge, to anyone interested in the research, or who wishes to conduct their own analysis of the data. We will therefore have no control over how these data are used. However, all data will be anonymised before it is made available and therefore there will be no way to identify you from the research data.

Why open data?

Sharing research data and findings is considered best scientific practice and is a requirement of many funding bodies and scientific journals. As a large proportion of research is publicly funded, the outcomes of the research should be made publicly available. Sharing data helps to maximise the impact of investment through wider use, and encourages new avenues of research.

Can I withdraw my study data after I have participated in the study?

Yes. If you decide that you do not want your data to be used you can contact the study team and request that your data are withdrawn. You will have to provide your Prolific ID to allow us to identify your data. However, this can only be done before we store the data, as we remove your Prolific ID from the data at this point to ensure anonymity. We would therefore not be able to identify your data after data collection is complete. We anticipate that data collection will be completed by March 2021.

Who can I contact for further information?

Catherine Hobbs (PhD Student)
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Claverton Down
Bath BA2 7 AY
Email: ch547@bath.ac.uk

If you participate in this study you will be given a copy of this information sheet