

Participant Information Sheet

Project title: Bodily Emotion Recognition in Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and Parkinson's Disease

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You are invited to take part in a research study I am conducting as part of my postgraduate dissertation. This study has received ethical approval from the Psychology Ethics Sub-committee of Durham University.

Before you decide whether to agree to take part it is important for you to understand the purpose of the research and what is involved as a participant. Please read the following information carefully and get in contact if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. The rights and responsibilities of anyone taking part in Durham University research are set out in our 'Participants Charter':

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/research.innovation/governance/ethics/considerations/people/charter/>

What is the purpose of the study?

In this project, I am hoping to understand bodily emotion recognition in individuals diagnosed with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and Parkinson's Disease. Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) and Parkinson's Disease (PD) are neurodegenerative disorders of movement characterized by varying levels of parkinsonism, often leading to diagnostic challenges. Beyond motor difficulties, individuals diagnosed with PSP and PD exhibit impairment in social interactions, some of which may be explained by deficits in emotion recognition. This claim is grounded in existing literature, which highlights impaired recognition of negative emotions in PSP and PD. However, it remains unclear whether these impairments are specific to processing of facial emotional stimuli or extend to different modalities, which would suggest a more global impairment in emotion recognition. This study addresses this gap by investigating bodily emotion recognition in individuals with PSP, PD and age-matched healthy controls. Investigating whether deficits extend to bodily emotion recognition can add to the current literature on the social and non-motor impairments in such populations. Additionally, this study aims to identify differences in emotion recognition between the two groups to aid diagnosis and potentially serve as a distinguishing factor between the two groups. Your data will help me to study this.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited because you fit the criteria for one of the groups we are studying i.e. are diagnosed with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy or Parkinson's Disease or are a healthy adult with no history of neurological, neurodegenerative or psychiatric conditions; in addition, you are between the ages of 55 and 85 and have no known impairments to your vision. You should not take part if you are above the age of 85, are diagnosed with any neurological, neurodegenerative, or psychiatric conditions, have impaired vision or have any history of substance abuse/dependency or alcoholism.

Do I have to take part?

Your participation is voluntary, and you do not have to agree to take part. If you do agree to take part, you can withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without any negative consequences such as prejudice or penalty.

What will happen to me if I take part?

For the purpose of this study, you will be asked to complete an online emotion recognition task. Additionally, participants with PSP/PD will be asked to complete three online questionnaires, while participants without PSP/PD will complete two. These questionnaires include questions regarding sensitive topics, such as mental health (including symptoms of depression, anxiety, and suicidality) and personal health, particularly focusing on quality of life related to PSP and PD. Your participation is voluntary, and you can choose not to answer any question at any time without affecting your involvement in the study or withdraw from the study at any time without providing a reason. The questions will be answered by selecting the most appropriate option from a list of choices. The emotion recognition task involves viewing brief displays of body movements and selecting the emotion you think is depicted in each display. In these emotional body movement displays, you will not see the whole person, but instead a set of moving dots that represent a person's body movements. (We will show you an example of one of these 'point-light displays' before you begin the emotion recognition task.) The task can be done on your desktop computer or laptop, at a time and place of your choosing and should not take more than 30 minutes to complete. Please note that this experiment does not run on mobile phones or tablets; a desktop computer or laptop is required.

Are there any potential risks involved?

There should not be any risks involved in participating.

Will there be any physical discomfort?

For this study, you might feel eye strain or headache from using the computer for an extended period of time

Will there be any psychological discomfort or embarrassment?

There should not be any psychological discomfort or embarrassment.

Can I withdraw from the experiment?

You are free to leave the experiment at any time, without having to give a reason for withdrawing, and without any negative consequences, such as prejudice or penalty. However, once the task is complete, we are unable to withdraw your data because it is completely anonymous, and it is impossible to identify which data is yours. You can request withdrawal of your data...

Will I receive any compensation for taking part?

There will be no compensation provided for taking part.

Will my data be kept confidential?

All information obtained during the study will be kept confidential and if the data is published it will not be identifiable as yours. You will be allocated an anonymous number accessible only by the research team. Your identity will remain anonymous and confidential, will not be disclosed or shared in any circumstances, and will not appear in any publication. Please read the University's [Generic Privacy Notice](#) for important information about how your data will be used.

What will happen to the results of the project?

No personal data will be shared, however anonymised (i.e., not identifiable) data may be used in publications, reports, presentations, web pages and other research outputs. At the end of the project, anonymised data may be archived and shared with others for legitimate

research purposes. All research data and records needed to validate the research findings will be stored for 10 years after the end of active data collection.

Who do I contact if I have any questions or concerns about this study?

If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please speak to the researcher whose contact information is provided at the top of this document. Alternatively, you may contact the [Department Ethics Chair](#).

If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please follow the Department's [Complaints Procedure](#) (if you are unable to access this document, please email the [Ethics Secretary](#), who will provide you with a copy).

Thank you for reading this information and considering taking part in this study.