

LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET



Title of Project: Can Disgust Predict Responses to Affective Touch?

Researcher: Hasan Ali

Supervisor: Dr Valentina Cazzato, Senior Lecturer in Psychology

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it involves. Please take time to read the following information. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide if you want to take part or not.

1. What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this study is to investigate how people that might have negative feeling of disgust for e.g. towards their selves about their body or specific features of their body might perceive gentle, caress-like touch. We also want to understand whether eating behaviour and attitudes may play a role in this.

2. Who can take part?

You can take part in this study if you meet the following criteria:

- Over the age of 18
- Do not have any history of a psychiatric disorder
- Are not currently taking any neurologically active medication
- Do not have a skin condition (i.e., eczema)
- Have normal or corrected vision

Please note that if you are using an iPhone device, please ensure that this device has been updated to iOS 13 or later. This will ensure that the app is compatible with your device.

3. Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do, you will be given this information sheet and asked to sign a consent form. You are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. Please note that once your data has been submitted, it can no longer be withdrawn as all data is anonymous. A decision to withdraw will not affect your rights.

4. What will happen to me if I take part?

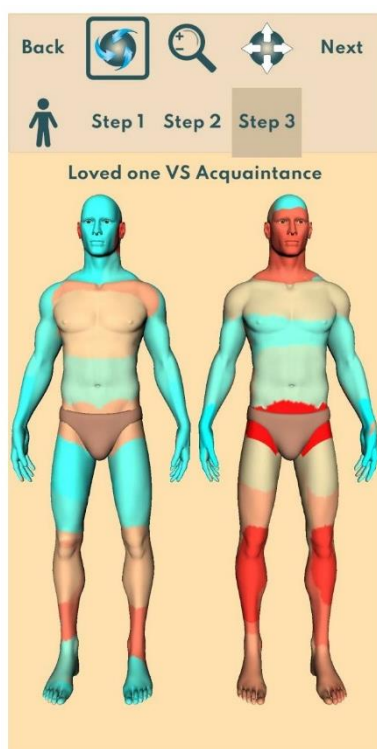
If you do decide to take part, you will be sent the participant information sheet and the link to the study. You will also have the option of asking any questions regarding the study before you fully decide to take part.

When you start the study, you will see the participant information sheet which will detail information about what the study entails. Provided that you are happy with the information, we will ask you to provide your consent to take part in the study. You will then be asked some demographic information detailing your age, ethnicity etc. Once you have completed this, you will then be taken onto the next part of the study where you will fill in a series of questionnaires which will ask you about your eating attitudes, experiences and perceptions of touch and disgust.

For the final part of the study, you will take part in a virtual touch experience. For this part you will be asked to download a mobile phone application called HandsOn. This application will contain two tasks called “my body in your hands” and “touch materials”. The first task is a task that requires you to produce a heatmap of perceived pleasantness of stroking on different areas of your body depending on who is stroking you (a loved one or a stranger). The second task requires you to stroke different types of perceived materials on the screen and then rate how you feel after the task.

Following this, you will then be asked to submit the data collected and then input your unique ID. You will then be debriefed.

Please do note that the HandsOn app is completely free and you are not required to pay anything to download or use the app!



Heatmap from the “my body in your hands task”

Are there any risks / benefits involved?

There are no intended risks from being involved in the study but as you will be in contact with clinical questionnaires about eating disorders and experiences of touch, you may find some of the following support organisations useful in giving you some support if you feel like you need some.

If you are an LJMU student:

LJMU Counselling Service

Website: <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/discover/student-support/health-and-wellbeing/counselling-service>

Wellbeing Advisor: studentwellbeing@ljmu.ac.uk

If you are not an LJMU student, you may find some of the following services useful:

Samaritans (available 24/7)

Phone: 116 123

Papyrus Hopeline

If you are under 35 and wish to speak to somebody about how you can stay safe

Phone: 0800 068 41 41 (Monday-Friday 9am-10pm, 2-10pm bank holidays and weekends)

Shout

Phone: text SHOUT to 85258

CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably)

Phone: 0800 58 58 58 (daily 5pm-midnight)

You may also wish to speak to your GP about how you are feeling. If you feel like you need urgent support and there is no immediate danger to yourself or others and you feel you can keep yourself safe until an appointment, you can contact your GP and ask for an emergency appointment.

There are no intended benefits associated with taking part however the findings may help the researcher in determining whether their research question is right and to further our current understanding in the field of neuroscience. However, if you are an LJMU level 4 Psychology student, you will receive SONA participation points for taking part in the current study.

5. Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. You do not have to provide a name on any questionnaires or information sheets and therefore the information you provide cannot be identified with your name. You are requested to provide the researcher with a signed consent form. This will be kept by the researcher separate from the any other information you provide. This will be stored securely and destroyed within 24 months of completion of the study.

6. Has this study been approved by an ethics committee?

LJMU Psychology Research Ethics Panel has assessed the research study and approved it.

7. Covid -19

In order to protect you and the researcher during face-to-face data collection, throughout the study the researcher will keep their mask on and employ 2-meter social distancing where possible. In addition to this, the researcher will have sanitised and cleaned any surfaces that you will come into contact with such as the keyboard and mouse as well as the apparatus used to do the stroking as well as the chair you will sit down in. The researcher will also sanitise these surfaces after you leave too.

8. Who to contact with enquires about this study?

The primary investigator: Hasan Ali, MSc Brain and Behaviour, School of Psychology, Faculty of Health. h.s.ali@2020.ljmu.ac.uk.

The supervisor: Dr Valentina Cazzato, Senior Lecturer in Psychology and lab lead for the Body Image Lab, School of Psychology, Faculty of Health. v.cazzato@ljmu.ac.uk. Phone: 01519046340.

Data Protection Notice

Liverpool John Moores University is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. Liverpool John Moores University will process your personal data for the purpose of research. Research is a task that we perform in the public interest. Liverpool John Moores University will keep identifiable information about you for 5 years after the study has finished.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the study to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

You can find out more about how we use your information at by contacting secretariat@ljmu.ac.uk.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, please contact LJMU in the first instance at secretariat@ljmu.ac.uk. If you remain unsatisfied, you may wish to contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Contact details, and details of data subject rights, are available on the ICO website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/overview-of-the-gdpr/individuals-rights/>