

Psychology Volunteers Newsletter

Issue 6: March 2016

Welcome to the latest edition of the **Psychology Volunteers Newsletter**. Every 3-4 months we will send you the latest **News, Upcoming Events**, and chances for you to get involved in the Psychology Research Centre.

This issue focuses on **face processing**. We are looking for **adults** to take part in research looking at **using oxytocin to improve face processing**, and research on **face blindness**.

Also, we are looking for **women** to take part in a **survey looking at reasons for attending or not attending cervical screening (smear tests)**, **individuals whose partners have taken part in weight loss programmes** to participate in **interviews about their experiences**, and **students** to take part in studies looking at **technology enabled learning** and the effect of **writing about events on wellbeing**.

Volunteers Coffee Morning

Our last volunteer coffee morning was a great success, and we hope to run another – watch this space!



Festival of Learning

Save the date! 25th-29th June

2016 is Bournemouth

University's Festival of Learning event. Over 150 free talks and events from university staff.

<https://microsites.bournemouth.ac.uk/festival-of-learning/>

Examples of events from Psychology staff include talks on the psychology of mind reading, how your computer can help you lose weight, how digital media can combat digital addiction and showcasing of innovative projects to improve the lives of people with dementia.

Improving face recognition ability in those who suffer from face blindness



Would you like to be part of a research programme that could potentially improve poor face recognition ability in those who suffer from a condition called developmental prosopagnosia, also known as face blindness?

We are looking for males and females aged between 45-80 to take part in the following studies:

The first is investigating how face processing can be improved through the use of oxytocin, which is a nonapeptide that is produced and broken down naturally in the body. You would be required to inhale the oxytocin, which is completely harmless, and then complete a small number of face tasks on a computer.

The second project focuses on how training can improve face processing with the additional use of oxytocin. You would be required to come in for a pre-assessment session, which would consist of completing a small number of face tasks. You would then be shown how to administer the oxytocin so you could take it home. The training would be emailed to you, as you would complete this at home (or at the university if you prefer). When the training is complete, you would be invited back in for a final post assessment session.

We are also running this study without the use of oxytocin, if you prefer to take part in that version instead.

If you are interested in participating in either or both projects, or have any questions, please contact Amanda Adams at the following address:

adamsa@bournemouth.ac.uk

Face recognition research at Bournemouth University



Dr Sarah Bate and Anna Bobak are carrying out a large-scale investigation into the diagnosis of prosopagnosia ("face blindness"), and require females and males aged between 18 and 74 years to act as a control sample in the study.

The testing sessions involve approximately one 2 hour visit at the University's Talbot Campus and participation in a series of tests related to face recognition. Participants will be reimbursed £8/hr for their time. Please **do not** respond if you took part in earlier parts of the face blindness study (e.g. in Autumn 2015)



For more information contact
Anna Bobak
Email: abobak@bournemouth.ac.uk
Tel: 01202 961 532

Technology and connectivity for learning and wellbeing research

We invite you to take part in our educational research. The student experience today is marked by increasing use of technology enabled learning/assessment and ever-present internet connectivity, which impacts on the student experience and wellbeing. The research project is intended to contribute to improving the student experience by investigating factors which influence why some students are engaged, while others are reluctant to use technology enabled learning/assessment.

Here is the link for further information and a questionnaire: <http://goo.gl/forms/IRMFw08iJp>

If you have any questions, please contact Dr Jacqui Taylor (jtaylor@bournemouth.ac.uk or Tel: 01202 965313)

Barriers and Facilitators to Cervical Screening



Are you female and aged 25-64?

You could help with research into women's health issues!

Cervical screening is offered free of charge on the NHS to women aged 25-64 years. However, uptake is lower than expected among certain social groups, despite regular contact with health services. We aim to develop a questionnaire to improve understanding of why people do or don't attend for cervical screening.

We are looking for women aged 25-64 to complete an online survey about their views/experiences of cervical screening (smear tests), and various stresses they experience in their everyday life.

This should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete.

You are eligible to take part in the study, whether you have attended for cervical screening or not.

The survey is available via the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3CRBRZD>

If you have any questions, please contact the researchers:

Emily Arden-Close on earden-close@bournemouth.ac.uk or Helen Bolderston on hbolderston@bournemouth.ac.uk

Couple-based weight loss programmes: partner perspectives



Do you have a partner?

Has he/she taken part in a weight loss programme (e.g., Weight Watchers, Slimming World) within the past 2 years?

Weight loss programmes for couples may be more effective than those for individuals. However, this has not been tested systematically. I am looking for individuals whose partners have taken part in a weight loss intervention to take part in an interview (telephone or face to face) about their experiences of their partner taking part in a weight loss programme.

If you are interested, please contact Emily Arden-Close on eardenclose@bournemouth.ac.uk, tel 01202 965529.

The effect of guided writing on wellbeing



We are looking for healthy students to take part in an interesting study looking at the effects of **writing about events on wellbeing**.

To participate, you need to be aged 18 or over, able to write in English, and currently have at least one social media account (e.g., Facebook, Twitter).

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Emily Arden-Close on eardenclose@bournemouth.ac.uk.

Psychology Volunteers and Social media

Like us on Facebook: search for BU Psychology Volunteer Scheme

Follow us on Twitter: @BU_PVS

If you have suggestions for future Psychology Volunteers' events or newsletters please get in touch with Emily Arden-Close on

eardenclose@bournemouth.ac.uk

Like what you've read?

Please share your newsletter with friends and family. New members can sign up to the volunteer scheme here:

<http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/prc/research-volunteers.html> or by emailing or phoning Martin Tomkins: MTomkins@bournemouth.ac.uk 01202 961184.