

## SONA debrief questions

*The purpose of these debrief questions is to provide an opportunity for first year students to learn about psychology research. Answers to the first three questions may be discussed in tutorials as part of an in-class exercise ('Psychology Research in Action') that evaluates the motivation, scientific legitimacy of your study.*

*These sample answers were based on studies described in the following research conducted on first year UNSW students: [http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/83702/1/White\\_etal\\_2014.pdf](http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/83702/1/White_etal_2014.pdf)*

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### **What are the research questions?**

We were interested in participant's ability to match the identity of unfamiliar faces. This task is performed routinely as part of Photo-ID checks. We were specifically evaluating a potential solution to improve the accuracy of this applied task. This practical solution has been designed in light of theoretical work that shows people learn new faces by being exposed to variation in the appearance of their face.

### **How does this study extend on previous research on this topic?**

As discussed in the reading below, many previous studies have found that people perform very poorly when trying to match photographs of unfamiliar faces (Tjebk, 2002). We were interested in the cognitive mechanisms that support face and person learning in everyday life.

### **Briefly describe the study methodology (e.g design, dependent/ independent variables, stimulus presentation)**

The study was an experiment. Participants were asked to complete a face-matching task, in which they had to decide if photographs of a "target" face were the same person as a comparison photo shown alongside the target person on a computer screen. The independent variable was the number

of photographs (between 1-4) of the target face, and the independent variable was face-matching accuracy.

**Further reading (suggest a one or two readings that are related to the current study)**

Burton, A. M., & Jenkins, R. (2011). Unfamiliar face perception. In G. Rhodes, & J. Haxby (Eds.).

*Oxford handbook of face perception*. (Eds. G. Rhodes & J. Haxby). Oxford: Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199770134/0130001