

REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Last Name: _____

This form is to be used for requesting review and approval of a new project before it is initiated. Full details must be given and all necessary documentation submitted.

For students: Each student research/project proposal must be read and endorsed by the student's advisor.

Full name/ mailing address of principal investigator:

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Check one:

- Faculty member: Department/School: _____
- Student: Candidate for degree of: _____
- Staff: Position: _____
- Other (specify): _____

Advisor: By submitting this form to the IRB, I attest to having read it and endorse it.

Date: _____ Advisor's name: _____

Short title of the study/project:

Creating an index of human threat detection

(Please use no more than ten words)

Names of co-investigators (if any): _____

Will this study/project extend beyond one year?

Yes No

- If approved, study/project will start on:
- Projected end date:

1/17/2023

4/1/2023

Will this study/project receive financial support from a Federal agency?

Yes No

If yes, which agencies are providing support? _____

I certify that the statements made in this request are accurate and complete, and if I receive IRB approval for this project, I agree to inform the committee in writing of any emergent problems or proposed procedural changes. I further agree not to proceed in the research/project until the problems have been resolved or the IRB has reviewed and approved of the changes.

Date: _____ Name of Investigator: _____

I. IN LAY LANGUAGE, STATE CONCISELY THE HYPOTHESIS, PURPOSE, AND/OR OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH/PROJECT (a few sentences only):

This project represents the first step in constructing an instrument designed to measure perceived danger from human faces. Much of the work on human threat detection uses the speed or accuracy with which participants can discriminate angry and non-angry faces as a proxy for threat detection thresholds; the present study is designed to collect data on a face set that has never been used for such a purpose and will be used to identify particular faces/combinations that can be used in these discrimination tasks. Participants will be rating individual faces on dimensions like anger or strength, as well as judging whether a matrix of facial photographs all contain identical emotional expressions, or whether one face in the group is different.

II. THE HUMAN SUBJECTS INVOLVED IN THIS RESEARCH/PROJECT:

1. *Who are the subjects? How many will be involved in the study/project?*

Approximately 50 students will be involved as participants.

2. *How will you recruit or select the subjects, or how will you gain access to them? Be specific. Indicate whether the subjects will be recruited from your place of employment and, if so, how this research/project relates to your job role and any other information pertinent to your relationship with the subjects (e.g., how will you ensure against the possibility of coercion?)*

Students in PSY 101 will be recruited through SONA, the online database used by the University of Portland Psychology department. Upon logging in, the participant will see a list of all available studies, along with a short description of each. Participants will receive partial course credit upon completion of the study.

3. *Are you advertising/posting notice for subjects/volunteers?* Yes No

If yes, submit a copy of the advertisement or notice.

4. *For how much time will each subject be involved in the study/project? If you are using your subjects on more than one occasion, indicate the number of such occasions and their duration.*

~45 minutes

5. *Are you paying your subjects?* Yes No

If yes, indicate how much and describe how you will prorate the payments to subjects who withdraw before the study/project ends:

6. *Are your subjects students?* Yes No

If yes, name the institution in which they are enrolled:

The University of Portland

7. *Typically, signed informed consent is required from adult subjects. For children under the age of 18, signed informed consent must be obtained from the child's parent or legal guardian. In addition, verbal assent from the child must be obtained prior to participation. (For teenagers capable of reading and understanding the parental consent form, written signed assent should be obtained as well.)*

However, the need for signed informed consent and assent may be waived for research/projects conducted in common educational settings examining education practices, or research/projects observing public behavior,

examining publically available data, and other situations outlined in Title 45 Section 46.101. Additionally, the requirement for signed informed consent may be waived if the lack of signed consent would not adversely affect the rights and welfare of subjects **and** any of the following apply:

1. The research presents no more than minimal risk of harm to subjects and involves no procedures for which written consent is normally required outside of the research context; **or**
2. The only record linking the subject and the research would be the consent document and the principal risk of the research to subjects would be potential harm resulting from a breach of confidentiality caused by signing the consent document; **or**
3. The subjects or legally authorized representatives are members of a distinct cultural group or community in which signing forms is not the norm, that the research presents no more than minimal risk of harm to subjects and provided there is an appropriate alternative mechanism for documenting that informed consent was obtained.

If signed informed consent is **NOT** obtained, adult subjects should receive written information about the research/project and that participation is completely voluntary. Further details are located on the IRB website at <https://www.up.edu/irb/how-to-initiate-a-review/informed-consent.html> or in Appendix A of this document.

This research/project will include:

Signed informed consent form	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parental/Guardian signed informed consent form	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assent form	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Written information sheet (if not using consent form)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Please submit a copy of these forms/documents. (Note: forms should be in a reader-friendly format and provided at a reading level appropriate to the majority of study/project subjects.)

Where the requirement of signed informed consent is waived, the researcher must provide written information to potential subjects that includes all the applicable elements of the informed consent form.

See Appendix A

8. Do your subjects include any of the following?

Pregnant women, human fetuses, and neonates (Subpart B, 46.201)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Inmates or prisoners (Subpart C, 46.301)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Children (Subpart D, 46.401)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

9. Are any subjects in this study vulnerable to the possibility of coercion or undue influence when making a decision whether to participate in the research project or as a participant in the research project?

Yes No

If yes, address why inclusion of the identified vulnerable population(s) is crucial to the research design of this project and what has been done to ensure equity in selection of vulnerable subjects. Any power differentials that have the potential to create vulnerability in subjects must be addressed explicitly.

10. *How will you protect the subjects' confidentiality in your study/project?*

No personally identifiable data will be collected by the researchers (such as names). All surveys will be distributed using the 'Anonymize Responses' protocol in Qualtrics; in combination with the use of arbitrary ID numbers to identify participants, their data will all be fully de-identified **to the researcher** (and in the dataset accessed by the researchers). As such, there is very little risk that locally managed data files could compromise participant responses or identities.

The Qualtrics servers may retain IP information that could allow someone with substantial technical knowledge to connect survey responses and geographic locations, which could then (with another effortful step) be connected to individual identities. Given the difficulty, this process would require a substantial amount of labor and motivation to achieve. Because none of the information collected as part of the study would seem to be of any value to anyone desiring to hack into privately managed databases, this possibility seems remote. Additionally, Qualtrics has security protocols (outlined [here](#)) that should reduce the likelihood of a data breach of any kind.

When using SONA, an arbitrary participant number will be assigned to them, but it is not traceable to the individual. All credit will be awarded using this identifier.

III. THE RESEARCH /PROJECT PROCEDURES

1. *Describe in sufficient detail and in lay language the procedures you will be doing to or with your subjects. (For faculty conducting research, please describe the planned roles and activities of students used as research assistants.)*

Students will sign up online via SONA and be directed to a Qualtrics link to complete the study. After reading the information sheet (and affirming that they are 18 or older), participants will answer standard demographic questions about their age, gender, and ethnic identity.

Next, participants will see a series of face matrices (a 3 x 3 collection of faces displayed in a grid). These matrices will only appear on the screen for approximately ½ of a second; participants will be asked to direct their attention to the screen while the image is present, and then answer a single question about it – whether the matrix was made up of photographs that have identical facial expressions or whether one face was different. A sample stimulus can be found in Appendix B. The faces that make up these matrices come from a database made available for research purposes (FACES; <https://faces.mpg.de/imeji/>). The images used in this research come from ~30 young men, each providing a photograph with a neutral, happy, and angry expression. Participants will rate ~60 matrices in this section.

Participants will then see each face displayed individually and be asked to rate how strongly they agree with four separate statements (from strongly disagree to strongly agree); these statements include whether the face is angry, happy, strong, and dangerous. A sample stimulus can be found in Appendix C. These faces are the same as those used in the matrices, and each face/emotion combination will be rated (for a total of ~90 faces).

Finally, participants will be a debriefing form (Appendix D) that briefly describes the goals of the study and offers them the chance to have their data withdrawn.

2. *Are you obtaining from your subjects information about their private behavior, economic status, sexual activity, religious beliefs, or other matters which, if made public, might negatively impact their self-esteem or reputation, or could reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to their financial standing or employability?*

Yes No

If yes, describe the means you will use to ensure that all your data are kept secure and confidential until they are destroyed. Refer to Appendix B for guidance on considerations related to data collection and storage that should be addressed below.

3. Does your study/project involve withholding of the true purpose and procedures of the study/project from your subjects? Yes No

If yes, describe the procedure you will use to debrief your subjects, indicating the willingness to allow subjects to withdraw after debriefing and to remove from your data all records of their involvement:

Participants will be told that the study is about person perception – which is true – but does not represent a full accounting of the hypotheses under investigation. All participants will read a debriefing form (Appendix D) at the conclusion of the study that briefly reviews the specific goals of the study and provides them the opportunity to have their data withdrawn.

4. Are there potential subjects who, if selected for this project, would be especially vulnerable to risk because of the procedures you will be using? Yes No

If yes, describe the process you will use to screen and eliminate all such vulnerable subjects from the study/project:

5. Will you be carrying out procedures or asking questions that might disturb your subjects emotionally or produce high levels of stress or anxiety beyond what is expected in everyday life? Yes No

If yes, describe your plans for counseling or making referrals for distraught subjects:

6. In three or four sentences, summarize the probability of possible risk, the magnitude of possible risk, and the risk/benefit ratio of the proposed research/project, with regard to the human subjects, the risks to them, and the potential benefits to knowledge or society.

Aside from demographic information, the only thing participants will be asked to do is make judgments about photographs of men's faces. Nothing in the images or the process of those judgments should negatively impact participants. The study is somewhat lengthy – and thus participants may lose interest – but that does not constitute a risk. The study will lead to the development of a much shorter instrument designed to measure threat detection, which will be useful in a number of other projects.

7. Are you using a questionnaire and/or an interview as part of your procedure? Yes No
If yes, submit a copy of the questionnaire(s) and/or interview questions.

A basic demographic questionnaire will be included (see appendix B).

8. Will you keep study/project materials, records, and documents secure for at least three years, (as requested by the IRB)? Yes No

If not, please explain:

9. How and to whom will data/results be distributed?

Aggregate data from this study will be used to help create instruments used in future work. Some rating data might also be used in papers or presentations to be shared at national or regional conferences.

Appendix A: Written Information Sheet

You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by XXX, from the University of Portland. This study will explore how you perceive other people.

Key Information: As described in more detail below, you will answer some basic demographic questions and then engage in two types of person-perception tasks. In the first, you will be a matrix of faces and must quickly judge whether they have identical facial expressions. In the second, you will see a single face and be asked to rate it on four different dimensions.

Though the risks of this study are minimal, the questions may cause you to feel uncomfortable, so you may not wish to participate. This document may not fully elaborate on the logic or methodology of the study, though it will accurately represent what will be asked of you as a participant. It is important for you to know that your participation is entirely voluntary. You do not have to participate, and you can stop your participation at any time. More information about all aspects of this study is provided below.

Detailed description: If you decide to participate, you will complete a few demographic questions asking about things like your age and ethnic background. Next, you will see a series of face matrices composed of 9 photographs. In some of these matrices, all the faces will have identical emotional expressions; in others, one face will be different. Your job will be to determine whether each matrix features faces with identical expressions. Each matrix will only stay on the screen for a fraction of a second. Finally, you will see each of the faces used in the matrices one at a time; you will be asked to rate each face on four dimensions using an on-screen slider. The entire study should take ~45 minutes to complete.

There is minimal risk to participating in this study. In the unlikely event that you experience any discomfort, please withdraw from the study or decline to answer. Your participation is voluntary. Your decision on whether to participate will not affect your relationship with the University of Portland. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time without penalty.

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. You will not be asked to provide any personally identifying information as part of this study (such as your name or student ID number). All responses will be associated with an arbitrary identification number, and the researchers will never be able to trace your responses back to you (your data will be *de-identified* in all research datasets). Qualtrics may retain a log of your IP address which in theory might allow someone to track your location (and find some way to discover your identity). As such, data breaches or hacks that compromise the integrity of Qualtrics servers could allow someone to link your responses to your identity; given the limited commercial value of such information and the security protocols in place (outlined [here](#)), this outcome seems very unlikely. None of the information gathered as part of this study will be used for any other purpose.

Your participation is voluntary. Your decision on whether to participate will not affect your relationship with the University of Portland. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time without penalty.

If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact XXX at XXX@up.edu. If you have

any questions regarding your rights as a research subject, please contact the University of Portland Institutional Research Board at irb@up.edu.

By clicking “I agree”, you are indicating that you have read and understand the information provided above, are over the age of 18 and you willingly agree to participate.

Appendix B – sample face matrix



Did all the faces display the same emotion?
Yes/No

Appendix C – sample single-face rating



	strongly disagree	strongly agree
The man is happy		
The man is angry		
The man is strong		
The man is dangerous		

Appendix D – debriefing

Thank you for participating in our study! When you began the study, you were told that we were interested in how you perceive other people – this is true, though it does not explain exactly what type of perceptions we wanted to examine.

Throughout the study, you saw photographs of a set of ~30 young men, sometimes with neutral expressions, sometimes with happy expressions, and sometimes with angry expressions. We were interested in: 1) whether you perceived that these faces were displaying the emotion they were intending to display, and 2) whether certain types of expressions ‘jumped out’ more clearly than others.

Your results will be used to narrow down this large set of faces to a smaller group that will be used in future research; the hope is that we can shorten the study to <15 minutes but still derive similar insights from the results it provides.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact XXX at XXX@up.edu. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research subject, please contact the University of Portland Institutional Research Board at irb@up.edu.

If you wish to have your data withdrawn from the study, please check the box below.