INFORMED CONSENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

Project Title: How Prior Experience Affects the Magnitude of the Muller-Lyer Illusion

Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephen Blessing, Plant Hall 324; 813-257-3461

Purpose of Project: The goal of this project is to understand how prior experience affects a person’s perception of the world.

Procedures: All study procedures will take place on the campus of the University of Tampa. Participants will estimate the sizes of lines within a particular illusion referred to as the Muller-Lyer Illusion. The participant interacts with a computer throughout the experiment.

Risks/Benefits: There is no known potential for physical or social harm in this study. Participants will benefit by reflecting on their perceptual process and by gaining knowledge of and experience with psychological research.

Confidentiality: Data collected for this study will be confidential. Only the primary investigator will have access to the data files, and participants will be identified only by number in these files. The participants will sign the consent from identifying them as participants, but these forms will be stored in a locked filing cabinet apart from the data files. No follow-up data is required, and no attempts will be made to contact participants once the study has ended.

CHOOSE ONE OF THESE TWO SENTENCES. KEEP IT, DELETE THE OTHER

Personal identifiers from the collected data might be removed and the data used for future research without additional informed consent from you.

These data will not be used or distributed for future research studies even if identifiers are removed.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Participating in this project is voluntary, and refusal to participate or withdrawing from participation at any time during the project will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which the subject is otherwise entitled. The principal investigator may terminate participation of a subject or the project entirely without regard to the subject’s consent. In the event of questions or difficulties of any kind during or following participation, the subject may contact the Principal Investigator as indicated above.

# CONSENT

I have read the above information and my questions and concerns, if any, have been responded to satisfactorily by project staff. I believe I understand the purpose, benefits, and risks, if any, of the study, and give my informed and free consent to be a participant.

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SIGNATURE DATE

THIS RESEARCH PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA (Phone: 813-253-3333)

Debriefing Statement

Thank you for participating in this study. Its purpose is to investigate how a person’s prior experience affects their perception. While the stimuli used in this experiment was abstract, variations of it can be found in natural scenes. Other researchers have shown that the distribution of how this illusion appears in natural scenes causes us to often mistake the size of the stimuli to be longer or shorter than it actually is. This experiment hopes to provide evidence that more fully explains how a person’s prior experiences with these kinds of stimuli affect how they see it.

This is on-going research, so please do not discuss the materials and research rationale with friends and classmates. They may take part in the research at a later date, and prior knowledge of the study may influence their responses.

If you would like further information about this research or have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Dr. Blessing at 813-257-3461 or by email, sblessing@ut.edu.