



SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY and INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Debriefing Sheet

Title of the research study: Phoenix Park Goes Wild

The formation of multisensory object categories in children and adults: An online investigation

Background

Thank you for your child's participation in this study.

- In the categorisation of objects, it is assumed that all the senses contribute to their formation. So, for example, different types of dogs are categorised as 'dog' based on the shape of their bodies (vision) and the bark sound (audition). This is an example of how multiple senses are integrated to create our overall perception.^[1, 3]
- The ability to effectively integrate information is important, because it is associated with better object recognition in adults^[5] and in children.^[2]
- Object perception can be affected by object familiarity.^[4, 5, 6-10]
- However, how sensory information contributes to the formation of categories is unknown.
- Object categories help us to recognise novel objects and allow us to interact with the things in the world.

The aim of this study is to examine how sound and vision contribute to the formation of object categories by the brain. We are also interested in how multisensory categories are formed in children and in adults.

What tasks did you experience?

We presented your child with objects (images and/or sounds) which they had to categorise as either wild or farm animals. In our analysis, we will investigate associations between these sensory factors to determine if one sensory system dominates in object categorisation or if both contribute in predictable ways.

Importance of this research

Your data will contribute to our knowledge of how information from the senses contributes to our understanding of object categories. Object recognition is one of the most fundamental tasks that our human brain can perform, yet our understanding of how this is achieved is relatively poor. This study is therefore important because we hope to provide greater insight into the role of multisensory information in the representation and recognition of objects in children.

Contact details of the researchers

If you have any questions or comments about this study, please contact us at the email address/phone number listed below:

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References from our lab for further info:

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