



Information sheet for participants

Study title:	Decision-making experiment
Principal Investigator:	Prof Simon Kirby
Researcher collecting data:	Sabine Blütgen

What is this document? This document explains what kind of study we're doing, what your rights are, and what will be done with your data. You should print this page for your records.

Nature of the study. You are invited to participate in a study which involves exploring a landscape by making choices about where to go next. Your responses will be recorded. Your session should last for around 3 minutes. You will be given full instructions shortly.

Compensation. You will be paid £0.63 for your participation in this study. There will also be a bonus payment ranging from £0.01 to £0.09, depending on your choices.

Risks and benefits. There are no known risks to participation in this study. There are no tangible benefits to you, however you will be contributing to our knowledge about human behaviour.

Confidentiality and use of data. All the information we collect during the course of the research will be processed in accordance with Data Protection Law. In order to safeguard your privacy, we will never share personal information (like your Prolific ID) with anyone outside the research team. Please note that we will temporarily collect your Prolific ID to prevent repeat participation, however we will never share this information with anyone outside the research team. We will store any personal data (i.e., Prolific ID) using the University of Edinburgh's secure encrypted storage service and a password protected laptop. The anonymised data collected during this study will be used for research purposes.

What are my data protection rights? The University of Edinburgh is a Data Controller for the information you provide. You have the right to access information held about you. Your right of access can be exercised in accordance Data Protection Law. You also have other rights including rights of correction, erasure and objection. For more details, including the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office, please visit www.ico.org.uk. Questions, comments and requests about your personal data can also be sent to the University Data Protection Officer at dpo@ed.ac.uk.

Voluntary participation and right to withdraw. Your participation is voluntary, and you may stop at any time and for any reason. If you withdraw from the study during or after data gathering, we will delete your data and there is no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. Please note that after **21/08/2026** you will no longer be able to withdraw from the study. If you wish to withdraw after the specified date, we may not be able to delete your anonymised data from e.g. public repositories of research data, but we will be able to delete all of your personal data from our records.

If you have any questions about what you've just read, please feel free to ask, or contact us later. You can contact us by email at s1861417@ed.ac.uk. This project has been approved by PPLS Ethics committee. If you have questions or comments regarding your rights as a participant, please contact the School Research Convenor at ppls.rec@ed.ac.uk.

By clicking "continue", you consent to the following:

1. **I agree to participate in this study.**
2. I confirm that I have read and understood **how my data will be stored and used.**
3. I understand that I have the **right to terminate this session** at any point. If I choose to **withdraw after completing the study**, my data will be deleted at that time.