INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Ethical Clearance Reference Number: ***MRSP-20/21-21376***

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET

Title of project

Exploring the phenomenology of inner language in deaf people: informing how psychological treatments can be adapted for use with deaf clients

Invitation Paragraph

I would like to invite you to participate in this research project which forms part of my Clinical Psychology Doctoral research. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the project?

The project follows a previous study looking at the experiences of auditory hallucinations in deaf people with a diagnosis of Schizophrenia, which found that the form of their hallucinations mirrors their real-life experience with sound and language. The purpose of the project is to see what differences exist within the deaf population in terms of inner speech, inner signing and other forms of language-based imagery in deaf people.

Understanding these experiences will inform how psychological interventions can be adapted and used with deaf people. Deaf people are twice as likely to experience mental health issues such as depression and anxiety but there is sparse availability of resources of psychological interventions that are suitable, accessible or visual enough for use with the deaf population.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You are being invited to participate in this project because you are deaf or hard of hearing (born or acquired). I am recruiting deaf or hard of hearing people (18 years old or older) with diverse experiences in relation to their communication preferences (British Sign Language, Sign Supported English, oral, other), age of language acquisition, quality of language exposure, language fluency, hearing loss (age of hearing loss, level of hearing loss, etc.)..

What will happen if I take part?

If you choose to take part in the project, we are interested in your judgements about inner voices/ inner signing. In this study we are interested to see what differences exist in terms of inner speech and signing in deaf people.

Participation will take place online via Zoom and the task should take approximately 1-2 hours to complete. You will be asked to sort a set of statements related to inner speech or signing into different piles under “Yes”, “No”, “Not sure”, and then further sort the “Yes” pile into “Sometimes”, “often”, and “rarely”. Some of the items will be relevant to your experience and some will not. You will also be given a chance to discuss your choices with the experimenter and ask any questions.

You will also be asked to fill out a background questionnaire, which will include questions about demographics, deafness, language, communication, etc

With your consent the session will be video recorded.

Do I have to take part?

Participation is completely voluntary. You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in anyway. Once you have read the information sheet, please contact us if you have any questions that will help you make a decision about taking part. If you decide to take part we will ask you to sign a consent form and you will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.

Incentives

You will be paid either via a £30 bank transfer or a £30 Love2Shop Voucher as a thank you for taking part in this research.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

There are no known risks associated with participation in this.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

As there are no known benefits to taking part in this research, you will be paid £30 as compensation for your time.

Data handling and confidentiality

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR).

- Data will be stored by the researcher on an encrypted USB stick or laptop belonging to them whilst testing takes place. The researcher will ensure they are the only ones who have access to the data, and it will be stored securely during testing.
- All responses will be coded by an identifying code, and not associated to your identity (completely anonymised).
- The data will be archived securely in line with King’s regulations.
- Data will be confidentially secured and accessed only by the research team which in this instance is the researcher and two supervisors; data resulting from these experiments will be composite data from multiple participants.

Data Protection Statement

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR). If you would like more information about how your data will be processed in accordance with GDPR please visit the link below:

https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-use-of-personal-data-in-research

What if I change my mind about taking part?

You are free withdraw at any point of the project, without having to give a reason. Withdrawing from the project will not affect you in any way. You are able to withdraw your data from the project up until 20/05/22 after which withdrawal of your data will no longer be possible due to the final report having been submitted. If you choose to withdraw from the project we will not retain the information you have given thus far.

What will happen to the results of the project?

The results of the project will be summarised in my clinical psychology doctoral thesis. The aim is to publish this research. If you would like a copy of the published research, please contact the researcher, Amelia Ralph-Lewis at amelia.ralph-lewis@kcl.ac.uk. If the research is published, the anonymised data will be made publicly available.

Who should I contact for further information?

If you have any questions or require more information about this project, please contact me using the following contact details:

Amelia Ralph-Lewis
Email: amelia.ralph-lewis@kcl.ac.uk
Phone: 07795462878

What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?

If this project has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the project you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

Dr Patrick Smith
Email: patrick.smith@kcl.ac.uk
Phone: 020 7848 0506

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.