

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN NON-BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

The Impact of Physical Intelligence on Autism Spectrum Disorder

You are asked to participate in a research study being conducted by Prof. Alex Slocum, PhD, Prof. Alan Edelman, PhD and Noah Riskin, MEd, of the Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics Departments, respectively, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you have enrolled in the spring, 2014 class offering: **Putting the "Corpus" Back in "Mens et Manus": Increasing Your Physical Intelligence, Enhancing Your Social Smarts**, which is an integral part of an MIT research study: **The Impact of Physical Intelligence on Autism Spectrum Disorder**. You should read the information below, and ask questions about anything you do not understand, before deciding whether or not to participate.

□ PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are free to choose whether to be in it or not. If you choose to be in this study, you may subsequently withdraw from it at any time without penalty or consequences of any kind. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so.

□ PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this pilot study is to investigate whether individuals who take part in physical exercises designed to create a more fluent and functional connection between the mind and body experience improvements in their social sensitivity and interactions.

□ PROCEDURES

If you volunteer to participate in this study, we would ask you to do the following thing:

Participate in the instruments associated with this study. These include: semi-structured pre and post interviews, video-journaling your experience throughout the semester using a smartphone or other readily available device, and pre and post versions of an advanced theory of mind test to assess any changes in your social sensitivity. Participation in these instruments is in addition to the exercises, activities and assignments involved in the a 6-unit, activity-based, spring, 2014 class you have enrolled in.

EXPECTATIONS

In addition to the standard expectations associated with this for-credit class offering (attendance, participation in class exercises and activities, and the fulfillment of class assignments), students who volunteer to participate in the study portion of this class will be asked to take part in the following instruments associated with this study:

- Pre and post-class semi-structured interviews to better assess your student-subject experience. Such interviews will be approximately 45 minutes in length.
- Creation of a video-journal of your class-related journey throughout the semester, i.e., short (1 minute), weekly video diary entries taken by smartphone or other readily available device. We estimate that the recording of your entries will take approximately 10 minutes per week.
- Pre and post-class versions of the “Reading the Mind in the Eyes” test (Baron-Cohen, Wheelwright, Raste & Plumb, 2001), an advanced theory of mind test used to assess possible changes in social sensitivity. This test is approximately 25 minutes in length.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS

The risks and potential harm involved in the class portion of this study are no more than that of an introductory level physical education class. Every effort will be made to create a safe, non-threatening and stress-free environment. Exercises will be scaled to accommodate a student's individual physical skill and fitness level. Instruction will take place on both an individual and group basis.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

The potential benefits of this study include improved fitness levels and better bodily awareness for improved social sensitivity and interactions.

PAYMENT FOR PARTICIPATION

Student-subjects will not receive any form of compensation for this study.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Student-subject's identities will be coded using a basic numerical system, allowing the PIs to follow the developmental path of each without disclosure of their identity.

Any information, imagery and/or data obtained in connection with this study that can be identified with you will be used for reference purposes only, remain confidential and be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law.

If such information, imagery and/or data is suited for future articles, papers and/or presentations, student-subjects will be asked if they will additionally provide informed, written consent for such use. Student-subjects will have the right to review and/or edit all personally relevant information, imagery and/or data at any time.

Upon completion of the class portion of this study, the information, imagery and/or data generated will be stored in a locked storage cabinet in a supervising PI's office on the MIT campus for a 5-year period. Data stored on computers will also be password protected. All data, including video imagery, will be destroyed after the 5-year period.

□ **EMERGENCY CARE AND COMPENSATION FOR INJURY**

If you feel you have suffered an injury, which may include emotional trauma, as a result of participating in this study, please contact the person in charge of the study as soon as possible.

In the event you suffer such an injury, M.I.T. may provide itself, or arrange for the provision of, emergency transport or medical treatment, including emergency treatment and follow-up care, as needed, or reimbursement for such medical services. M.I.T. does not provide any other form of compensation for injury. In any case, neither the offer to provide medical assistance, nor the actual provision of medical services shall be considered an admission of fault or acceptance of liability. Questions regarding this policy may be directed to MIT's Insurance Office, (617) 253-2823. Your insurance carrier may be billed for the cost of emergency transport or medical treatment, if such services are determined not to be directly related to your participation in this study.

□ **RIGHTS OF RESEARCH SUBJECTS**

You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study. If you feel you have been treated unfairly, or you have questions regarding your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Chairman of the Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects, M.I.T.

SIGNATURE OF RESEARCH SUBJECT OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

I understand the procedures described above. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I agree to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this form.

Name of Subject

Name of Legal Representative (if applicable)

Signature of Subject or Legal Representative

Date

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR

In my judgment the subject is voluntarily and knowingly giving informed consent and possesses the legal capacity to give informed consent to participate in this research study.

Signature of Investigator

Date

MIT OpenCourseWare
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ES.S71 Increasing Your Physical Intelligence, Enhancing Your Social Smarts
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