

Information Sheet and Participant Consent Form

Title: “A Group Interaction Game”

You are asked to participate in a study conducted by the Centre for Experimental Social Sciences (CESS) at Nuffield College, University of Oxford. You were selected as a potential participant in this study because you are over 18 years old, registered in the participant pool of CESS, and signed up in the online recruiting system. Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not adversely affect your relationship with Nuffield College or University of Oxford. Please read the information below, and ask questions about anything you do not understand, before deciding whether or not to participate.

PURPOSE OF STUDY

This study is designed to investigate behavior in a game of group interactions. The results of this study will help us understand how people make rational and/or irrational individual decisions in groups, when payoffs of group members are interdependent. Your participation in this study is crucial, and we want to thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to assist us.

PROCEDURES

If you choose to participate in this study, you will be asked to do the following:

First, you must provide a driver’s license or other type of official identification that verifies that you are over the age of 18. Next, the experiment will be described to you so you understand what you will be asked to do. All information we collect from you is completely anonymous. If you choose to participate, once you read and sign this form, a lab administrator will give you a random ID number that you will use in all interactions with the experimental staff during this study. The experimenters will not be able to identify particular individuals.

Then you will be seated in front of a computer, and complete the experiment tasks through computer interface. During the experiment, you will answer survey questions and play some games. At all points, please be sure you follow the instructions on the screen carefully and ask for clarification whenever you need to do so. The experimental game will randomly assign participants to groups, but you are asked to make decisions completely by yourself. Please refrain from talking with other participants or look at others’ computer screens. After you play the games, you will be asked to answer a quick survey. Once the experiment ends, you will be paid for your participation, as well as based on how your choices in the experiment as will be explained to you along with the specific experiment procedures.

COMPENSATION

You will receive a show-up fee of £4 for coming to the lab today, whether you choose to participate or not after reading the information here. If you participate the complete lab session today, you will earn an additional average of £10 depending on your decisions in the games and

your luck. Therefore, the expected combined payment is about £14, with a minimum of £8 and a maximum of £20. You will be paid in cash privately at the end of the experiment today.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS

No risks or discomforts are expected. The stress level during the experiment will not be very different from that in problem solving tasks in the typical educational settings.

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS TO SUBJECTS

You will not benefit directly from this research, but your participation is expected to help us better understand how people make economic decisions. This is a very important scientific contribution.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

After you sign this consent form, the experimenter will give you an ID number for the experiment, and that is the way in which you are identified in the experiment. You will finally be paid in private according to your ID number. The only place where your name appears is on this consent form. No information about you provided by you during this research will be disclosed to others without your written permission, except:

- if necessary to protect your rights or welfare (for example, if you are injured and need emergency care); or
- if required by law.

Your individual privacy will be maintained in all publications or presentations resulting from this study. No one other than the researchers will have access to any records of this experiment, and none of the records will identify you using any personal information. The data will be stored in electronic form, password protected. All physical identifying information will be stored in a locked secure location. When the research is completed, all identifying information will be destroyed.

PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL

Please understand that participation is completely voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will in no way affect your current or future relationship with Nuffield College, University of Oxford, or the faculty, students, or staff of the University. You have the right to withdraw from the research at any time without losing the show-up fee of £4. You also have the right to refuse to answer any question(s) for any reason, without penalty.

RIGHTS OF RESEARCH SUBJECTS

You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty. If you have any questions or would like additional information about this research, please contact

James Best, at james.best@economics.ox.ac.uk, Department of Economics, Mannor Road Building, Mannor Road, Oxford, OX1 3UQ, UK; or Peiran Jiao, at peiran.jiao@economics.ox.ac.uk, Department of Economics, University of Oxford, Mannor Road Building, Mannor Road, Oxford, OX1 3UQ, UK. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research subject, you may contact the chair of the Research Ethics Committee, University of Oxford.

If you would like a copy of this consent form for your records you may take one from the front desk at the end of the experiment.

Please read the following and sign your initials in the boxes provided if you agree.

1. I have read the information sheet, have asked questions and received satisfactory answers.
2. I understand that this project has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee.
3. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw my data or myself at any time, without giving any reason, and without any adverse consequences (and without any academic penalty if I am a student).
4. I understand who will have access to the data I provided.
5. I understand how personal data will be stored according to the Data Protection Act; and what will happen to the data at the end of this project.
6. I understand that this research will be written and published without compromising my anonymity, and that no one will be able to identify me using the resulting data from this research.
7. I understand how to raise concerns or make a complaint.
8. I agree to take part in the study.

Signature of Research Subject

I have read the information provided above. I have been given an opportunity to ask questions and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

BY SIGNING THIS FORM, I WILLINGLY AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RESEARCH IT DESCRIBES.

Name of Subject

Signature of Subject

Date

Signature of Investigator

I have explained the research to the subject, and answered all of his/her questions. I believe that he/she understands the information described in this document and freely consents to participate.

Name of Investigator

Signature of Investigator

Date (must be the same as subject's)