University of Hertfordshire UH Ethics Committee

UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE

ETHICS COMMITTEE FOR STUDIES INVOLVING THE USE OF HUMAN PARTICIPANTS ('ETHICS COMMITTEE')

FORM EC6: PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Sensory phenomena, cognitions, and motivations: exploring the dimensional structure of obsessive-compulsive disorder in a subclinical sample.

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Introduction

You are being invited to take part in a study. Before you decide whether to do so, it is important that you understand the study that is being undertaken and what your involvement will include. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Do not hesitate to ask us anything that is not clear or for any further information you would like to help you make your decision. Please do take your time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. The University's regulation, UPR RE01, 'Studies Involving the Use of Human Participants' can be accessed via this link:

https://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/governance/university-policies-and-regulations-uprs/uprs
(after accessing this website, scroll down to Letter S where you will find the regulation)

Thank you for reading this.

What is the purpose of this study?

The nature of obsessive-compulsive disorder is heterogenous in nature, this is to say that no two cases of OCD are the same (Lochner and Stein, 2003). Researchers make use of factor analyses to highlight dimensions that reveal obsessive-compulsive subtypes within their samples to uncover some of this discordance (Miguel et al, 2005). Similarly, sensory phenomena, cognitions, and motivations may be able to delineate some understanding into the differences between obsessive-compulsive subtypes as these three facets have been implicated with the disorder. For example, a subtype centering around obsession and compulsions of certainty is said to be motivated by incompleteness, notions of perfectionism, and akin to just-right perceptions, a type of sensory phenomena (Ferrao et al, 2012; Wheaton et al, 2010; Bragdon et al, 2017). It can be reasoned that such an effect exists for other OC subtypes.
This study examines Obsessive-compulsive tendencies in a subclinical sample, members of the general population. It is important to first establish an association within a subclinical sample before extending these potential findings to a clinical sample, those with a diagnosis of obsessive-compulsive disorder.
The current study aims:

- To unearth the underlying obsessive-compulsive subtypes within the sample via a factor analysis.
- To explore a relationship between sensory phenomena, cognitions, and motivations
- To investigate how this potential relationship mediates obsessive-compulsive severity
- To study how obsessive-compulsive subtypes differ in sensory phenomena, cognitions, and motivations.

Do I have to take part?

It is completely up to you whether or not you decide to take part in this study. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. Agreeing to join the study does not mean that you have to complete it. You are free to withdraw

at any stage without giving a reason. A decision to withdraw at any time, or a decision not to take part at all, will not affect any treatment/care that you may receive (should this be relevant).

Are there any age or other restrictions that may prevent me from participating?

Participants are required to be of or above the age of 18 years of age.

How long will my part in the study take?

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be involved in it for no more than 10 minutes.

What will happen to me if I take part?

There are a series of five questionnaires to complete averaging about 2 minutes each to complete. These questionnaires will list scenarios which are to be rated based on how strongly the scenario relates to you as a participant. The exact rating scales and instructions are given at the beginning of each questionnaire. The first is the OCI-R which is followed by the Y-BOCS, the OBQ, the OCTCDQ, and the USP-SPS. These questionnaires relate to obsession and compulsions, cognitions, motivations, and sensory phenomena, respectively. You will then be debriefed, reminded on your right to withdraw without penalty, notified of contact details should there be any issues or questions, and finally thanked for your time and effort.

What are the possible disadvantages, risks, or side effects of taking part?

There is no intention to diagnose in this current study. However, should you wish to contact a chartered professional on the topic at hand, relevant contact details will be provided. Aside from this, there are no risks of harm whether physical or emotional.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

By taking part in this study, you will form part of a subclinical sample. This is to say that an effect is being tested in the general population that, if successful, will go on to be tested in a clinical sample (those diagnosed with OCD). This could hold potential implications of a better understanding of this psychiatric disorder by identifying causal agents or maintenance influences.

How will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Your taking part in this study will be kept confidential by means of password encryption known only to one individual, the investigator. You will be assigned a participant code to protect your personal information such as your name that you give on the subsequent consent form should you wish to take part. This will maintain anonymity.

What will happen to the data collected within this study?

- The data collected will be stored electronically, in a password-protected environment, for 4 months, after which time it will be destroyed under secure conditions.
- The data will be anonymized prior to storage.

Will the data be required for use in further studies?

- The data will not be used in any further studies.

Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed by:

- The University of Hertfordshire Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities Ethics Committee with Delegated Authority

The UH protocol number is (*to be completed upon ethical approval)*

Factors that might put others at risk

Please note that if, during the study, any medical conditions or non-medical circumstances such as unlawful activity become apparent that might or had put others at risk, the University may refer the matter to the appropriate authorities and, under such circumstances, you will be withdrawn from the study.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

If you would like further information or would like to discuss any details personally, please get in touch with me, in writing, by phone or by email: clarkeaaron4@outlook.com

Although we hope it is not the case, if you have any complaints or concerns about any aspect of the way you have been approached or treated during the course of this study, please write to the University's Secretary and Registrar at the following address:

Secretary and Registrar
University of Hertfordshire
College Lane
Hatfield
Herts
AL10 9AB

Thank you very much for reading this information and giving consideration to taking part in this study.