

Dr Susanne Schweizer  
School of Psychology  
University of New South Wales  
NSW Sydney 2052  
AUSTRALIA



**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM – Parent Guardian**  
Social Risk Factors and Adolescent Mental Health

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to invite your child to participate in our research project, which is led by Dr Susanne Schweizer at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) School of Psychology.

This study has been approved by the UNSW Human Research Ethics Committee [Project ID Number]: **HC200214**.

Participation is entirely **voluntary**. Before you decide whether your child may take part, we would like to tell you why the research is being done and what it will involve.

Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with your child. A member of the team can be contacted if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information about any aspect of the study.

### **1. What is the research study about and why is it important?**

Adolescence is a particular risk period for the development of mental health difficulties. In fact, 75% of all mental health disorders will first appear before the end of adolescence. In order to identify strategies that may prevent the onset of such difficulties, we need to **identify factors that place adolescents at risk for mental health difficulties**.

In this study we are looking at **how young people respond in social situations**, and whether their sensitivity and response tendencies in social situations can protect them or may put them at risk for mental health problems.

### **2. Who is conducting this research?**

The study is being carried out by members of the UNSW School of Psychology under the supervision of Dr Susanne Schweizer. The team members involved in this study are PhD student Ms Savannah Minihan and honours student Ms Cassandra Kwok.

**Research Funder:** This research is being funded by an NHMRC Ideas Grant (Grant number: 1184136).

### **3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria**

Before you decide to allow your child to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that it is ok for your child to take part. The research study is looking for individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Are aged 11-30 years
- Have native fluency in English
- Have access to the internet and a computer OR laptop OR tablet to complete the study on
- No history of diagnosed developmental conditions, special educational needs, and/or neurological and neurodevelopmental disorders (including but not limited to dyslexia, autism spectrum disorder, epilepsy)
- No history of traumatic brain injury

### **4. Do I have to take part in this research study?**

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you do not want your child to take part, you do not have to. If you agree for your child to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw your child from the study at any stage.

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If you decide you want your child to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Read the information carefully (ask questions if necessary).
- Sign and return the consent form if you decide to consent to your child's participation in the study. Please go to [https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4OWbEQPRGHljUKp](https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4OWbEQPRGHljUKp) and complete and submit the consent form. Alternatively, you can return the consent form to Ms Savannah Minihan via email: [s.minihan@unsw.edu.au](mailto:s.minihan@unsw.edu.au).
- Take a copy of this form with you to keep.

## 5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?

Your child can complete the study online. After you consent to their participation we will send them a link asking them whether they agree to participate in the study and if they do the study will start. It is important that they complete the study in a quiet environment without distractions.

Your child will be asked to complete a variety of cognitive tasks, as well as questionnaires relating to well-being, sensitivity in social situations, and parenting. We are asking about these things because they have been related to how young people feel and behave in social situations.

The cognitive tasks will assess the following:

- Working memory (ability to store information in memory for short amounts of time) – your child will be shown a series of digits superimposed over neutral and negative (e.g., snakes, wounded animals) images and will be asked to recall the numbers in the reverse order that they were presented.
- Interpretation bias (tendency to think about social situations in a positive or negative way) – your child will be shown a series of scrambled sentences and will be asked to unscramble these to form sentences
- Responses to ambiguous social scenarios (responses in uncertain social situations) – your child will be shown a series of ambiguous social situations and will be asked to indicate which of two possible resolutions they believe most likely to occur

The entire study will last no longer than 90 minutes.

Throughout the study your child will be reminded that they can contact the research team if they have any questions or concerns about the study.

**Additional Costs and Reimbursement:** There are no costs associated with participating in this research project. Your child will receive a gift voucher for the total of AUD\$20 for taking part in this research study. Please note, your child will only receive compensation if they complete the study faithfully. We test this in two ways: (1) by including items that check they are reading and paying attention to the questions and (2) by checking that their performance on the cognitive tasks are within the range of human responses. They can select from their preferred online platform: Apple Store, Google Play, Amazon or Coles/Myer. They will receive the gift voucher via email upon completion of the study.

**Psychological Distress:** Your child may find that some of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting. If your child does not wish to answer a question or complete a task, they may skip it and go to the next question or task, or they may stop immediately. If they become upset or distressed as a result of participation in the research project, they can contact the research team at any time.

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Alternatively, a number of free contactable support services are included in section 10. Any counselling or support will be provided by qualified staff who are not members of the research team. This counselling will be provided free of charge.

## 6. What will happen to information about me and my child?

By signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using information about you and your child for the research study.

The research team will store the data collected from you or your child for this research project for a minimum of 10 years, or longer if it is needed to fulfil scientific journal publication requirements. After this time, it will be destroyed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation.

The data will be stored securely at the School of Psychology at University of New South Wales. Information collected from you and your child in an electronic format will be stored on a UNSW password protected Onedrive only accessible to the approved research investigators. Information collected from you and your child using paper-based measures will be stored in the Mathews Building, School of Psychology, and only the approved research investigators will have access to this information.

The research team will take all reasonable steps to protect your child's privacy. Their data will be coded and will not be associated with their name or any other information that could reveal their identity.

You will be asked to provide your consent for the research team to share or use the information collected from you or your child in future research. Data from this study will be made available open access by positing the fully anonymised (i.e., non-identifiable) dataset on the UNSW data repository. Researchers who would like to use this data can request it from the research team.

The information you or your child provides is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPI Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).

## 7. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

The research team intend to publish and report the results of the research in scientific journals and at scientific conferences. All Information will be published and reported in a way that will not identify you or your child.

If you would like to receive a summary of the findings upon completion of this study, you can indicate as such on the consent form below.

## 8. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you do consent for your child to participate, you or your child may withdraw at any time. You can do so by completing the 'Withdrawal of Consent Form' which is provided at the end of this document or you can ring or email the research team and tell them you no longer want to participate. Your decision not to

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participate or to withdraw from the study will not affect your relationship with UNSW Sydney. If you decide to leave the research study, the researchers will not collect additional information from you. You can request that any identifiable information about you be withdrawn from the research project.

### 9. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

#### Complaints Contact

<b>Position</b>	UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator
<b>Telephone</b>	+ 61 2 9385 6222
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:humanethics@unsw.edu.au">humanethics@unsw.edu.au</a>
<b>HC Reference Number</b>	HC200214

### 10. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement or your child's involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

#### Research Team Contact Details

<b>Name</b>	Savannah Minihan
<b>Position</b>	PhD Student
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:s.minihan@unsw.edu.au">s.minihan@unsw.edu.au</a>
<b>Working with Children Check:</b>	WWC0121768E

<b>Name</b>	Cassandra Kwok
<b>Position</b>	Honours Student
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:cassandra.kwok@student.unsw.edu.au">cassandra.kwok@student.unsw.edu.au</a>
<b>Working with Children Check:</b>	WWC1114310E

#### Chief Investigator

<b>Name</b>	Dr Susanne Schweizer
<b>Position</b>	Senior Lecturer
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:s.schweizer@unsw.edu.au">s.schweizer@unsw.edu.au</a>
<b>Working with Children Check:</b>	WWC2116209E

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**Support Services Contact Details**

If at any stage during the study, you or your child becomes distressed or require additional support from someone not involved in the research please call:

<b>Name/Organisation</b>	Professor Angela Nickerson
<b>Position</b>	Professor, Clinical Psychologist
<b>Email</b>	a.nickerson@unsw.edu.au

If you and your child are based in Australia, you can also find a list of 24-hour services at the following website: <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/mental-health-helplines>. If you and your child are based outside of Australia, please contact your doctor for advice and support available in your local area.

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## Parental Consent Form

**I confirm that I understand that by ticking each box below I am consenting to this element of the study. I understand that it will be assumed that unticked boxes means that I DO NOT consent to that part of the study.**

**I understand that by not giving consent for any one element that my child may be deemed ineligible for the study.**

		Tick Box
1.	<b>*I understand the Information Sheet</b> I read about the above study. I had the time to think about the study and whether I would like my child to participate. I also had the opportunity to ask questions which have been answered to my satisfaction	
2.	*I agree for the researchers to process and analyse the data (any responses on tasks and questionnaires you complete) my child provides in this study.	
3.	<b>Use of the information for this project</b>  *I understand that all my and my child's <b>personal information will remain confidential</b> and that the researchers will make sure my child cannot be identified in any publications (these are articles written and talks given by researchers) about the study.	
4.	*I understand that my child's information may be viewed by responsible individuals from the University of New South Wales who want to check that the researchers are doing their research properly.	
5.	*I understand that my child's <b>participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw my child at any time without giving a reason.</b> I understand that if I decide to withdraw my child from the study, any data (information) my child has provided up to that point will be deleted unless I agree otherwise.	
6.	I understand the potential risks for my child of participating in this study (none are expected for this study). I also know that I can let the researchers know should my child get upset by any aspect of the study.	
7.	I understand the benefits of participating of the study for my child (none are expected for this study).	
8.	I understand that the data from this study will <b>not be made available to any commercial organisations.</b>	
9.	I understand that my child will only get paid the amount outlined in the information sheet and they won't receive any other financial (money) benefits from participating.	
10.	I understand that if I withdraw my child they will be paid for all aspects of the study they completed until that point.	
11.	I understand that the results from this research study may be published anonymously and will be made available to me via email.	
12.	I confirm that I understand who can take part and who can't take part in this study. And I confirm that my child meets all the criteria for taking part	
13.	I am aware of whom I should contact if I or my child wish to complain about the study.	

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14.	I voluntarily agree for my child to take part in this study. That means that no one has put any pressure on me or my child to take part in this study.	
15.	The data that my child and other people provide during this study will be kept safely and in line with the laws called General Data Protection Regulation for 10 years at the University of New South Wales	
16.	I agree that my <b>fully anonymised</b> [No one will be able to identify you when this data is shared] research data <b>may be used by others for future research.</b>	

**If you would like your contact details to be retained so that you can be contacted in the future by UNSW researchers who would like to invite you to participate in follow up studies to this project, or in future studies of a similar nature, please tick the appropriate box below.**

Yes, I would be happy to be contacted in this way.	
No, I would not like to be contacted.	

IF YES, please enter your email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to receive a summary of the research findings upon completion of this study?**

**If so, please provide your email below (understanding that your email will be used for this purpose only) or leave blank if you wish to remain anonymous.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**By clicking the box below,**

I consent for my child to take part in this study.

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## Form for Withdrawal of Participation

I wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent for my child to participate in this research study described above and understand that such withdrawal **WILL NOT** affect mine or my child's relationship with The University of New South Wales.

- I am withdrawing my child's consent and I would like any identifiable information collected about me or my child which I have provided for the purpose of this research study withdrawn.
- I am withdrawing my consent and I understand that any information already published and/or not linked to my identity cannot be withdrawn from the research.

### Participant Name

Name of Participant (please type)	
Date	

**The section for Withdrawal of Participation should be forwarded to:**  
**Chief Investigator**

<b>Name</b>	Dr Susanne Schweizer
<b>Position</b>	Senior Lecturer
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:s.schweizer@unsw.edu.au">s.schweizer@unsw.edu.au</a>
<b>Working with Children Check:</b>	WWC2116209E