School of Psychology
Information Sheet

The University of Nottingham
UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA

Title of Project: **Investigating the Role of the Frontal Eye Fields in Saccadic Suppression: A Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Study**

Ethics Approval Number: S1693R
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This is an invitation to take part in a research study on visual perception and eye movements. Before you decide if you wish to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

If you participate, you will be invited to attend to attend the eye tracking lab located within the School of Psychology for three sessions where you will need to complete simple computerised visual tasks. Sessions will consist of 2x 45mins, and 1x 1hr45mins (approx.). Briefly, you will be required to sit in front of a computer and look at the centre of the screen. A target will appear to the left or right of the screen for a brief period. You are required to make a rapid eye movement to the location of this target. During your eye movement one half of the screen will be covered by a series of dark and light horizontal bars for a few milliseconds. You will be asked to report which half of the screen you think was covered.

If you decide to participate in this study, you will receive continuous Theta Burst stimulation (cTBS) which has a temporary effect of increasing or decreasing brain cell activity. This involves a coil being placed on the head to deliver magnetic pulses to the brain. This is a safe and painless procedure as used in the School of Psychology and has no long-term effects. TMS has been safely used in research and medicine for decades. The most serious potential risk of TMS is seizure, however this risk is extremely low in healthy adults at normal levels of stimulation. As a precaution you will be asked to complete a safety screening questionnaire and a follow-up questionnaire to report any unexpected after-effects.

In susceptible individuals, TMS may cause tension-type headaches that usually respond well to mild analgesics (e.g., paracetamol). This is however infrequent. Should a headache develop, please tell us right away so that we can immediately discontinue the study. In some cases, depending on the site of stimulation, there is the possibility of uncomfortable muscle stimulation. We will try to reduce this, but if the procedure happens to be uncomfortable, the experiment will be terminated.

In this study, TMS will be delivered over one brain region (the Frontal Eye Fields) in all sessions. This region has safely been stimulated in the past, with no known issues. Few participants report discomfort during TMS procedures; however, we encourage you to let the researcher know if this is the case so that accommodations can be made to minimise this.

Throughout this session, we will also monitor your eye movements through a camera placed below the computer screen. This special equipment can record the position of your eyes but does not record any video.

You will be provided with an inconvenience allowance for your time.

Participation in this study is totally voluntary and you are under no obligation to take part. You are free to withdraw at any point before or during the study. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for research purposes only. It will be stored in compliance with the Data Protection Act.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to ask now. We can also be contacted after your participation at the above address.

If you have any complaints about the study, please contact:
Stephen Jackson (Chair of Ethics Committee)
stephen.jackson@nottingham.ac.uk