



## Social context of anomalous experiences

### Q1

#### Welcome

Welcome to the online research study. If you decide to take part, this study will take about 25 minutes to complete. However, before you decide whether to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. You can email us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Please note that once you have clicked on the 'Continue' button at the bottom of each page you cannot return to review or amend that page.

#### Information

##### **Social context of anomalous experiences**

###### **What is the purpose of the study?**

Recent research has shown that many people describe having anomalous ('unusual') experiences, such as out-of-the-ordinary perceptions, feelings, or spiritual-type experiences that are somehow different to everyday life. We are interested in studying some of the factors that influence these experiences and their outcomes, i.e. whether they are helpful or unhelpful, or whether they lead to benefits or problems in other areas of life. In particular, this study is interested in the role of social processes in anomalous experiences; for instance, whether experiences are influenced by how people see themselves in relation to others, how they think they are seen by others, as well as the kind of relationship they have with themselves.

###### **Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited because you are a member of general population with access to the internet. We don't know anything about your personal experiences, nor are we making any assumptions about these. We want to recruit as wide a range as possible, so it doesn't matter whether or not you think you have these kinds of experiences. We just hope you will answer the questions as accurately and truthfully as you can.

###### **Do I have to take part?**

It is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, there is a short consent form to complete at the foot of this page. You are still free to withdraw at any time in the process of the study without giving a reason. If you have started the online questionnaire, but then navigate away from the webpage before reaching the end, it will be assumed that you no longer wish to take part in the study, and any data collected up to this point (from clicking a 'Continue' button) will not be included in the study.

###### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

Taking part will involve completing this online questionnaire (approximately 25 minutes of your time). In the questionnaire are some questions about social relationships as well some questions about anomalous experiences. You will then be invited to complete a (slightly shorter) follow-up questionnaire in 6 months.

###### **What are the possible risks of taking part?**

No risks anticipated

###### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

If you complete this questionnaire today, you can instantly enter a prize draw involving cash prizes for three randomly selected participants (1<sup>st</sup> £100; 2<sup>nd</sup> £50; 3<sup>rd</sup> £25). You will also be given the option of entering an additional prize draw for completing the 6-month follow-up (1<sup>st</sup> £100; 2<sup>nd</sup> £50; 3<sup>rd</sup> £25), and if you are among the first 50 participants, an additional prize draw for completing a 7-day follow-up (1<sup>st</sup> £100; 2<sup>nd</sup> £50; 3<sup>rd</sup> £25).

#### Information and Consent Form

Version 1, 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2014

King's College Research Ethics Committee ref: PNM/14/15-26

**Will my taking part be kept confidential?**

All the information collected during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential, and will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, secured against unauthorised access. At no point in this study will you be requested to provide your name, and the only identifiable information you will be asked for is your email address. This is purely to inform you if you are selected for one of the cash prizes, and to send you a link and password for the 6-month follow-up questionnaire. Your email address will not be seen by anyone other than the primary researcher. As soon as the questionnaires and prize draws are finished, your data will be assigned an anonymous numerical coding, and your email address will be deleted.

**How is the project being funded?**

The project is funded through a Medical Research Council (MRC) Clinical Research Training Fellowship awarded to Dr Charlie Heriot-Maitland (ref: MR/L01677X/1).

**What will happen to the results of the study?**

The research should be completed by mid-2017. The results will be written-up and submitted for an academic qualification and for a peer-reviewed journal. This will be openly accessible through King's College London's publications repository. No individual will be identifiable from the published results.

**Who should I contact for further information?**

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact me using the following contact details:

Primary Researcher

Dr Charlie Heriot-Maitland, MRC Clinical Research Training Fellow  
King's College London, IoPPN (PO78)  
De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AF  
Email: [charles.heriot-maitland@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:charles.heriot-maitland@kcl.ac.uk) / Tel: 07710 386138

**What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?**

If this study has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the study you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

Research Supervisor

Dr Emmanuelle Peters, Reader in Clinical Psychology  
King's College London, IoPPN (PO77)  
De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AF  
Email: [emmanuelle.peters@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:emmanuelle.peters@kcl.ac.uk) / Tel: 020 7848 0347

Review Subcommittee

The Chair, Psychiatry, Nursing & Midwifery Research Ethics Subcommittee (PNM RESC)  
King's College London, Research Support Office, 5.2 Franklin Wilkins Building  
Stamford Street, London SE1 9NH  
Email: [rec@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:rec@kcl.ac.uk)

**Thank you for reading this information and for considering taking part in this research.**

**Consent form**

**Please complete this form after you have read the information above**

**Title of study: Social context of anomalous experiences**

**King's College Research Ethics Committee ref: PNM/14/15-26**

Thank you for considering taking part in this research. If you have any questions arising from the information above, please contact the researcher before you decide whether to join in.

1. I confirm that I understand that by selecting 'Yes' in each box below I am consenting to this element of the study. I understand that selecting 'No' means that I DO NOT consent to that part of the study. I understand that by not giving consent for any one element I may be deemed ineligible for the study.

Yes  No

2. I confirm that I have read and understood the information about this study. I have had the opportunity to consider the information and to contact the researcher if I have had any questions.

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Yes  No

**3.** I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving any reason.

Yes  No

**4.** I consent to the processing of my personal information for the purposes explained above. I understand that such information will be handled in accordance with the terms of the UK Data Protection Act 1998.

Yes  No

**5.** I understand that my non-personal, anonymised information may be subject to review by responsible individuals from the College for monitoring and audit purposes.

Yes  No

**6.** I understand that confidentiality and anonymity will be maintained and it will not be possible to identify me in any publications.

Yes  No

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