

2012

Comparing risk-taking and digit ratio (2D:4D) in offenders and non-offenders

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The Plymouth Student Scientist
University of Plymouth

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Appendix A

University of Plymouth

Consent to take part in a risk taking study

You have volunteered to take part in a research project about risk taking; you do not have to take part. If you choose not to take part this will not go against you in any way. You will earn £8 per hour of the study; in addition, you will be able to earn more money. How much more money, however, will depend on your performance. I am going to give you some information and then ask if you would like to take part.

Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being carried out by Taja Anderson on behalf of Yaniv Hanoch from the University of Plymouth. He can be contacted via email on yaniv.hanoch@gmail.com should you have any further questions after today.

The study

The study will be carried out using six paper questionnaires, one computer based decision task and I will also ask to scan both of your hands. All are related to risk taking behaviour. We do not ask you any identifying information.

1. You will be asked to choose between different gambles (do you prefer a loss of £5 for sure, or 95% or losing £100?).
2. You will be asked to indicate the likelihood of you taking different kinds of risks, and your perception of these risks.
3. You will have to decide between two hypothetical rewards: One immediate but small, and one that is larger but requires a longer waiting time.
4. We will also like to assess how you deal with decision situations after the decision has been made, specifically the extent to which you experience regret.
5. We will also ask you questions about your personality.
6. You will be asked to complete a computer task. In this task, you accumulate rewards by inflating balloons (by clicking a button on the screen using the computer mouse). For each successful pump. You will receive 0.5p towards a final reward. However, each balloon has an explosion threshold that varies, and which, if reached, causes the balloon to explode and the loss of all points for that particular balloon.
7. You will be asked to allow us to scan both of your hands.

All questionnaires will be explained fully to you. There are no right or wrong answers, and whatever you respond will not go against you in any way, so please answer as best you can.

How will it work?

You will be asked to answer the questions and write down the responses yourself. However, we will talk you through the instructions and sit with you to assist in any way we can. If you do not agree to take part, it will take roughly an hour to complete the study.

What happens with my answers?

We are hoping to gather answers from over 75 participants, so your answers will then be compiled together. The results will be written as a report and may be published.

Confidentiality

The questionnaires, computer task, images of your hands and any reports that are written up will remain anonymous. Your name will only be used in this consent form to keep a record of who has taken part in this study. A unique number will be given to you, which will be recorded on all of your answer sheets for the study. Your answers will be kept confidential at all times and treated with respect.

Withdrawal

Your decision to take part in this study is entirely voluntary. If you do not wish to take part this will not affect you in any way. You can stop at anytime and you are free to refuse to complete any questions/questionnaires you are not happy with. Once you have completed the questionnaires/computer based task you can only withdraw your answers using your unique number. I understand that I will not be penalised for participating or withdrawing.

Do you have any questions?

Consent to take part in study 2011

If you have or had a gambling addiction, we seriously advise you refrain from participating in this study. Gambling addiction helpline information can be found in <http://www.gamcare.org.uk/> or by calling 0845 6000 133.

I understand that the Principal Investigator of this work will have attempted, as far as possible, to avoid any risks, and that any health and safety risks will have been separately assessed by appropriate authorities (e.g. under COSHH regulations).

I confirm that I understand the details of the study. I agree to answer the questionnaires and computer task, have my hands scanned, for my answers to be included in the study, and for my personal information (e.g. age) to be taken into account. I understand my answers will be made anonymous throughout the study and in any reports written up by using a unique number.

Print Name

Signature

Date

Appendix B

1. What is your age? _____

2. What is your weekly income?
 - £0 - £100
 - £101 - £200
 - £201 - £300
 - £301 - £400
 - £401 - £500
 - £501 - £600
 - £601 - £700

3. Do you have a job?
 - Yes
 - No

4. What is your education level?
 - Key stage level 1
 - Key stage level 2
 - GCSE's
 - A levels
 - Diploma
 - Degree
 - Vocational training
 - No education

5. Number of previous convictions.
 - 0
 - 1-5
 - 6-10
 - More than 10

6. When was your last conviction? (if you had one)
 - No previous convictions
 - 0-3 years ago
 - 4-6 years ago
 - 7-10 years ago
 - Over 10 years ago

7. Offence type (please mark more than one if needed).
 - Drug offences
 - Firearms/weapons
 - Fraud/Forgery
 - Motoring Offences
 - Theft and Burglary
 - Robbery
 - Sexual
 - Violence other than murder/manslaughter
 - Murder/Manslaughter
 - Other (please state) _____

Appendix C

Debrief – Risk taking study

You have contributed to the worldwide scientific understanding of human risk taking behaviour, so thank you for participating in this study.

The research you just participated in has a number of goals. We were interested in examining risk taking behaviour. We have measured your risk taking behaviour in a range of areas, such as financial, social and health. In addition, we used a computer task that evaluates your risk taking tendencies. You also completed two measures that examine your impulsive behaviour. Our objective was to look at whether being impulsive is also related to risk taking behaviour. We also used a questionnaire that helps us examine the relationship between personality traits and risk taking. Finally we scanned your hands. This is because there is evidence to suggest that the ratio between the 2nd and 4th digits is related to risk taking.

We are hoping to gather answers from over 75 participants, so your answers will be compiled together. The results will be written as a report and may be published. The questionnaires, computer task, images of your hands and any reports that are written up will remain anonymous. Your answers will be kept confidential at all times and treated with respect.

If you would like more information on the study after today, you can contact the head of research, Dr. Yaniv Hanoch at:

Yaniv.hanoch@gmail.com

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