

Human Subjects Approval

Principal Investigator: C. Malone

Co-Investigators: C. [REDACTED]

Title of Study: social pressure hinders eyewitness testimony

Date of Approval: 2/27/2012

After making the requested changes to your proposal, the Psychology Department Review Committee (a subgroup of the IRB) has reviewed your proposed study and has determined that the participants are at no more than minimal risk. Therefore, your study is approved and you may proceed with your study. Should there be any significant change in the methods or materials you presented for approval, please inform the Department Review Committee.

You are required to complete a *Project Completion/Continuing Review Form* by the end of the academic year.

This notice is sent to the Principal Investigator only. Please inform any co-investigators of this notification.

Approved by: Gary Nickell, Chair DRC



Gary Nickell
Department Review Committee

nickellg@mnstate.edu
(218) 477-4080

- Institutional Review Board (submit completed form to Graduate Studies Office)
 Departmental Review Committee (submit completed form to Committee Chair)

Human Research Approval Form

Principal Investigator (must be MSUM faculty or staff):

Date: 2/16/12

Name: Christine P. Malone

Dragon ID No: 00256185

Department: Psychology

Telephone No: 218-477-2804

Building/Room No: Bridges Hall 360G

E-mail address: malonech@mnstate.edu

Signature: *Christine P. Malone*

NIH Training? Yes No

Co-Investigator: Attach separate sheet if more than two

Name: [REDACTED]

Faculty Graduate Student Undergraduate Student

Department or Program: Psychology

Telephone: [REDACTED]

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Dragon ID No: [REDACTED]

NIH Training? Yes No

Signature: *Corinne Johnson*

Co-Investigator: Attach separate sheet if more than two

Name: _____

Faculty Graduate Student Undergraduate Student

Department or Program: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Dragon ID No: _____

NIH Training? Yes No

Signature: _____

Title of study: Social Pressure Hinders Eyewitness Testimony

Date submitted: 2/16/12

Project starting date: 2/28/12

Project ending date: 5/8/12

Request: Exempt Status (complete *Request for Exempt Status*)

Submit 2 copies (original and 1 photocopy)

Expedited Review (include reasons below)

Submit 2 copies (original and 1 photocopy)

Full Review

Submit 12 copies (original and 11 photocopies)

Reason for requesting Expedited Review:

There is no more than a minimal risk to participants.

Institutional Review Board Recommendation:

Exempt Status Approval: Yes No Revise and Resubmit (see attached)

Expedited Review Approval: Yes No Revise and Resubmit (see attached)

Full Review Approval: Yes No Revise and Resubmit (see attached)

IRB Chair's Signature *Jim [unclear]*

Date 2/27/12

This form and complete instructions are available online at: <http://www.mnstate.edu/irb>

- Institutional Review Board**
(submit completed form to Graduate Studies Office)
- Departmental Review Committee**
(submit completed form to Committee Chair)



Institutional Review Board Ethical Compliance Questionnaire

Name of Principal Investigator:	Christine P. Malone
Title of Study:	Social Pressure Hinders Eyewitness Testimony

Instructions: Complete all items on this form and/or on a separate sheet of paper attached to this form. The table format used on this form will expand as you enter text.

I. Subject Recruitment and Requirements
<p>1. What type and how many human subjects will you require? (gender, age, location, affiliation, special characteristics, estimated number required)</p> <p>We will need a total of 60 undergraduate students from MSUM.</p>
<p>2. Where and how do you propose to recruit subjects?</p> <p>A volunteer sign-up sheet will be posted on the Psychology Department research bulletin board, which is located across from the Psychology Department office (Bridges 360). Students volunteering to participate will sign up for a 20-minute time period. The informal title of "Memory Recognition" will be used on the sign-up sheet.</p>
<p>3. If your study involves subjects in institutions other than MSUM (schools, hospitals, other agencies), how will institutional consent be obtained? A signed letter of permission from an institutional representative is required. Attach copy to proposal.</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>4. How much time will be required of each subject?</p> <p>One 20-minute appointment will be required for each participant.</p>
<p>5. Will subjects be compensated for participation? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>The only compensation participants will receive is a department research participation card to submit for 20 minutes of extra credit in a psychology course. The extra credit card may only be used if the instructor allows it to be used for extra credit.</p>
<p>6. Is confidentiality assured? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, how?</p> <p>All records of responses will be stored in the primary investigator's office in a locked file cabinet. Further, response sheets will contain codes and not names. Participants' responses will be reported at a group level only. Participants will not be personally identified in any report, publication, or presentation that results from this study.</p> <p>If no, why not?</p>
<p>7. What benefits do subjects obtain by participating?</p> <p>Participants will gain experience in research studies examining the misinformation effect and eyewitness testimony. Students will also receive 20 minutes of extra credit to apply to a psychology class if their Professor allows.</p>

II. Subject Risk

Certain practices are generally to be avoided. If any are included in the proposed study, check the blank next to the appropriate category and justify with attachments.

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deceptions | <input type="checkbox"/> Pain, threat, or aversive stimulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Embarrassment | <input type="checkbox"/> Invasion of privacy |
|--|--|--|--|

III. Informed Consent

A copy of the signed Informed Consent form must be given to subjects or guardians. For surveys and questionnaires that do not involve sensitive topics or minors, return of the questionnaire can be taken as implying consent. However, a cover letter must be included which contains the elements of consent and gives enough information about the survey that the subjects can choose to participate or not. Attach copy of cover letter if appropriate.

Minors and/or Adults Incapable of Giving Consent

1. Will your study use minors or adults legally incapable of giving consent? Yes No

If yes, how will permission be obtained from parents or guardians and assent from the subject?

2. Is informed consent form, method of obtaining assent, and/or cover letter attached? Yes No

Consenting Adults

1. If subjects are of legal age and capable of giving consent, how will consent be obtained?

2. Is informed consent form or cover letter attached? Yes No

IV. Debriefing

1. Will subjects be provided with feedback about the study? Yes No

If yes, when and how?

Students will receive general information about the misinformation effect, conformity and eyewitness testimony. They will be given a debriefing statement stating that the "Memory Recognition" study was actually about social pressure, conformity and eyewitness testimony.

2. Is a debriefing form attached? Yes No
Include debriefing statement when applicable.

3. If deception has been used, how will the subjects be informed?

The participants will be told verbally after the study that the experiment was not used to test memory recognition. The participants will be told that the study was used to test the effect of social pressure on conformity in an eyewitness testimony situation. Deception was necessary because if the participants were told the test was for the accuracy of eyewitness testimony then the participants could be motivated to choose the correct eyewitness testimony answer resulting in skewed data.

4. What follow-up supports will be available if subjects experience undesirable consequences of participation?

Students will be given contact information for the principle investigator and for the MSUM counseling center.

Materials

1. What questionnaires, inventories, tests, or other instruments will be used? Attach copies of investigator-prepared materials or a description of commercially prepared or copyrighted materials.

A twenty-second video of a convenience store being robbed will be used.

A memory recognition test will be used containing five multiple choice questions about the convenience store robbery along with a seven-point Likert scale under each multiple choice question, 1 being not confident at all and 7 being very confident. The memory recognition test and seven-point Likert scale is attached.

A layout of five male blonde mug shots will be used for the fifth multiple choice question. The mug shots are attached.

2. Will you make audio-tapes, video-tapes, or photographs of subjects? Yes No

Consent must be obtained from subjects in the informed consent form for these types of materials. Include statements about assurance of confidentiality, the planned use and eventual disposition of these materials (i.e., use of materials at conferences, published research, posting to the internet).

3. What electrical, electronic, or mechanical equipment will be used? If any have been specially constructed or modified for use in this study, provide a description with sufficient detail so that any physical danger may be assessed. Supplementary documents may be attached if necessary.

A standard Gateway PC will be used to present the video for the experiment.

Federal guidelines required that *all* materials related to the research be retained for at least three years. See current copy of *Code of Federal Regulations* for details.

This form and complete instructions are available online at: <http://web.mnstate.edu/lrb>

Justification for Deception

In the present study deception must be used by telling the participants that the study is a memory recognition test. I must tell the students that the study is a memory recognition test so they will not know the real purpose of the present study is to test the effect of social pressure on conformity in an eyewitness testimony situation. The participants are free to leave at any time during the present study and they will be debriefed about the deception verbally and in written format. The participants will be told that the study was not used to examine memory recognition primarily, but that it was used to examine the effects of social pressure on conformity and how that hinders the accuracy of eyewitness testimony. The participants will be told that a conformist is one who follows the majority's desires or expectations and that individuals who hear misleading post event information after seeing an event happen are less likely to report accurate details of that event and are more likely to conform to the confederates response and incorporate the misinformation into their testimony compared to participants in a control group. The participants in the misinformation group will then be told that while participating in the study a confederate was in the room with them and that a confederate is an actor who participates in the experiment and was the person responsible for delivering the misinformation. The misinformation in the current study was the confederate stating that the obvious answer for the mug shot question was a certain mug shot. The participants will be told that the correct response to the mug shot identification question was that the mug shots do not correspond to the convenience store robber.

Abstract

Sixty undergraduate college students will view a video of a convenience store robbery. Students will be put into either the "misinformation group" or the "non-misinformation group" and given a multiple choice test asking about the crime in the video. The last question on the test will ask the students to choose a mug shot of the convenience store robber or choose the option of none of the photos corresponding to the convenience store robbers' identity. The students in the "misinformation group" will be with a confederate and the confederate will always choose a mug shot and say it out loud. The students in the "non-misinformation group" will be with a confederate but the confederate will not shout out the answer to the mug shot question. It is predicted that the students in the misinformation condition with a confederate will have a high conformity rate and conform to the confederate's incorrect mug shot choice. It is also predicted that students in the non-misinformation condition will consistently choose the option of none of the photos corresponding to the convenience store robbers identity because there will be no social pressure to conform to the confederates choice.

Method

Participants

Participants included in this present study will be sixty undergraduate students from Minnesota State University Moorhead lower-level psychology courses. Participants will volunteer for the present study by signing a sign-up sheet in the Psychology Department. The informal title of "Memory Recognition" will be used for the sign-up sheet, consent form, and debriefing form. Students will receive extra credit for participating if allowed by their psychology professor. All participants will be run in pairs with a confederate present. Participants assigned to the misinformation group will be run with a confederate who shouts out the answer to the mug shot question and those in the non-misinformation group will be run with a confederate present but the confederate will not shout out the mug shot question.

Materials

The study will include a twenty-six second color video of a convenience store being robbed from YouTube. The video is slightly blurred due to the quality of the convenience store security camera; however, the quality is good enough to convey the major features of the robber. In the video a blonde man is purchasing an item at the convenience store and when the cash register opens he jumps onto the counter and tries to steal the money. Immediately the female clerk grabs the robber's hands and wrestles with him until he runs away.

A memory recognition test will be used (see Appendix A) containing five multiple choice questions about the convenience store robbery along with a seven-point Likert scale under each multiple choice question, 1 being not confident at all and 7 being very confident. A layout of four male blonde mug shots will be used for the fifth multiple choice question (see Appendix B). The layout of the four blonde male mug shots does not include the actual convenience store

robber. All materials are exactly the same in the misinformation condition and in the non-misinformation condition.

Procedure

Participants will be randomly assigned to either the misinformation group or the non-misinformation group and participants will be in pairs during the experiment. The students assigned to the misinformation group will watch the twenty-six second video of a convenience store being robbed by a male blonde individual. Right before the study is to begin a confederate will come into the room and ask if it is too late to join the study. Fifteen of the students assigned to the misinformation group will receive a female confederate and the other fifteen students assigned to the misinformation group will receive a male confederate. The experimenter will let the confederate join the study and the student will think the confederate is just another student doing the study with them. The experimenter will tell the student and the confederate to watch the convenience store robbery.

After watching the video the experimenter will give the multiple choice test. When both the participant and the confederate get to the last multiple choice question the experimenter will lay out the four male blonde mug shots and leave the room. When the experimenter leaves the room the confederate will then say out loud with confidence what mug shot they chose. The experimenter will then enter the room and wait until the student and the participant finish the multiple choice test. Next to each question on the multiple choice test will be a seven- point Likert scale for the student and the confederate to rate the confidence in their answers to the multiple choice questions and the mug shot question.

The thirty students assigned to the non-misinformation group will watch the twenty-six second video of the convenience store being robbed in pairs of two including a confederate.

Fifteen of the students assigned to the non-misinformation group will receive a female confederate and the other fifteen students assigned to the non-misinformation group will receive a male confederate. After watching the video the experimenter will give the student and the confederate the multiple choice test. When the students get to question number five the experimenter will lay out the four male blonde mug shots. The experimenter will then wait until the student's finish the multiple choice test. The confederate will not shout out the answer to the mug shot question.

After the materials are collected from the participants they will receive a debriefing form stating that the experiment was studying the effects of social pressure on conformity in an eyewitness testimony situation. Students will then receive a department research participation card for extra credit if their Professor allows it. The entire study will last about 20 minutes.

Appendix A

Please circle the correct answer to the following multiple choice questions. After answering each question please provide your confidence rating for each answer.

1. The convenience store clerk was wearing what color t-shirt?

- a. Black
- b. Red
- c. White
- d. Blue

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Not confident at all

Neutral

Very confident

2. The convenience store robber had what color hair

- a. Red
- b. Blonde
- c. Grey
- d. Brown

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Not confident at all

Neutral

Very confident

3. The convenience store robber

- a. Jumped over the counter to steal the money
- b. Went around the counter to steal the money
- c. Jumped onto the counter to steal the money
- d. Yelled for the money

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Not confident at all

Neutral

Very confident

4. The convenience store clerk had

- a. A baseball hat on
- b. No hat on
- c. A cowboy hat on
- d. A sombrero on

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Not confident at all

Neutral

Very confident

5. The mug shot that corresponds to the convenience store robber is

- A. B. C. D. E. None of the photos

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Not confident at all

Neutral

Very confident

Appendix B

A.



B.



C.



D.



Consent to Participate in a Research Study
Psychology Department, Minnesota State University Moorhead
Memory Recognition

You are invited to participate in a study of memory recognition conducted by undergraduate research student at MSUM, under supervision of Dr. Christine Malone, Associate professor of Psychology at MSUM.

Purpose of the study: We hope to learn more about how recognition memory works. We will address these questions by presenting you with a video clip and a multiple choice recognition memory test. You have been asked to participate in this study because you are an MSUM psychology student.

What you will do in this study: If you decide to participate, you will be asked to watch a video of an event and answer some questions about it. The complete instructions will be explained if you decide to participate. A debriefing session in which the particulars of the study are explained will be held immediately following the experiment. The experiment will be carried out in the Psychology Department in Bridges Hall.

Time required: The entire experiment will last about 20 minutes.

Risks: There are no known risks or discomforts associated with participation in this study.

Benefits: This study is designed to further our knowledge of how short-term memory is processed and your participation as an observer will provide you with first-hand experience in research studies examining memory. In addition, you will receive proof of your participation, which may be submitted for extra credit in a psychology course (as allowed by your instructor).

Confidentiality: The responses in this study are being collected for research purposes only. Records of your responses will be stored in the offices or laboratories of the investigator in a locked filing cabinet, and will be made available only to researchers directly involved in the study. Response sheets are coded anonymously, and you will not be personally identified in any report or publication resulting from this study.

Participation and withdrawal: Your participation is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate in this study will not affect your future relationships with the MSUM Psychology department. If you decide to participate, you are free to discontinue your participation at any time without prejudice. No questions will be asked.

Contact: Please feel free to ask questions now or at any time during the study. If you have additional questions later, you can contact Dr. Christine Malone in the Psychology Department, office: Br 360 G, phone: (218) 477-2804, and email: malonech@mnstate.edu.

Whom to contact about your rights in this experiment: You may contact Dr. Richard Adler, chair of MSUM Institutional Review Board at adlerri@mnstate.edu or (218) 477-2474. You may also contact the Psychology Departmental Review Committee Chair, Dr. Gary Nickell at nickellg@mnstate.edu or (218) 477-4080.

Agreement: The purpose and nature of this research have been sufficiently explained and I agree to participate in this study. I understand that I am free to withdraw at any time without incurring any penalty.

In signing this agreement, I also affirm that I am at least 18 years of age or older.

Signature of Participant

Date

Signature of Investigator

Date

Debriefing for Memory Recognition
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Department of Psychology

In this study, participants were randomly assigned to two groups 1- misinformation group 2- non-misinformation group. All participants watched a twenty-six second video of a convenience store robbery. Participants were asked to take a multiple choice test along with a seven-point Likert scale for confidence ratings of each multiple choice question. The misinformation group had a confederate shout out their mug shot answer. The non-misinformation group had a confederate who did not shout out the mug shot answer while participating in the study. Our aim is to determine whether the confederate's social pressure resulted in a tendency for the participant to conform and choose the same mug shot as the confederate for the identification question.

The multiple choice test required participants to answer questions about the convenience store robbery and to pick or not pick a mug shot for the identification question. The identification question is used to determine if participants did conform under low social pressure (a confederate who shouts out the answer) which leads to false eyewitness testimony. The multiple choice test as a whole was used to test the accuracy of participant's participation between the misinformation group and the non-misinformation group. If the participant answered almost all of the multiple choice questions correct before the identification question then he or she is a reliable participant. The seven-point Likert scale is used to compare the confidence ratings to the misinformation group (a confederate who shouts out the answer) and the non-misinformation group (confederate who does not shout out the answer).

The main purpose of this study is to examine the effect of social pressure on conformity in an eyewitness testimony situation. The study was also concerned with memory recognition, but the main purpose was to examine the effects of social pressure on conformity and how that hinders the accuracy of eyewitness testimony. A conformist is one who follows the majority's desires or expectations. People who conform and hear misleading post event information after seeing an event happen are less likely to report accurate details of that event and are more likely to incorporate the misinformation into their testimony compared to participants in a control group.

The participants in the misinformation group and the non-misinformation group had a **confederate** in the room with them while participating. **The confederate in the misinformation group was the participant who entered the room late and asked if it was too late to join the study. A confederate is an actor who participates in the experiment and is the person responsible for delivering the misinformation in the misinformation group. The misinformation in the current study was the confederate stating that the obvious answer for the mug shot question was a certain mug shot.** This is considered as misinformation because according to the video of the convenience store robbery there is no way a participant is able to pick a mug shot out of the selections given because the mug shot of the actual convenience store robber was not conveyed in the mug shot layout.

The anticipated results of the present study are that the participants in the misinformation group will conform to the confederate and pick a mug shot for the identification question. It is also predicted that the participants in the misinformation group will have low confidence ratings for the identification question because they were unsure of their answer because they conformed to the confederate's social pressure. It is anticipated that the participants in the non-misinformation group will not pick a mug shot for the identification question and have high confidence ratings because they are sure of their answer and didn't receive misinformation from the confederate.

The results of this study will be available in early May of 2012 and will be posted on the bulletin board across from the Psychology Department office (Bridges Hall, room 360).

Whom to contact for more information:

If you have questions about this study, or if you would like to receive a summary report of this research when it is completed, please contact Dr. Christine Malone in Bridges Hall, room 360G (phone 218-477-2804).

Whom to contact about your rights in this experiment:

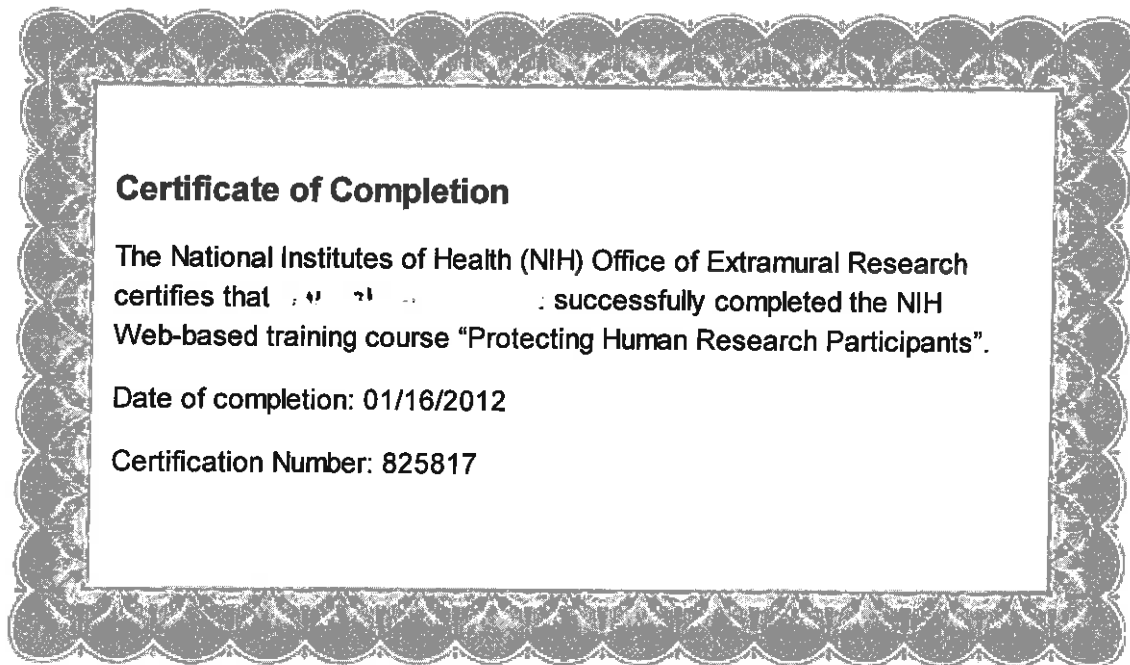
Prof. Gary Nickell, nickellg@mnstate.edu , phone 218-477-4080, Chair, Psychology Department Human Research Committee, or else Dr. Richard Adler, adlerri@mnstate.edu, phone 218-477-2474, Chair of MSUM Institutional Research Board.

If you feel that you are experiencing adverse consequences from this study: Please contact the MSUM Counseling Center at 218-477-2227.

If you are interested in learning more about the topic of this research project you may consult:

<http://faculty.washington.edu/eloftus/Articles/hoff.htm> -- Educational study including the misinformation effect

Thank you for your participation!



Dragon ID:
Psychology Department