**2021 Winter Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **The effects of ownership on interactions with virtual objects** |
| **Positions available:** | **1** |
| **Project duration:** | * 20 hours per week * 5 weeks |
| **Description:** | Many cognitive processes are influenced depending on reference to the self and our concept of self may be extended to include the things we own (the ‘extended self’: Belk, 1988; Constable et al., 2011). In particular, ownership effects have been shown to influence our interactions with the environment and recent evidence suggests that the concept of ownership may be represented in our visuomotor system such that it influences our interactions with owned objects. The current project will examine if ownership effects extend to interactions with virtual objects on a computer screen. Participants will control a cursor to interact with virtual objects that have been arbitrarily assigned ownership to either the participant or another person and the kinematics of the interaction will be recorded for analysis. Importantly, the project will be run online |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | The winter research scholar will develop experimental protocols using the Gorilla online experiment system, deploy experiments for data collection, collect and collate data, and analyse the collected data |
| **Suitable for:** | Students with some cognitive psychology background (PSYC2020/NEUR2020 or PSYC3302/NEUR3302). Programming experience is essential. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Mick Zeljko |
| **Further info:** |  |