

Sona Systems for Researcher

Introduction to Sona Systems (Study Management System)

uni-saarland.sona-systems.com

Units: Clinical Psychology, Experimental Neuropsychology, General Psychology, Social Psychology

Are you interested in a particular topic? Follow the hyperlink to the respective slide.





Sona Systems Uni Saarland (uni-saarland.sona-systems.com)



UNIVERSITÄT DES SAARLANDES Uds s	ona Systems Teilnahme-Management System
System Message: You have been logged out.	
SONA SYSTEMS TEILNAHME-MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	Request Account
[Deutsch] User ID	Forgot Password?
Password	
Log In	

What is Sona Systems?



- Online platform to manage
 - Studies
 - Participants
 - Lab usage
 - Course credit*
- Founded in 2002, it is now used by 27¹ (now 28 ^(c)) out of 55 psychological departments at federal universities² in Germany
- Sona provides a detailed documentation:
 - Resources sorted by topics:
 - https://www.sona-systems.com/resources/
 - Complete documentation:

https://www.sona-systems.com/support/docs/ems_docs.pdf

The Flow of Events







participants

Researcher creates a study with timeslots for test sessions The PI approves the study

Researcher sends invitations to participants Interested participants Researcher sends book timeslots via web reminder to participants interface or the app

After the experiment

Getting Started

Find



Researcher marks participants as show or no-show

24.01.2025

Who are Admin & Sona-Pls



Admin: Dr. Michaela Rohr sona-admin@uni-saarland.de

Sona-Pls:

Dr. Julia Meßmer Experimentelle Neuropsychologie julia.messmer@uni-saarland.de Alexandra Alles Allgemeine Psychologie & Methodenlehre alexandra.alles@uni-saarland.de Dr. Kathi Diel Sozialpsychologie katharina.diel@uni-saarland.de Dr. Michaela Rohr Klinische Psychologie & Psychotherapie m.rohr@mx.uni-saarland.de

4. In case someone leaves their position,

the PI will contact the Admin.

Getting started

1. Contact your Sona-PI.

Pls create Excel Sheet who needs access in their AE, which role they have (Matrikelnummer oder Mitarbeiter-Kürzel) and send the sheet to the Admin (m.rohr@)

- 2. Log in, read & approve the user policy
- 3. Create your first study



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The Flow of Events







A My Studies All Studies Add New Study Prescreen Results	My Profile Logout 🕩				
See and modify all your	existing studies here Julia Meßmer (Researcher)				
System Message: Acknowledgment Confirmed.					
My Studies	Upcoming Appointments				
View and edit your studies	🛱 No Upcoming Appointments				
★ View, add or edit timeslots ♦ View uncredited timeslots	Studies with Recent Activity				
	You have no studies with recent activity.				
All Studies					
View all studies available to participants					
Add New Study	Create a new study				
+ Create a new study	Create a new study				
Prescreen Results					
Analyze participant prescreen results					
My Profile					
Change password					
Modify contact information					
Change your email address					
Email questions to <u>Julia</u> Copyright © 1997-2 <u>Human Particip</u>	messmer@uni-saarland.de 2024 <u>Sona Systems Ltd.</u> aants/Privacy Policy				
(15:	10)				

Example: Create a study spanning several days (2 sessions per participant) **2. Select study type**



Create a study with a single session per participant

Create a study with more than one session per participant

You must select whether participants will receive payment or course credit. Note, however, that for now, neither payment nor course credit can be directly transferred via the system

Select Study Type			
To add a new study, you must first select th you have added it, so please be sure to select the first select the select select the select select the select select select the select sel	he type of study you would like to add as well as the compensation type. You may not change the study type or the compensation type once ect the correct options now. • videoconference , like Zoom, Webex, or a similar tool, set it up as either a 🗟 Standard Study or a 🗟 🗟 Multi-Part Standard Study.		
Standard Study	A study that is scheduled to take place at a specific time, in a specific place or over videoconference, and where there is only one part to the study that participants will participate in. Paid Credit 		
Multi-Part Standard Study	A study that is scheduled to take place at a specific time, in a specific place or over videoconference, in multiple parts. The different parts may be scheduled to take place a specified number of days apart, and a participant must sign up for all parts of the study at one time. Image: Two-Part: Paid Credit Image: Three-Part: Paid Credit Image: Three-Part: Paid Credit		
Online External Study	An online study located on another website like Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, Gorilla, PsychoPy (Pavlovia), REDCap, or any other website. Paid Credit	+	3 rd party integration
Multi-Part Online External Study	An online study located on another website like Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, Gorilla, PsychoPy (Pavlovia), REDCap, or any other website, in multiple parts. The different parts may be scheduled to take place a specified number of days apart, and a participant must sign up for all parts of the study at one time.		
Online Internal Survey Study	An online survey study where the questions are set up in the system. Paid Credit 		
	Continue O		

Example: Create a study spanning several days (2 sessions per participant) **3. Fill in study information**

1. Create a unique, but meaningful name

2. Put important information about the study in "Detailed Description" and "Eligibility Requirements", which are visible to participants.

Be precise on

- What the study is about
- What participants will have to do
- Whether it is a lab or online study
- Participation inclusion criteria
- Which compensation participants will receive for participation
- Anything else participants must know before they decide to participate (duration, psychophysiological measurements...)



Study Information

Please enter information below about the study. The study name may r the administrator may approve a new study so that it is visible to partic If you are creating a simple study, you only need to complete the Basic available in the other services of the form.

Basic Study Information	
Study Name	Schlä (Particij
Brief Abstract (Up to 255 characters, optional)	Es ha
Detailed Description (Up to 15,000 characters, optional)	In die veräi Teil o Expe
Eligibility Requirements	t seir
Part 1 Duration (Minutes)	60
Part 1 Payment	12 Eu
Total Payment	12 Eu
Preparation (Up to 255 characters, optional)	

scroll down to continue

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Example: Create a study spanning several days (2 sessions per participant) 4. Add your Sona-PI for approval



We have not configured part 2 yet. You can now either click on "Add this Study" and modify part 2 later, or scroll down to the end of the page to modify part 2 (next slide)

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Example: Create a study spanning several days (2 sessions per participant) **5. Specify the second session**



Part 2 Study Settings	
Payment, Part 2	12 Euro
Part 2 Duration (Minutes)	60
Part 2 Scheduling Range	Part 2 must be scheduled to take place between 1 and 1 days after Part 1 of the study
Part 2 Scheduling Leniency	Must Part 2 be scheduled to take place at exactly the same time (on a different day) as Part 1? Yes No
	Add This Study

Example: Create a study spanning several days (2 sessions per participant) 6. Advanced settings (optional)



You could...

- Filter participants who did or did not take part in another Sona Systems study or are currently enrolled in another Sona Systems study (study can be selected) or from a course*
- Add a password to limit registrations
- Add an age range potential participants must fulfill
- Add a study URL
- Change how long participants can enroll or cancel participation before the session starts
- Allow participants to see how many other people enrolled for a session
- Enable or disable e-mail notifications for sign-ups and cancellations (for yourself)
- Assign researchers to studies
- Add comments visible for all or assigned researchers and PIs only

*a course is a structure required to grant course credit. Course credit cannot be assigned within the system, but for technical reasons, courses still exist.

Example: Create a study spanning several days (2 sessions per participant) 7. Request Approval and add Sessions

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 \sim



	Study Information			Restrictions			
	Study Name Schläfchen-Dummy		Prescreen Restriction	Prescreen Restrictions			
	Study Type	Multi-Part Si This is a Mult All parts mus time.	tudy i-Part study. There are 2 parts. t be signed up for at the same				
		Part 2 should be scheduled to occur 1 day(s)		Additional Study Information			
		Part 2 should the same tim	l be scheduled to occur at exactly e (on a different day) as Part 1.	Participant Sign-Up Deadline	24 hours b	efore the study is to occur	
Request	Study Status	Not visible to participants :	Not Approved	Participant Cancellation Deadlin	24 hours b	efore the study is to occur	
approval	-	Active study: Does not appear on list of available studies must also be approved Duration 60 minutes (Part 1) 60 minutes (Part 2) Pay 12 Euro (Part 1) 12 Euro (Part 2) (12 Euro total)		Ethikkommission Approval Code			
	Duration			Direct Study Link	https://s	https://saarland-psychology.sona-systems	
	Рау				study. You may use this in an email or study advertisement.		tess the udy
				Date Created	4 March 20)24	
	Abstract	Es handelt sich um eine behav Testzeitpunkten.	viorale Schlafstudie mit 2				
	Description In dieser Studie interessieren wir uns dafür, wie sich da Gedächtnis für Assoziationen durch Schlaf verändert. E		wir uns dafür, wie sich das durch Schlaf verändert. Es gibt	Researcher Informa	tion		
		eine Schlafgruppe und eine Wachgruppe. Die Sch kommt abends zum ersten Teil des Experiments zum zweiten Teil. Die Wachgruppe kommt morge ersten Teil des Experiments und abends zum zwe		Researcher		Iulia MeRmer Regine Bader	
	Eligibility Requirements	Testpersonen müssen zwische Deutsche Muttersprachler sein	en 18 und 30 Jahre alt sein, n und dürfen noch nicht an einer	Principal Investigator		Julia Meßmer	
		Unicorns-studie teligenommer	n naben.				

Here, you can see the study we created. Now, we have to add time slots for when test sessions should occur. The menu on the right can be found at the end of the page, below the study information page.

Study Menu

View/Administer Time Slots - Part 1
Wiew/Administer Time Slots - Part 2
III Timeslot Usage Summary
List - Part 1
Lownload Participant List - Part 2
Contact Participants
Ciew Bulk Mail Summary
Download Prescreen Responses
Change Study Information
Participant Study View
Study Modification Log
쉽 Copy Study
窗 Delete Study



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There are 2 options for add duplicate the timeslot config	ing multiple timeslots at once. You may add a specified nun guration from a specific week, the number of participants, lo	nber of timeslots, or you may duplicate the timeslot configuration from a specific week. If you ocations, and times will be expired over.
NOTE: You are adding times With either option, you will	lots to a study that is unapproved , s eparticipants will not have an option to review the information before the timesk	be able to sign up for the study. ot addition is performed. Please choose one of the 2 options below:
Number of Timeslots	10 ~	
Date	Wednesday, 6 March 2024	
Start Time	09:00	
Free time between slots	15 Minutes	
Location	Gebäude A2 4 Raum 2.19	Room availability is
8	Videoconference LIRI	checked and ensured
		across all Sona System
	Enter URL if this timeslot will be conducted over videoconference instead of in person.	studies
		Vou oon make cure that the

We can see that the PI has not approved our study yet, however, we can already create sessions (participants cannot see yet)

You can create multiple sessions at once, just telling Sona

- how many,
- when to start, how long and
- how much time between sessions
 You can modify
 them in the next

step

24.01.2025







Click on "Add" when you are done.



Study Menu

View/Administer Time Slots - Part 1 View/Administer Time Slots - Part 2 Timeslot Usage Summary Download Participant List - Part 1 Download Participant List - Part 2 Contact Participants View Bulk Mail Summary Download Prescreen Responses Change Study Information Participant Study View

You can copy-paste sessions from week to week, so you do not have to create them from scratch every time. You can find the respective menu (shown below) at the end of the page, after having clicked on "View/Administer Time Slots – Part 1" in the Study Menu

쉽 Copy Study

E Study Modification Log

💼 Delete Study



Date	Start Time	Num. Participants	Location	Add This Timeslot?
Wednesday, 6 March 2024	09:00	1	Gebäude A2 4 Raum 2.19 Or Videoconference URL	●Yes ONo
Wednesday, 6 March 2024	10:15	1	Gebäude A2 4 Raum 2.19 Or Videoconference URL	●Yes ONo
Wednesday, 6 March 2024	11:30	1	Gebäude A2 4 Raum 2.19 Or Videoconference URL	€Yes ONo
Wednesday, 6 March 2024	12:45	1	Gebäude A2 4 Raum 2.19 Or Videoconference URL	●Yes ONo
Wednesday, 6 March 2024	14:00	1	Gebäude A2 4 Raum 2.19 Or Videoconference URL	●Yes ⊖No

You can modify the automatically created sessions

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Example: Create a study spanning several days (2 sessions per participant) 9. Check registrations



+ Add A Timeslot Add Multi	ple Timeslots 🛛 💼 Delete M	lultiple Timeslots	🔒 View Pr	rinter-Friendly List of Sig	gnups 🛛 🖨 Pr	rint
Timeslots : Schläfchen-Dummy - Part	1					
Timeslots for this study are listed below, wit	h any sign-ups listed below the timesl	ot.	-	Search for available timeslots on		
	▼ Fill Status All Fu	ll Open Spaces		Monday, 4 March 2024	0	GO
Date	Participants Pool	Participants	Location		Modify	
Wednesday, 6 March 2024 09:00 - 10:00	Signed Up: 0 Open Slots: 1 Total: 1		Gebäude A	2 4 Raum 2.19	C Modify	
Wednesday, 6 March 2024 10:15 - 11:15	Signed Up: 0 Open Slots: 1 Total: 1		Gebäude A	2 4 Raum 2.19	C Modify	
Wednesday, 6 March 2024 11:30 - 12:30	Signed Up: 0 Open Slots: 1 Total: 1		Gebäude A	2 4 Raum 2.19	C Modify	
Wednesday, 6 March 2024 12:45 - 13:45	Signed Up: 0 Open Slots: 1 Total: 1		Gebäude A	2 4 Raum 2.19	C Modify	

Here, you can see registrations for your sessions

Example: Create a study spanning several days (2 sessions per participant) **10. Study Approval**



Study Approval	Notification	: Schläfchen-Dumm	у 🔼
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This is an email notification to inform you that the study 'Schläfchen-Dummy', which has you as a researcher, has been approved.

For more information, please log on to the site at

The PI approved our study ^(C) (E-Mail notification is sent to researcher)

Example: Create a study spanning several days (2 sessions per participant) 11. How our study looks like for a participant

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Currently Viewing: All Studies

	View studies with available timeslots on :		1:	Tuesday, 5 March 2024	G			
Available?	Study Inf	formation	Eligibility	Eligibility				
C [*] Timeslots Available Schläfchen-Dummy (12 Euro) (2-Part Study) Es handelt sich um eine behaviorale Schlafstudie mit 2 Testzeitpunkten.			Testpersonen m und dürfen noc	Testpersonen müssen zwischen 18 und 30 Jahre alt sein, Deutsche Muttersprachler sei und dürfen noch nicht an einer Unicorns-Studie teilgenommen haben.				
meslots for Stu	dy	Schläfchen-Dummy - F	Part 1			∰Calendar Viev		
DTE: This is a 2-part : r now.	study. Please se	elect a suitable time below for the first part, and	you will then be sho	wn the list of eligible	times for the other parts, which you	must also sign up		
Jate Wednesday, 6 March	n 2024	Location		Sign Up?				
09:00 - 10:00		Gebäude A2 4 Raum 2.19		Sign Up and Choo	ose Part 2 🕥			
10:15 - 11:15		Gebäude A2 4 Raum 2.19		Sign Up and Choo	ose Part 2 🜒			
11:30 - 12:30		Gebäude A2 4 Raum 2.19		Sign Up and Choo	ose Part 2 🜒			
12:45 - 13:45		Gebäude A2 4 Raum 2.19		Sign Up and Choo	ose Part 2 🜒			
14:00 - 15:00		Gebäude A2 4 Raum 2.19		Sign Up and Choo	ose Part 2 🜒			
15:15 - 16:15		Gebäude A2 4 Raum 2.19		Sign Up and Choo	ose Part 2 🔊			
16:30 - 17:30		Gebäude A2 4 Raum 2.19						

Sign Up and Choose Part 2 📎

Study Information Study Name Schläfchen-Dummv Study Type Multi-Part Study There are 2 parts. You must sign up for all parts at the same time. Part 2 should be scheduled to occur 1 day(s) after Part 1. 12 Euro (Part 1) Pay 12 Euro (Part 2) (12 Euro total) Duration 60 minutes (Part 1) 60 minutes (Part 2) Es handelt sich um eine behaviorale Schlafstudie mit 2 Testzeitpunkten. Abstract In dieser Studie interessieren wir uns dafür, wie sich das Gedächtnis für Assoziationen durch Schlaf verändert. Es gibt eine Schlafgruppe und eine Description Wachgruppe. Die Schlafgruppe kommt abends zum ersten Teil des Experiments und nach 12h zum zweiten Teil. Die Wachgruppe kommt morgens zum ersten Teil des Experiments und abends zum zweiten Teil. Eligibility Testpersonen müssen zwischen 18 und 30 lahre alt sein, Deutsche Muttersprachler sein und dürfen noch nicht an einer Unicorns-Studie teilgenommen Requirements haben. Researcher Julia Meßmer Regine Bader Principal Investigator Deadlines Sign-Up: 24 hour(s) before the appointment Cancellation: 24 hour(s) before the appointment

View Time Slots for This Study

Participants can now see our study when they log in and can register

Example: Create a study spanning several days (2 sessions per participant) 12. Add participants manually to your study



All Timeslots	Recent Timeslots	Upcoming Timeslots	Older Timeslots				
Timeslots : T	est - Part 1						
Timeslots for	this study are listed b	pelow, with any sign-ups li	sted below the timeslot.		Search for available times	lots on :	
			▼ Fill Status All Full O	pen Spaces	Thursday, 17 October	2024	GO
Date		Pa	articipants Pool	Participants	Location	Modify	
Saturday, 19 0 09:00 - 10:00	October 2024	Sij Oj To	gned Up: 0 pen Slots: 1 ptal: 1		A2 4 2.14	C Modify	

You can enrol participants if you have their ID, e.g. if they were recruited on another way but are already registered in Sona (or create an account after completing the experiment)

Advantage: you can exclude them from future related studies in Sona

Signup Confirmation

Are you SURE you want to sign up Identity Code 3022 for the study "Schläfchen-Dummy - Part 2" on 5 March 2024 14:00 - 15:00?

WARNING: Identity Code 3022 has already signed up for this study on 7 March 2024 09:00 - 10:00

Comments

(Optional. Any comments will be included in the email notifying participant of the signup.)

Sign Up

Cancel

Example: Create a study spanning several days (2 sessions per participant) 13. Prescreening



Restrictions Prescreen Restrictions YES C View/Modify Restrictions E Invite Qualified Participants

 You can add prescreening restrictions on native language and handedness and invite qualified participants via email

Example: Create a study spanning several days (2 sessions per participant) 14. Invite participants via E-Mail

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Participant Contact

Based on the selected choices, 🕦 participants currently qualify to participate in a study with such criteria. This excludes those who have already participated in the study or are currently signed up to participate. Participants who have chosen not to receive study invitation emails are also excluded.

You may choose to contact participants and invite them to participate in a study. If you would like to do so, please fill out the area below with your message. You may choose to send the message to all qualified participants, or only those qualified participants who have not already signed up or participated in specified studies. If you prefer to send mail to only a random subset of the matching participants, choose the percentage. Choosing 100% will email to all matching participants. The randomization percentage is approximate, and is not effective when contacting a small group. The system will only send the message to participants with active accounts (i.e. allowed to log in to the system).

In order to prevent email abuse, information about the number of participants you sent to, as well as a summary of the email content, will be logged.

The administrator has configured the system so you may only send an email if it will go to no more than 100 participants

Percentage to Mail	100% - All 1 participants (participant estimates are approximations)		~		
Study Exclusions	Exclude participants who have participated in the following studies: My Studies All Studies search All Studies Available Available	4 ²⁷			Selected
Vessage	This is a special message regarding the study Test. The researcher is approximately 1 open timeslots for this study.	裏 道 重 🔃	At the moment, there are		
	scroll down to a	contir	nue	1	

Do never write to more than double the number of participants you need at once. Wait 24hrs before you invite the next subsample.



	If you write the text %FIRST_NAME% %LAST_NAME% or %USERNAME%, the system will place the recipient's information in place of that text when it generates the email.				
	Direct Study Link:				
	https://uni-saarland.sona-systems.com/default.aspx?p_return_experiment_id=6				
	This is a direct URL for participants to access the study. You may paste this into the message above.				
Email Options	Send a copy of the email to you				
Emailing Delay	Send now ~				
	(the email(s) will be delivered after the chosen number of hours)				
	Deview Marray				

Example: Create a study spanning several days (2 sessions per participant) 15. After a session: Mark Shows and No-Shows



All Sign-Ups	Uncredited Sign-Ups						
Listed below a some reason y cancelled. Com	re all the participants who have signed up for thi ou need to cancel a sign-up, you can click the Ca ments will be visible to participants.	is timeslot. If you wou ancel link next to the s	ld like to grant or revoke ign-up you would like to	e credit, simply choose the de cancel. A sign-up must be in	esired option next to each participant. If for "No Action Taken" status before it can be		
(1 Participant) 0 available spaces							
Name		Participated	No-Show	No Action Taken	Comments		
ID Code: 304	6 creen Contact 🗙 Cancel 🕄	0	UnexcusedExcused				
CUpdate S	ign-Ups			Contact All Pa	rticipants 🗎 Cancel All Sign-ups for this Timeslot		

After the session, mark each participant as "Participated" or "No-Show" (Excused versus Unexcused).

Participant are informed via e-mail. No-show is not penalized, but accounts with many noshows might be restricted by the Admi in the future

Additional information



- Studies are shown in random order, participants can see all studies available
- Researcher can add or remove participants from sessions, please use this carefully (admin will be informed automatically)
- Admin gets an email if new study is posted
- You could create password-secured studies to limit registrations
- You can add researchers to a study, they are notified about registrations (e.g., the student research assistant who collects the data)
- You can directly integrate studies hosted via several platforms for data collection (e.g., Sosci Survey) into Sona Systems
- Lab bookings could be organized via Sona Systems
- Get technical support via the admin
- There is a mobile app participants can use



Check Security Code

In most emails sent from the system to participants, including those regarding a study sign-up, cancellation, or credit grant, there is a code included at the bottom of the email text. If a participant is claiming a timeslot was changed by the researcher, or a reminder was sent for an incorrect date, please ask them for this code from the email, then enter it below. The code will provide information on the status of the study and timeslot (where applicable) at the time the email was sent. This is a security measure to prevent participants from altering emails sent by the system to claim study times and dates were changed when they were not, as a means of avoiding unexcused no-shows and the like.

Enter code here:

(example: XDSFAD-TWDBFAD-SWDBFAD-OWGBABAWDEFSG-EWGBABAWDEFSG-PDSFAD)

Check Code 📎

Most E-mails sent via the system contain a code. In case of issues (e.g., complaints about specific E-Mails), ask for the code. The Admin can verify whether the E-Mail was sent via the system with this code.

If you have (technical) issues, please contact the Admin.

Privacy



- Researcher and Sona-PIs only see the ID, only the admin can see names and email addresses
- Participants are "de-anonymized" when entering your lab, please do never publish name-ID combinations or store them longer than absolutely necessary
- You are responsible for all actions taken with your account. Do never share your log in information or account with someone else.
 Student research assistants should get their own researcher account.
 Students (who are not student research assistants) could have an account, if you consider it useful.





3rd party integration (currently supported)

Qualtrics SurveyMonkey Gorilla PsychoPy (Pavlovia) Alchemer (SurveyGizmo) Inquisit REDCap Cognition Lab Fluidsurveys iMotions JATOS Jitsutech

jsPsych Labvanced LimeSurvey OTree Psychstudio PsyTookit QuestionPro Resultal SoSci Survey SurveyLab Testable Unipark



How does Sona look in the mobile app?





Email questions to Julia.messmer@uni-saarland.de



Detailed Information

This is a 2-part study. Both Parts 1 and 2 should be scheduled at the same time, and Part 2 should be scheduled to occur 1 day(s) after Part 1.

Restrictions

Eligibility Requirements - Testpersonen müssen zwischen 18 und 30 Jahre alt sein, Deutsche Muttersprachler sein und dürfen noch nicht an einer Unicorns-Studie teiligenommen haben.

Abstract:

Es handelt sich um eine behaviorale Schlafstudie mit 2 Testzeitpunkten.

Description:

In dieser Studie interessieren wir uns dafür, wie sich das Gedächtnis für Assoziationen durch Schlaf verändert. Es gibt eine Schlafgruppe und eine Wachgruppe. Die Schlafgruppe kommt abends zum ersten Teil des Experiments und nach 12h zum zweiten Teil. Die Wachgruppe kommt morgens zum ersten Teil des Experiments und abends zum zweiten Teil.



You can see

new

studies...

...and book sessions





Thank you for using Sona Systems ©