

How Architecture Conveys Understanding: A Biometric-Based Study

Research Information & Volunteer Recruitment Sheet

We seek volunteers to participate in a first-of-its-kind pilot study of **how** architecture encodes and communicates various types of reality and information. It will involve measuring Catholic volunteers' **visual**, physiological (bodily functions), and psychological responses associated with visiting two distinct buildings in Washington, DC: *Union Station* and *the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception*. The 35 selected participants will experience both places wearing a pair of eye-tracking glasses and a bio-signals wristband to safely and naturally gauge their visual and bodily responses as they visit both buildings. During the experiments, participants will be inquired about their experience at several different stops. For more information visit: <https://www.building-spiritual-understanding.net>



Time Commitment

Participating in this study will demand a total commitment of about 1.5 hours for the two visits to the said buildings (around 45 minutes per visit) within a period of 2 months. The first visit includes a short meeting for identity verification, review and sign a research consent document, COVID-19 vaccination check, and familiarization with the eye-tracking glasses + bio-signals wristband. The two-session dates for the architectural visits (experiments) will be determined by mutual convenience. However, some time flexibility is expected from the volunteers.

Weather

If rain or snow is in the forecast with a 80% or higher chance of occurrence (for the agreed upon time) 24 hours in advance (as per The Weather Channel -- <https://weather.com>), the experiment will be postponed. In such cases, the researcher will contact the participant to set a new date.

Compensation

Volunteering subjects will receive a \$150 Gift Card for their participation in the form of a gift card.

Privacy and Confidentiality

All the information gathered in this study will be confidential and handled under strict rules of privacy.

Eligibility criteria to participate in the study:

Language: English-speaking

Age: Between 21 and 65 year-old

Faith: Strong Catholic beliefs (to be measured by a screening test)

Education: College education or higher unrelated to architecture (graduate students are eligible)

Health: Subjects should be healthy enough to do 1,500 ft of continuous, slow walking and 40 steps of stair-climbing. Normal/corrected vision and hearing are required as well. If vision needs correction, the subject will need to wear contact lenses during experiments. The experiment is straightforward, and anyone in normal health should be able to do it without difficulty. If you have questions, please ask the researcher.

Pregnancy: the risks of participating in this study during pregnancy may be similar to those in the general population. However, since we don't know for sure, we discourage the participation of pregnant women.

COVID-19: Subjects will have been fully vaccinated by the time of their first building visit. People are considered fully vaccinated (a) 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or (b) 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

Prior Visits to Buildings: Subjects must have visited the two buildings being studied at least twice in the last two years. The two buildings are: *Union Station* and the *Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception* (both in Washington, DC).

New to the study: subjects cannot have participated in the previous study of these two buildings conducted by this research team last year

Research Team and contact information

This investigation is directed by **Dr. Julio Bermudez (Professor of Architecture at The Catholic University of America)** in association with several other investigators under the sponsorship of the Templeton Religion Trust. For specific questions, contact Dr. Bermudez by email at: bermudez@cua.edu or call (202) 319-5755

If you qualify and are interested in participating in this study, please, fill out the following form available online here: <https://forms.gle/u9koeUkZad1jNycY7>

As said, all the information will be kept confidential and handled under strict rules of privacy.