

**Kathryn Kirk**

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**From:** Kate Kirk  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 August 2010 9:55 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: Approval : amendment for RA/4/1/4007

Hi Steve,  
 Yes, fine for you to leave your name off as long as the standard complaints paragraph and contact details are there.  
 I look forward to receiving the hate mail.  
 I'll let you know if I get any.  
 Kate

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**From:** Stephan Lewandowsky [mailto: ] **On Behalf Of** Stephan Lewandowsky  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 August 2010 9:50 AM  
**To:** Kate Kirk  
**Subject:** RE: Approval : amendment for RA/4/1/4007

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Hi Kate—wow, thanks for the quick approval.

One question: Would it be possible to mention only my assistant's name, Charles Hanich, on the online survey (with full contact details, plus the usual HREC address of course)?

The reason for this is that I have been writing on the climate issue in public (e.g., <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/stories/s2980286.htm>), and my name alone routinely elicits frothing at the mouth by various people (e.g., <http://ioannenova.com.au/2010/05/name-calling-fairy-dust-conspiracy-theorist/>), not to mention the hate mail I receive.

Because I am interested in soliciting opinions also from those folks, I would like to withhold my name from the survey as I fear it might contaminate responding.

Thanks Steve

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**From:** Kate Kirk [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2010 9:31 AM  
**To:** Stephan Lewandowsky  
**Subject:** Approval : amendment for RA/4/1/4007

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Dear Steve  
 Project: Understanding statistical trends  
 Approval is granted for the amendments outlined in your email and attachments.  
 Regards,  
 Kate

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**From:** Stephan Lewandowsky [mailto: ] **On Behalf Of** Stephan Lewandowsky  
**Sent:** Thursday, 12 August 2010 12:07 PM  
**To:** Kate Kirk  
**Subject:** amendment for RA/4/1/4007

Dear Kate, I am writing to seek approval for an amendment to the procedure for RA/4/1/4007. In a nutshell, I want to administer the survey not in person but via the internet using professional survey software (e.g., [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) or equivalent.)

As before, completion of the survey will be taken to constitute consent, and as before a variant of the approved information sheet will be shown before the survey commences.

The survey will be modified slightly as follows,

(1) The graphical extrapolation task is removed

(2) In addition to the already-approved items, some further questions will be presented that are enclosed in this email.

>> Note that the scale "H&G&Kahan" already has UWA approval under a different project (RA/4/1/4054).

>> The remaining two scales, "BCTI" and "Happ&Sat" have both been used extensively in previous research elsewhere.

>> To satisfy constraints of the Web software, some items may need to be reworded or altered; however, the enclosures accurately describe the thrust of the questionnaires.

(3) In all other respects, the approved procedure remains unchanged except that it is administered via internet, with consent again being expressed by completion of the electronic questionnaire.

(4) Participants will be recruited by posting links at relevant websites (e.g., [www.uwa.edu.au/climatescience](http://www.uwa.edu.au/climatescience) or science-oriented "blogs").

Kind regards

Thanks Steve

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Stephan Lewandowsky  
Australian Professorial Fellow  
School of Psychology  
University of Western Australia  
Crawley, W.A. 6009 AUSTRALIA

<http://www.cogsciwa.com>

Voice: [+61] (08)

Mobile:

FAX: [+61] (08) 6488-1006

e-mail:

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**Kathryn Kirk**

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**From:** Kate Kirk  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 August 2010 9:31 AM  
**To:** 'Stephan Lewandowsky'  
**Subject:** Approval : amendment for RA/4/1/4007  
**Attachments:** BCTI.doc; Happ&Sat.doc; H&G&Kahan.doc

*H&G 2010 QDAB*

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Kind regards

Thanks Steve

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**PART III.** There has been much debate about various historical events, suggesting that the 'official version' of the truth of those events is something of a government *cover-up*. Below is a list of events from the past century for which the official version has been disputed. For each event, we would like you to indicate to what extent you believe the cover-up version of events is true or false.

	Completely false					Completely true			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. A powerful and secretive group, known as the New World Order, are planning to eventually rule the world through an autonomous world government, which would replace sovereign government.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2. SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) was produced under laboratory conditions as a biological weapon.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3. The US government had foreknowledge about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, but allowed the attack to take place so as to be able to enter the Second World War.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4. US agencies intentionally created the AIDS epidemic and administered it to Black and gay men in the 1970s.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5. The assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., was the result of an organised conspiracy by US government agencies such as the CIA and FBI.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6. The Apollo moon landings never happened and were staged in a Hollywood film studio.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7. Area 51 in Nevada, US, is a secretive military base that contains hidden alien spacecraft and/or alien bodies.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8. The assassination of John F. Kennedy was not committed by the lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald, but was rather a detailed, organised conspiracy to kill the President.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9. The US government allowed the 9/11 attacks to take place so that it would have an excuse to achieve foreign (e.g., wars in Afghanistan and Iraq) and domestic (e.g., attacks on civil liberties) goals that had been determined prior to the attacks.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10. In July 1947, the US military recovered the wreckage of an alien craft from Roswell, New Mexico, and covered up the fact.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11. Princess Diana's death was not an accident, but rather an organised assassination by members of the British royal family who disliked her.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12. The Oklahoma City bombers, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, did not act alone, but rather received assistance from neo-Nazi groups.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13. The Coca Cola company intentionally changed to an inferior formula with the intent of driving up demand for their classic product, later reintroducing it for their financial gain.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14. Special interest groups are suppressing, or have suppressed in the past, technologies that could provide energy at reduced cost or reduced pollution output.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15. Government agencies in the UK are involved in the	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

distribution of illegal drugs to ethnic minorities.										
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H&S2010GDAB

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

1. In most ways my life is close to my ideal.
  2. The conditions of my life are excellent.
  3. I am satisfied with my life.
  4. So far I have gotten the important things I want in life.
  5. If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing
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- a. Strongly agree
  - b. Slightly agree
  - c. Neither agree nor disagree
  - d. Slightly disagree
  - e. Strongly disagree
  - f. Don't know
- 
6. In general, I consider myself: 1 not a very happy person, 7 a very happy person
  7. Compared to most of my peers, I consider myself: 1 less happy, 7 more happy
  8. Some people are generally very happy. They enjoy life regardless of what is going on, getting the most out of everything. To what extent does this characterization describe you?: 1 not at all, 7 a great deal
  9. Some people are generally not very happy. Although they are not depressed, they never seem as happy as they might be. To what extent does this characterization describe you?: 1 not at all, 7 a great deal

Questions	Source	Dimension	
1. It seems like the criminals and welfare cheats get all the breaks, while the average person picks up the tab.	Kahan et al. (2007)	H-E	
2. People who are successful in business have a right to enjoy their wealth as they see fit.	Kahan et al. (2007)	C-I	
3. Environmental pollution is a serious risk to public health in our country.	Kahan et al. (2007)	Environmental risks	
4. An economic system based on free markets unrestrained by government interference automatically works best to meet human needs.	Heath & Gifford (2006)	Support for free market system	
5. We have gone too far in pushing equal rights in this country.	Kahan et al. (2007)	H-E	
6. Free markets — not government programs — are the best way to supply people with the things they need.	Kahan et al. (2007)	C-I	
7. Global warming poses a serious danger for the future of the planet.	Kahan et al. (2007)	Environmental risks	
8. I support the free market system, but not at the expense of environmental quality.	Heath & Gifford (2006)	Support for free market system	
9. It seems like Australian Aboriginals, women, homosexuals and other groups don't want equal rights, they want special rights just for them.	Kahan et al. (2007)	H-E	
10. Too many people today expect society to do things for them that they should be doing for themselves.	Kahan et al. (2007)	C-I	
11. The free-market system may be efficient for resource allocation, but it is limited in its capacity to promote social justice.	Heath & Gifford (2006)	Support for free market system	
12. A lot of problems in our society today come from the decline in the traditional family, where the man works and the woman stays home.	Kahan et al. (2007)	H-E	
13. Sometimes government needs to make laws that keep people from hurting themselves.	Kahan et al. (2007)	C-I	Reversed
14. The preservation of the free market system is more important than localized environmental concerns.	Heath & Gifford (2006)	Support for free market system	
15. It's old-fashioned and wrong to think that one culture's set of values is better than any other culture's way of seeing the world.	Kahan et al. (2007)	H-E	Reversed
16. It's society's responsibility to make sure everyone's basic needs are met.	Kahan et al. (2007)	C-I	Reversed
17. Free and unregulated markets pose important threats to sustainable development.	Heath & Gifford (2006)	Support for free market system	
18. A gay or lesbian couple should have just as much right to marry as any other couple.	Kahan et al. (2007)	H-E	Reversed
19. People should be able to rely on the government for help when they need it.	Kahan et al. (2007)	C-I	Reversed
20. The free-market system is likely to promote unsustainable consumption.	Heath & Gifford (2006)	Support for free market system	
21. Our society would be better off if the distribution of wealth was more equal.	Kahan et al. (2007)	H-E	Reversed
22. We live in a sexist society that is fundamentally set up to discriminate against women.	Kahan et al. (2007)	H-E	Reversed

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Kahan et al. (2007)

H-E: 8 items (4 reversed)  
 C-I: 6 items (3 reversed)  
 Environ risk: 2 items

Heath & Gifford (2006)

Support for free market system: 6 items (all)





THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
*Achieving International Excellence*

*Research Ethics  
Research Services*  
Phone: +61 8  
Fax: +61 8 6488 8775  
email:  
MBDP: M459

Our Ref: RA/4/1/4007

21 December 2009

Professor Stephan Lewandowsky  
Psychology (School of)  
MBDP: M304

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Dear Professor Lewandowsky

– ETHICS APPROVAL

*Understanding statistical trends*

*Student(s):*

Ethics approval for the above project has been granted by the from 21 December 2009 to 21 December 2014 in accordance with the requirements of the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (National Statement) and the policies and procedures of The University of Western Australia.

You are reminded of the following requirements:

1. The application and all supporting documentation form the basis of the ethics approval and you must not depart from the research protocol that has been approved.
2. The Human Research Ethics Office must be approached for approval in advance for any requested amendments to the approved research protocol.
3. The Chief Investigator is required to report immediately to the Human Research Ethics Office any adverse or unexpected event or any other event that may impact on the ethics approval for the project.
4. The Chief Investigator must inform the Human Research Ethics Office as soon as practicable if a research project is discontinued before the expected date of completion, providing reasons.

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Any conditions of ethics approval that have been imposed are listed below:

**Special Conditions**

*None specified*

The University of Western Australia is bound by the National Statement to monitor the progress of all approved projects until completion to ensure continued compliance with ethical standards and requirements.

Please note that the maximum period of ethics approval for this project is five (5) years from the date of this notification. However, ethics approval is conditional upon satisfactory progress reports being received by the designated renewal date for continuation of ethics approval. The Human Research Ethics Office will forward a request for a progress report communication for your completion approximately four weeks before this renewal date.

**If your progress report is not then received by the renewal date, your ethics approval will expire, requiring that all activities relating to the project cease immediately.**

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Kate Kirk on (08)

Please ensure that you quote the file reference – RA/4/1/4007 – and the associated project title in all future correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Peter Johnstone  
Manager  
Human Research Ethics

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Human Research Ethics Committee  
Research Services

35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009  
Telephone +61 8  
Facsimile +61 8 6488 8775  
Email  
[http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/human\\_ethics](http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/human_ethics)

**APPLICATION TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH  
INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS**

**(RESPONSES MUST BE TYPED AND ONE ELECTRONIC  
VERSION SENT TO AND ONE  
ORIGINAL PAPER VERSION AND FOUR PAPER COPIES  
AND ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS MUST BE  
SUBMITTED TO HUMAN ETHICS M459)**

**NB:** Please answer all questions fully in terms which can be readily understood by an informed layperson. This form is designed to ensure compliance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) [National Statement] <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/e72svn.htm>

**1. TITLE OF PROJECT (In lay terms):**

Understanding Statistical Trends

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**2. CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:**

**(Must be a member of Staff of The University of Western Australia.)**

Name:

Stephan Lewandowsky

Position:

Australian Professorial Fellow

School:

Psychology

Contact  
Address:  
UWA Mail Box  
Number

M304

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Telephone  
(Business Hrs):

Specify Adjunct or Clinical  
position if held:

2.

Email Address:

If this is a student project please include the name, degree course and departmental address of the student. Telephone and email address should be provided if possible. **NB: If this is a Masters by Research or PhD project, students must indicate this and provide student number.**

N/A

### 3. EXPECTED DURATION OF PROJECT:

Please note that the research or recruitment of participants must not commence until a date after final approval has been obtained from the HREC.

>From Date of Initial Recruitment:	Date of Expected Completion:
From approval	31/12/2011

### 4. FUNDING: Is this protocol the subject of a grant application? Yes [ ] No [X]

If 'Yes', what is the Agency?

If 'No', what is the source of funding for the project?

Provide details of any affiliation or financial interest in funding source and/or commercialisation of research results

### 5. OTHER ETHICAL APPROVALS:

Has the protocol previously been submitted to the Human Research Ethics Committee?

Yes [ ] No [X]

Has the protocol been submitted to another Institutional Ethics Committee?

Yes [ ] No [X]

3.

If 'Yes' to which Committee/s has it been submitted?

What was the outcome of the submission?

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Has the protocol been submitted to the Department of Health WA  
Human Research Ethics Committee (DoHWA HREC)?

Yes [ ] No [ X ]

#### 6. PRIVACY LEGISLATION – THRESHOLD QUESTIONS

##### DO YOU NEED TO USE THE S95 OR S95A GUIDELINES?

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/e26syn.htm> and  
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/e43syn.htm>

- A. Does the research proposal involve the collection, use or disclosure of personal information (i.e. information about an individual whose identity is apparent, or can be reasonably ascertained, from the information)?

Yes [ ] No [ X ]

- If the answer is **no**, you do not need to use either the section 95 guidelines or the section 95A guidelines in the ethical review of the proposal.
- If the answer is **yes**, go to Question B.

- B. Does the research proposal involve the collection, use or disclosure of personal information without the consent of the people to whom the information relates?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

- If the answer is **no**, you do not need to use either the section 95 guidelines or the section 95A guidelines in the ethical review of the proposal.
- If the answer to the above question is **yes**, you must refer to the HREC web document titled Advice for Use of Privacy Guidelines. You will be required to submit an application to the HREC which will enable it to weigh the potential benefit of the research against the public interest in the protection of privacy.

It is recommended that read the above document and then contact the Secretary to the Committee to discuss your application. (Tel: \_\_\_\_\_).

## 7. AIMS OF THE PROJECT:

Please give a concise and simple description of the aims of the project.  
This must be in lay terms.

The project seeks to explore people's understanding of statistical trends in time-series data. If we are monitoring a stock price, what do we think will happen to it in the future?

Participants will be shown simple graphs of time series (samples enclosed) and will make predictions about the future trends.

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## 8. PARTICIPANT GROUP:

- (a) Who will be the participants? Please include size of sample(s) and variables such as age, sex and state of health. Please state clearly whether children, mentally ill individuals or persons in dependent relationships such as teacher/student, doctor/patient, staff etc. will be recruited.

Members of the population at large as well as the UWA campus community will be approached by the researchers and will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire (5 minutes). No remuneration or compensation will be offered.

- (b) >From where and how will participants (including controls if applicable) be recruited? How will the initial contact be made with the participants? (Researchers must ensure that personal contact details and information are not accessed without consent.)

The researcher will approach potential participants in public places (e.g., City of Perth) and ask if they wish to volunteer 5 minutes of their time.

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- (c) Does recruitment involve the circulation/publication of an advertisement, circular, letter, email list, bulletin etc?

Yes [ ] No [X]

If 'Yes', please provide copies and details of publication

- (d) Does the research specifically target Aboriginal people or is the sample likely to include a significant percentage of Aboriginals?

Yes [ ] No [X]

If 'Yes', please refer to the NHMRC publication Values and Ethics: Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research.

Please provide a statement demonstrating how the study recognises the values outlined in the above publication and which Aboriginal groups or organisations have been consulted. This statement should address the six values that lie at the heart of the Guidelines (Under the headings of items 2.2.1 to 2.2.6).

5.

## 9. DETAILS OF PROCEDURES:

- (a) Please describe briefly the project methodology. Describe all procedures to which participants will be subjected, highlighting any which may have adverse consequences.

Subjects will be shown a number of statistical graphs (3 or 4 at most) that contain time series data. Subjects will be asked to extrapolate the visible trend into the future by indicating their guess of the next most likely values (see enclosed sample).

Some of the trends will be upward, some downward, and most will be presented as fictitious stock prices. The actual data will either be generated randomly or will be the world's temperature (climate) data collected by NASA (NASA GISS data set).

For some subjects, the climate data will be identified as such whereas for other subjects (chosen at random) they will be presented as stock prices.

Upon completion of the graphical task, subjects will be presented with 3-4 questions about their impressions of scientific certainty. For example, people will be asked how certain they think scientists are about the association between emissions and climate change, HIV and AIDS, and tobacco smoke and lung cancer (using a scale from 0-100%). For each item, participants will also provide their own subjective certainty rating (i.e., "how certain are that human emissions [HIV] are largely responsible for climate change [AIDS]").

- (b) Will any chemical compounds, drugs or biological agents be administered?

Yes [ ] No [X]

If 'Yes', describe names, dosages, routes of administration, frequency of administration, and any known or suspected adverse effects. All suspected adverse events should be listed on the Information Sheet/Consent Form.

- (c) Does the research involve use of unmarketed drugs?

Yes [ ] No [X]

If 'Yes', Clinical Trial Notification (CTN) or Clinical Trial Exemption (CTX) approval must be obtained before the project may proceed.

Investigational brochure enclosed.

Yes [ ] No [ ]

CTN approval has been requested.

Yes [ ] No [ ]

CTX approval has been requested.

Yes [ ] No [ ]

6.

- (d) Will blood or other tissue samples be taken? Yes [ ] No [X]

If 'Yes', please state site, frequency and volume of any blood or other tissue sampling.

If 'Yes', list all personnel who will be involved in this procedure.

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- (e) Will there be any invasive procedures other than blood or tissue sampling? Yes [ ] No [X]

If 'Yes', please provide details of these procedures.

- (f) Will participants be exposed to ionising or non-ionising radiation? Yes [ ] No [X]

- (i) If 'Yes', please refer to the 'Code of Practice for the Exposure of Humans to Ionizing Radiation for Research Purposes.'

Please provide details including the quantitative assessment of the absorbed dose, supported either by dosimetric calculation or other information.

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- (ii) If 'Yes', has the radiation Protection Office been asked for approval?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

If 'Yes', please attach copy of approval notification.

10. NHMRC NATIONAL STATEMENT ON ETHICAL CONDUCT IN HUMAN RESEARCH (2007)  
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/e72syn.htm>



7.

- (a) Please indicate whether the protocol conforms to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*. Yes  No .
- (b) Please indicate whether the protocol conforms to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (Section 4)* with regard to the following areas of research:
- |     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| 4.1 | Women who are pregnant and the human foetus   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.2 | Children and young people   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.3 | People in dependent or unequal relationships  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.4 | People highly dependent on medical care who may be unable to give consent           | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.5 | People with a cognitive impairment, an intellectual disability, or a mental illness | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.6 | People who may be involved in illegal activities                                    | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.7 | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples                                       | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.8 | People in other countries   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- (c) If the response to any of the above is 'No', please provide further information below.

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## 11. ETHICAL ISSUES

Please indicate which of the following ethical issues are involved in this research.

- (a) Does data collection require access to confidential data without the prior consent of participants? Yes  No
- (b) Will visual recordings be made, eg: photo, video, etc? Yes  No
- (c) Will audio recordings be made, eg: tape or digital, etc? Yes  No
- (d) Will participants be asked to commit any act which might diminish self-respect or cause them to experience shame, embarrassment or regret? Yes  No
- (e) Will any procedure be used which may have an unpleasant or harmful side effect? Yes  No

8.

- (f) Does the research use any stimuli, tasks, or procedures, which may be experienced by participants as stressful, noxious, or unpleasant?

Yes [ ] No [X]

- (g) Does the research involve deception of participants, concealment or covert observation?

Yes [ ] No [ X]

- (h) Will the research use no-treatment or placebo control conditions?

Yes [ ] No [X ]

- (i) Will any samples of body fluid or body tissue be required specifically for the research, which would not be required in the case of the ordinary treatment?

Yes [ ] No [X]

- (j) Does the research involve a fertilised human ovum?

Yes [ ] No [X]

- (k) Does the project use embryos beyond a period of fourteen days after fertilisation?

Yes [ ] No [ X]

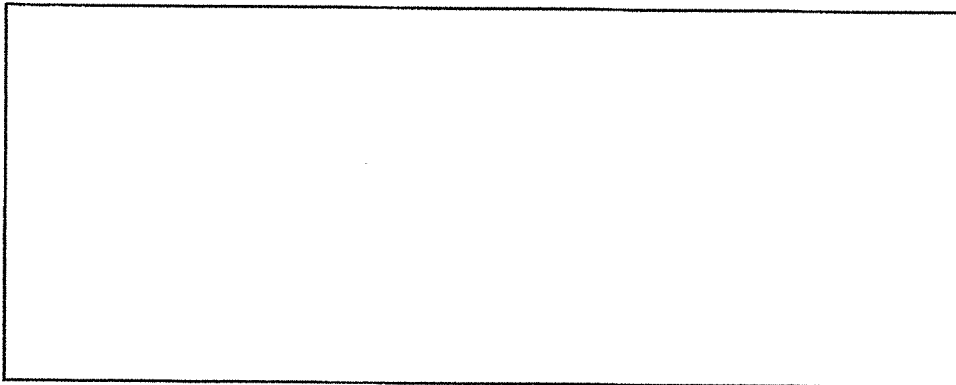
- (l) Does the project involve the implantation of embryos, which have been the subjects of prior experimentation?

Yes [ ] No [X]

- (m) Are there in your opinion any other ethical issues involved in the research?

Yes [ ] No [X]

***If the answer to any of the above questions is 'Yes' please amplify below. Details required of secure storage of recordings, preferably within Departmental facilities.***



## 12. INFORMATION SHEET AND INFORMED CONSENT FORM:

Normally, each participant is given an information sheet and is required to sign a consent form.

Do you undertake to obtain written consent for each participant? Yes [ ] No [X]

- (a) If 'Yes', please attach a copy of the Information Sheet and the Consent Form to be given to and signed by all participants and/or their responsible signatory. These forms should be on departmental letterhead. The Information Sheet should describe all the procedures proposed in clear, simple terms. It should list any potential short- or long-term side effects and any hazards. **The required standard paragraph must be included at the bottom of all Consent Forms, or Information Sheets where appropriate.** (As the majority of concerns raised by the Human Research Ethics Committee are raised in connection with the Information Sheet and Consent Form, it is strongly recommended that you consult the *Guidelines for Preparation of Information Sheet and Consent Form*, available on the Human Ethics Office web page.)
- (b) If 'No', please justify this departure from normal procedure. Refer to National Statement 2007 (chapter 2.3).

Completion and return of questionnaire is taken to constitute informed consent.  
Information sheet is prepended to the questionnaire (see enclosed).

### 13. POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND RISKS:

- (a) What are the possible benefits of this research?

- (i) To the participant:

None

- (ii) To humanity generally;

Better understanding of how people process statistical information, in particular temperature records relating to climate change.

- (b) What in your view are the possible harms, discomforts or inconveniences of this research to the participants? Refer to National Statement 2007 (chapter 2.1)

10.

None

**14. REMUNERATION:**

Is any financial remuneration or other reward being offered to participants in the study?

Yes [ ] No [X]

If 'Yes', please state how much will be offered and for what purpose, e.g. to cover travelling expenses, time spent etc. Volunteers may be recompensed for inconvenience and time spent, but any such payment or compensation should not be so large as to be an inducement to participate.

**15. EXTERNAL AUDITS:**

Will individual results of this study be subject to an audit by any agency external to the University?

Yes [ ] No [X]

If 'Yes', who will be conducting the audit?

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**CHECK LIST**

**To assist with processing this application, I have:**

- 1. answered all the questions fully; Yes [ X ]
- 2. signed this application form and obtained the Head of Department's signature; Yes [ X ]
- 3. sent one electronic version of the application documentation to \_\_\_\_\_; N/A
- 4. enclosed the **original application form**, with a **copy of the Information Sheet/Consent Form** and any related documentation (questionnaires, letters, etc.) attached; Yes [ X ]
- 5. enclosed four, complete, collated copies of the application form including **Information Sheet/Consent Form** and **related documents as per 3 above (making 5 copies in all including the original)**; N/A
- 6. and enclosed two copies of the full grant/research proposal if available.. N/A

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**Chief Investigator:**

- I certify that I am the Chief Investigator named on the front page of this application form.
- I undertake to conduct this project in accordance with all the applicable legal requirements and ethical responsibilities associated with its carrying out. I also undertake to ensure that all persons under my supervision involved in this project will also conduct the research in accordance with all such applicable legal requirements and ethical responsibilities.
- I certify that adequate indemnity insurance has been obtained to cover the personnel working on this project. (Refer UWA Insurance & Risk Management Office for advice, tel: 6488 3214)
- I have read the Code of Practice for the use of Name-identified Data. I declare that I and all researchers participating in this project will abide by the terms of this Code.
- I make this application on the basis that it and the information it contains are confidential and that the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Western Australia will keep all information concerning this application and the matters it deals with in strict confidence.

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Name: (Please print): Stephan Lewandowsky

Signed:

Date: 12/12/09

**Head of School:**

I am aware of the content of this application and approve the conduct of the project within this school.

Name: (Please print): David Morrison

Signed:

Date:

17/12/09



Professor Stephan Lewandowsky  
Australian Professorial Fellow  
School of Psychology

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Mobile

Email  
Web <http://www.cogsciwa.com/>

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## Understanding Statistical Trends

### INFORMATION SHEET AND CONSENT FORM

This study explores people's understanding of statistical trends. You will be shown some statistical graphs and will be asked to make predictions about the trends in the data (e.g., stock prices). You will also be asked some questions about your impressions of statistical and scientific certainty.

The study should take no more than 5 minutes to complete.

***Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. The completion and return of this questionnaire is taken to constitute your consent to participate.***

The data will be analysed without regard to your identity. If the results from this study will be published, only aggregate results will be reported and individual responses will not be identifiable.

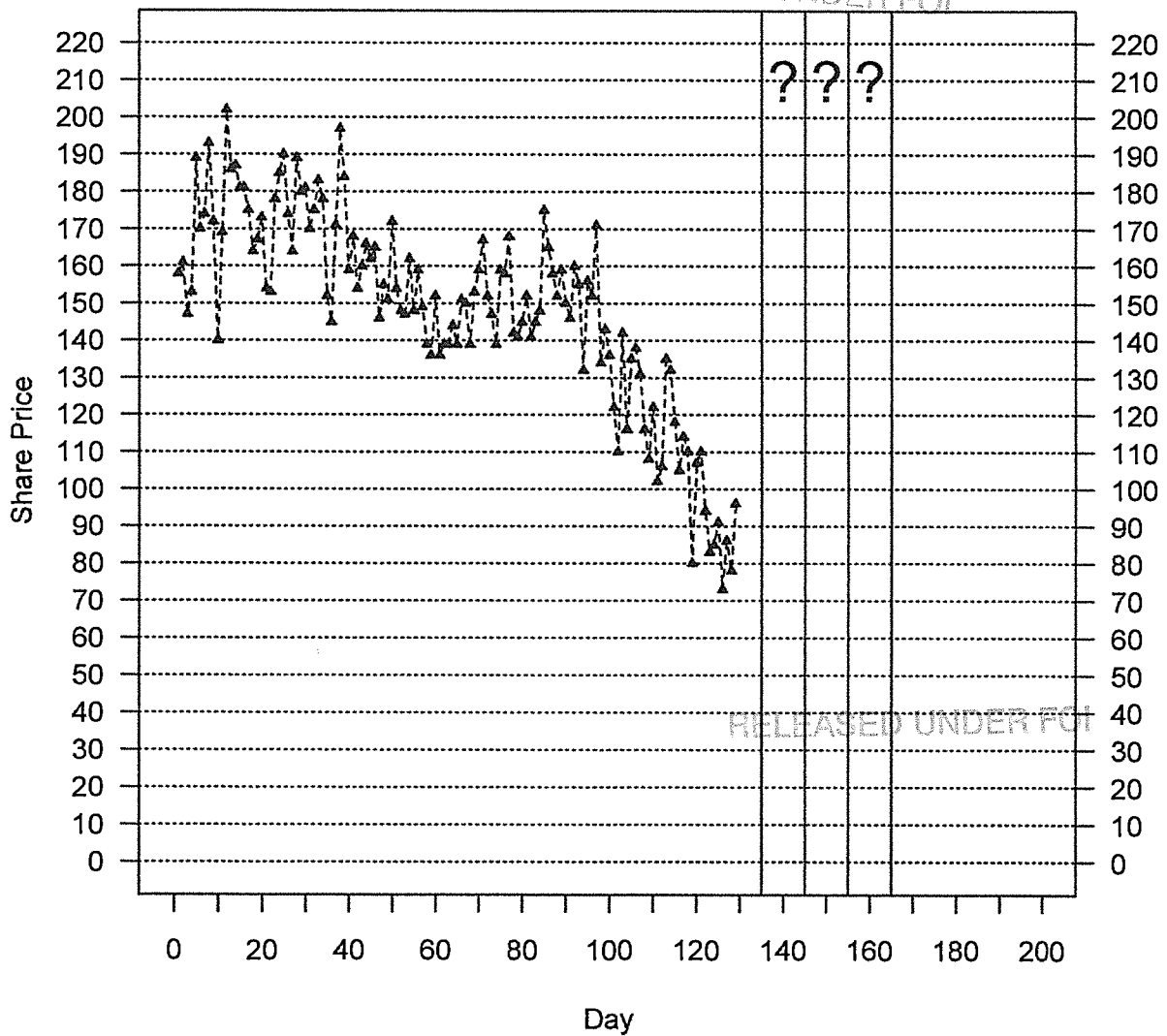
RELEASED UNDER FOI

If you have any questions about this research you may address them to the chief investigator, Professor S Lewandowsky, at the address and phone number above.

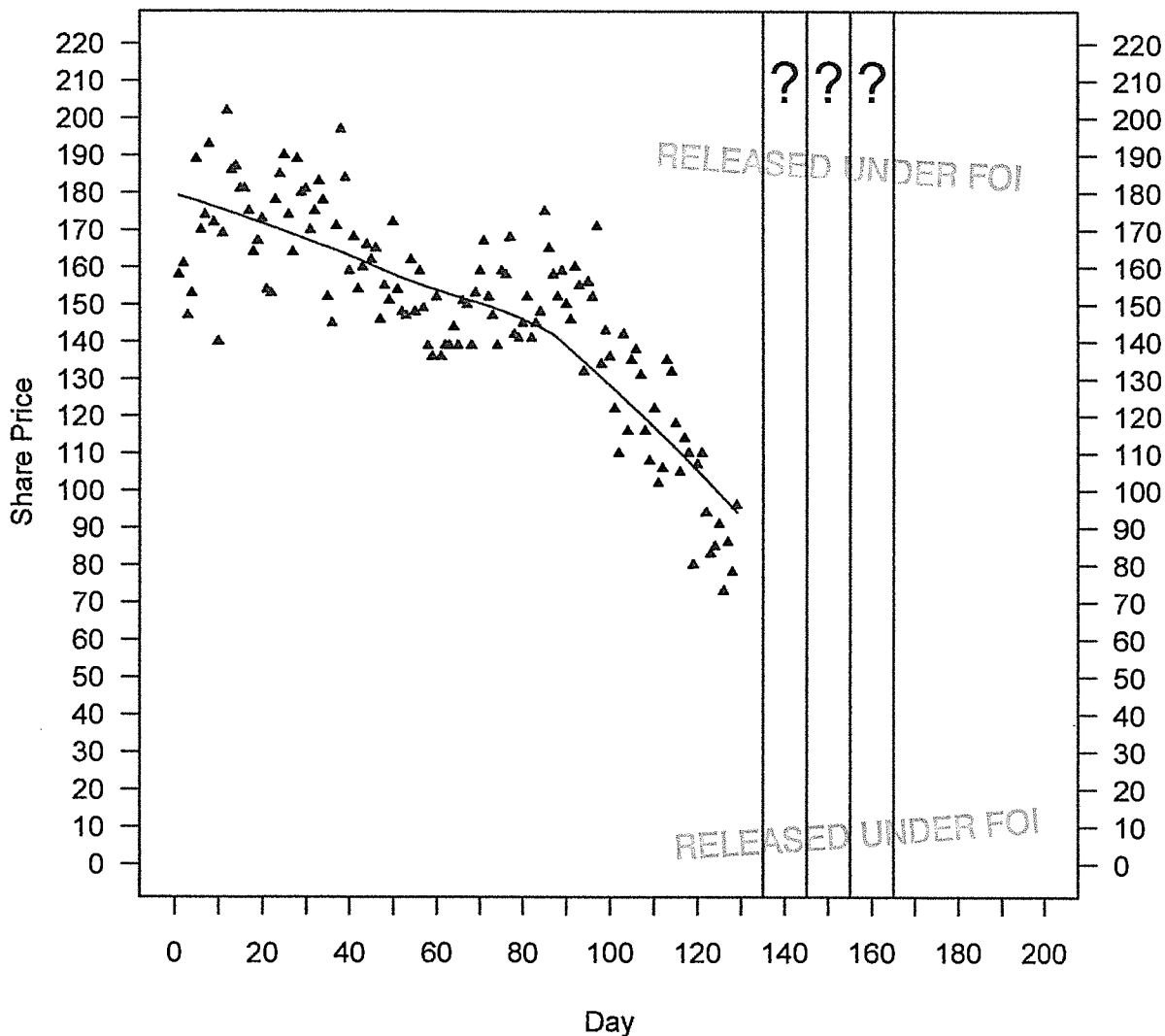
*The Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Western Australia requires that all participants are informed that, if they have any complaint regarding the manner, in which a research project is conducted, it may be given to the researcher or, alternatively to the Secretary, Human Research Ethics Committee, Registrar's Office, University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009 (telephone number 6488-3703). All study participants will be provided with a copy of the Information Sheet and Consent Form for their personal records.*

### Share Price MajorScoop Corporation

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### Share Price SupremeWidget Corporation





**UWA Ethics Application – Checklist 1.1, 0**

**PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO OTHERWISE.**

All Questions marked \* are compulsory.

**Ethics Approval for Research Involving Humans****Protocol Number (Office use only)****Project Title**

Understanding Statistical Trends

**Project Summary (Plain language explanation)**

People will be shown statistical graphs containing trends over time (e.g. stock prices)

and will be asked to extrapolate the trends.

**Chief Investigator (or Supervisor if Student Research)**

W/Prof Stephan Lewandowsky

**CI Associated Department**

Psychology

**Qualifications**

PhD

**Organisation (if external)****Mailing Address**

School of Psychology, UWA (M304)

Yes  No \* Are Other UWA Investigators Involved in this Protocol?

Yes  No \* Are External Investigators Involved in this Protocol?

Enter details of all investigators on the final page of this form.

**SECTION 1**

**Exemption from ethics review is requested on the basis that the activity should NOT be classified as “human research”**

Yes  No \* B1 Is your proposed activity a **quality assurance**, an **audit** or a **teaching or learning** activity that is conducted as part of the usual business in which you are engaged, rather than “human research”? (E.g. *Quality assurance studies, or audits, in health care delivery, or in other professional fields; or surveys, tests, interviews or observations for teaching & learning purposes may not be classified as “research” and, therefore, may not require human research ethics approval.*)

**SECTION 2**

**Exemption from ethics review is requested as the activity, although classifiable as "human research", meets National Statement criteria for exemption**

Yes  No \* B2 Does your research involve anything more than access to, and use of, *existing* data or records that contain *only non-identifiable* information about people?

Yes  No \* B3 Does your research involve anything more than "*negligible risk*"?

For a definition of negligible risk refer to paragraph 2.1.7 on page 18 of the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* located at:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/publications/synopses/e72-jul09.pdf>.

**PART C – CHECK FOR MANDATORY ETHICS REVIEW**

Yes  No \*C0 Is this a Biomedical Project?

Yes  No \*C1 Does the research involve any physically invasive procedures or the collection, extraction or use of human tissue (including cell lines), blood or other body fluids?

**Does your research involve the following?**

Yes  No \*C2 Active concealment of information from participants and/or planned deception of participants To view the National Statement click this link (NS 2.3.4)

Yes  No \*C3 A focus on illegal activity or highly likely to discover illegal activity (NS 2.3.4 and NS 4.6)

Yes  No \*C4 A focus on people with a cognitive impairment, an intellectual disability or a mental illness. (NS4.5)

Yes  No \*C5 A focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) peoples, groups, communities or issues. (NS4.7)

Yes  No \*C6 Provision of data or linkage between one or more databases that will require further approval of the Department of Health of Western Australian Human Research Ethics Committee?

Yes  No \*C7 Use of personal (identifiable) information in medical research, or personal health information, including tissue samples, without specific consent from the individuals to whom the information relates. *This includes cell lines other than those acquired commercially*) (NS2.3.5)

Yes  No \*C8 Clinical research, an innovation in clinical practice, a clinical trial or the application of randomised trial methods in other fields of human research (NS3.3)

Yes  No \*C9 Human genetic studies (NS 3.5)

Yes  No \*C10 Human stem cells (NS3.6)

Yes  No \*C11 A focus on women who are pregnant and/or research involving the human foetus. (NS4.1)

Yes  No \*C12 People highly dependant on medical care who may be unable to give consent, e.g. unconscious or too ill. (NS4.4)

**PART D – CHECK FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR EXPEDITED L1 ETHICS REVIEW**

Yes  No \*D1 Will participants be quoted or be identifiable, either directly or indirectly, in reporting of the research?

Yes  No \*D2 Is it planned to recruit any adult participants who will not have sufficient competence to provide valid consent. (NS2.2.12)

- Yes  No \*D3 Will the research involve children or young people aged <18 years who may lack the maturity to provide their own consent? (NS4.2)
- Yes  No \*D4 Are the potential participants in existing or predictable future unequal relationship with any research staff (students/patients of the researcher/employees)? (NS4.3)
- Yes  No \*D5 Will existing data sets, databanks or human tissue banks be accessed for the research? (NS3.2)
- Yes  No \*D6 Is there any risk of physical injury to participants? (NS2.1)
- Yes  No \*D7 Could the research procedures cause substantial pain or physical discomfort to participants? (NS2.1)
- Yes  No \*D8 Might the research procedures cause participants psychological or emotional distress? (NS2.1)
- Yes  No \*D9 Could the research expose participants to civil, criminal or other proceedings? (NS2.1)
- Yes  No \*D10 Does the research involve the collection of sensitive personal information?  
\*Define the collection of sensitive personal information.

- Yes  No \*D11 Could the research expose participants to economic loss, reduced employability or damage to their reputation? (NS2.1)
- Yes  No \*D12 Could the research have a negative impact on personal relationships? (NS2.1)
- Yes  No \*D13 Will potential participants be offered inducements that could be considered coercive to them? (NS2.2.10, NS3.3.5)
- Yes  No \*D14 Does the research involve covert observation? (NS2.3.1)
- Yes  No \*D15 Does the research involve limited disclosure to all aspects of the research procedures and is the rationale for the research procedures explained to the participants? (NS2.3.1)
- Yes  No \*D16 Are participants in prison, in custody, on remand or on parole.

## DECLARATION BY CHIEF INVESTIGATOR OR PROJECT SUPERVISOR

This application will be reviewed by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee.

I declare that:

- \*I am satisfied that an adequate peer review has been conducted and that the research proposal is ready for submission for ethics approval.
- \*The resources required to undertake this project are available.
- \*The researchers have the skill and expertise to undertake this project appropriately.
- \*List of Internal Personnel attached. If more than 1 Investigator

Please print a copy of this form, complete the following details and attach to your written application.

Title W/Prof

First Name Stephan Surname Lewandowsky

Position Australian Professorial Fellow

