

PTAS Small Project Grant: Introducing Psychology via Public Engagement

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FINAL REPORT

The project was run within the Perception component of year 1 Psychology course in academic year 2012-13

We requested £1200 to admit 350 students, tutors and staff, to Camera Obscura and World of Illusions, on Castlehill

We kicked things off with a social evening at Camera Obscura

Psychology 1 social evening @CamObs

Edinburgh's CAMERA OBSCURA and WORLD OF ILLUSIONS
info@camera-obscura.co.uk
Tel: +44(0)131 226 3299

What's On and Latest News

Our Guarantees:
We guarantee your visit - if you feel it is not up to your expectations we will refund your admission ticket - no quibbles! 99% of visitor feedback is glowing, but if you feel differently we want to know why so that we can do something about it.
We also guarantee to be open during our published hours, whatever the weather, every day (except December 25th). The attraction is fantastic fun for all ages, all weathers, so come and enjoy!

All Day Ticket
Your ticket is now valid all day! If you want to nip out for lunch or coffee, get your hand stamped and you can come and go as you please.

The Camera Obscura Show
Please note the last Camera presentation is dependent on daylight. If this is over you can come back and see it the next day on the same ticket, or if you cannot do this there is a 10% discount on entry.
We regret we are not taking online bookings at the moment, however for groups of 10 or fewer people there is no need to pre-book tickets - just come along on the day - your entry is guaranteed!

Builderworld and The Puzzling Zone!
We will continue to introduce new exhibits from our ever expanding list of ideas. We hope you enjoy playing with our new toys as much as we do!

NEXT Tuesday (13 Nov)

7.30-10 pm

EXPLORE the world of illusions with friends

MEET classmates, psychology staff, and the Camera Obscura team

FREE glass of wine

ENTRY with studentcard

Which students enjoyed very much. They were then able to visit again, for free, in groups, at any time in a 5 week period.



Students were asked to produce signage to explain illusions exhibits to the general public

THE VORTEX TUNNEL

The Vortex Tunnel makes you believe the platform under your feet and the whole room are spinning!

The illusion is composed of a bridge that you walk on, a couple of mirrors and a revolving background. Although in reality we know it is the background that is spinning and not the bridge, the visual cues are so strong that our brain still gets tricked. The tunnel is so effective, because there are no references to outside stationary objects, and the mirrors are reflecting the spinning tunnel to make it seem endless.

Without the light from the camera's flash, the camera will see the background as stationary.

We had a reflective panel to help with the lighting in the tunnel for our.

The camera's flash lets you see what the vortex tunnel is composed of

Shining the camera's flash into the tunnel.

It really makes us believe that it is the ground under our feet that is spinning.

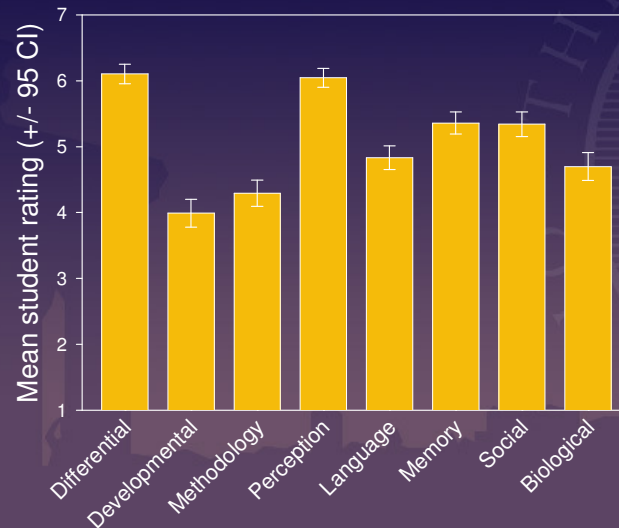
This is the illusion of infinity that you get when you are inside.

Although in reality we know the bridge is actually not spinning, the visual cues are so strong that our brain still gets tricked.

When we walk in the tunnel we feel like we are between the stars.

You get the illusion of infinity.

Outcomes (1) student feedback was extremely good, with perception rated (equal) first in course.



If you had to flag one good element of the course, what would you choose and why?

“The lectures and real-world activities
e.g. Perception in Camera Obscura”

“Some brilliant lecturers and Cam Obs was fun”

“Real World Camera Obscura activity”

“Trip to Camera Obscura was great, as was that course”

“The trip to Camera Obscura was interesting”

“Getting to take part and visit Camera Obscura and
having demonstrations in lectures”

“I really enjoyed the real-world activity at Camera Obscura”

Outcomes (2) legacy

PTAS project has seeded a close collaborative relationship with Camera Obscura



In 2013-14, this activity ran again for free.

And we have launched a number of other collaborations, including securing a British Psychological Society Public Engagement grant to get our students explaining the psychology of perceptual illusions to the public at Camera Obscura.