**DEBRIEFING FORM**

1. **What was this study about?** We’re interested in whether people know when speech is repeated. Ultimately, the larger project is about a phenomenon we call “fresh talk.” It begins with the observation that in everyday social life, people want to believe that the conversations they have are unique and fresh. We want our conversation partners to generate speech anew rather than repeat something old. But people’s belief in fresh talk is surprising given that much of what we say is not fresh. Much of spoken life is on repeat. People tell the same stories, repeat the same advice, and give the same answers to the same old questions. So why, if much of speech is repeated, do we often think it’s fresh? One answer is that we can’t tell when other people are repeating themselves. This is what we set out to test.
2. **How was the study conducted?** Some of you were assigned to be speakers. Others were assigned to be listeners. For speakers, we gave you a topic and then you told listeners about that topic repeatedly. Listeners will listen to you speaking, and then we will ask listeners various questions to see if they can detect repeated speech and what they thought of it.
3. **What was the hypothesis?** One major reason why people might persist in the belief that speech is fresh in a world where speech is so often unfresh is that we are bad at detecting fresh speech. This is exactly what this experiment sought to test.
4. **Why is this study important?** Humans repeat speech over and over again, but there’s little work in psychology looking at whether people can tell if something has been repeated. The first step in a new and intriguing story about repeated speech (and its social consequences) is to see whether people can detect fresh speech.
5. **References**:

Keysar, B., & Henly, A. S. (2002). Speakers' overestimation of their effectiveness. Psychological Science, 13, 207-212.

1. **How to contact the researcher:** If you have questions or concerns about your participation or payment, or want to request a summary of research findings, please contact the researcher: Gus Cooney, [guscooney@gmail.com](mailto:guscooney@gmail.com), 617-650-6925. For any problems related to this study, you may also contact the faculty member who is supervising it: Daniel Gilbert, [gilbert@wjh.harvard.edu](mailto:gilbert@wjh.harvard.edu).
2. **Whom to contact about your rights as a participant in this research:** For questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints that have not been or cannot be addressed by the researcher, or to report research-related harm, please contact the Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research at Harvard University, 1414 Massachusetts Avenue, Second Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138. Phone: 617-496-2847. Email: [cuhs@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:cuhs@fas.harvard.edu)