

CONSENT DOCUMENT FOR ENROLLING ADULT PARTICIPANTS IN A RESEARCH STUDY

Georgia Institute of Technology
Project Title: An Educational Study of Georgia Tech non-credit MOOCs

Investigators:

Principal Investigator:

Robert S. Kadel, Ph.D.

Co-Principal Investigator:

Amanda G. Madden, Ph.D.

Protocol and Consent Title: Main 04/09/16 v3

You are being asked to be a volunteer in a research study.

Purpose:

- The aim of this study is twofold. The first purpose is to explore students' experiences with and attitudes and perceptions towards MOOC learning. The second purpose is to collect demographic data to understand Georgia Tech's population of MOOC learners.

Exclusion/Inclusion Criteria:

- Participants in this study must be 18 years and older.

Procedures:

- If you decide to participate in this study, you will be asked to fill out a pre-course survey at the beginning of the course, a second survey administered mid-way through the course, and a post-course survey at the end of the course which will conclude our data collection. All surveys will be provided as links within the course. Each survey will take between 5 and 10 minutes to complete. Data will be collected by Coursera on MOOC usage (viewing of videos; attempts at completing and associated grades for quizzes, homework's, examinations, discussion forum participation). The data collected will only be used for research purposes.

Risks or Discomforts:

- There are no identifiable risks involved in your participation in this research study. The risks involved

are no greater than those involved in daily activities such as completing a survey or taking part in a discussion forum.

Benefits:

- There are no direct benefits to you for participation in this study. No promise or guarantee of benefits has been made to encourage you to participate. We hope that the information that you have provided will help us redesign the course and will also provide insight into new learning strategies.

Compensation to You:

- Your participation is voluntary. There will be no compensation for your participation.

Confidentiality:

- The following procedures will be followed to keep your personal information confidential in this study: The data collected about you will be kept private to the extent allowed by law. To protect your privacy, your records will be kept under a code number rather than by name. Your records will be kept in a secure data warehouse and only researchers authorized by this study's Principal Investigator will be allowed to look at them. You will not be asked to submit personally identifiable information for this study. Any personally identifiable information you elect to submit within the course may be seen by study researchers. Your name and any other fact that might point to you will not appear when results of this study are presented or published. Your privacy will be protected to the extent allowed by law.
- You should be aware that the experiment is not being run from a 'secure' https server of the kind typically used to handle credit card transactions, so there is a small possibility that responses could be viewed by unauthorized third parties such as computer hackers. In general, the web page software will log as header lines the IP address of the machine you use to access this page, e.g., 102.403.506.807, and the platform that is hosting this course (Coursera or edX) may share your name and email address with the study team. This information will not be seen by anyone other than researchers authorized by this study's Principal Investigator.

- Study participants are advised not to disclose any personally identifiable information (such as full name, address, or government-issued identification numbers) in the discussion forums of this course.
- All personally identifying information will be removed before any data is stored in the data warehouse. Identifying information that you supply in registering on the course platform (Coursera or edX) may be included in data files shared with the Principal Investigator. This identifying information will be removed from data sets before they are stored in the secure data warehouse. Study participants are advised that once this de-identified information has been submitted to the data warehouse, it cannot be removed specifically because it is de-identified. Participants who do not wish to have their data stored in the data warehouse (see Participant Rights below) are advised that any data collected prior to notifying the Principal Investigator to opt out will continue to be stored in the data warehouse.
- To make sure that this research is being carried out in the proper way, the Georgia Institute of Technology IRB may review study records. The Office of Human Research Protections may also look at study records.

Costs to You:

- There are no costs to you, other than your time, for being in this study.

In Case of Injury/Harm:

- If you are injured as a result of being in this study, please contact Principal Investigator, Dr. Robert S. Kadel, at telephone (404) 894-6863. Neither the Principal Investigator nor Georgia Institute of Technology has made provision for payment of costs associated with any injury resulting from participation in this study.

Participant Rights:

- Your participation in this study is voluntary. You do not have to be in this study if you don't want to be.
- If you do not wish to have your data stored as part of this study, please opt out by contacting Dr. Robert Kadel at the email address below.

- You have the right to change your mind and leave the study at any time without giving any reason and without penalty.
- Any new information that may make you change your mind about being in this study will be given to you.
- You may print out a copy of this consent form to keep.
- You do not waive any of your legal rights by participating in this research study.

Questions about the Study:

- If you have any questions about the study, you may contact Dr. Robert Kadel, at telephone (404) 894-6863 or robk@c21u.gatech.edu.

Questions about Your Rights as a Research Participant:

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact

Ms. Kelly Winn, Georgia Institute of Technology
Office of Research Integrity Assurance, at (404) 385-2175.

If you complete the surveys or participate in the forums, it means that you have read—or have read to you—the information contained in this letter you indicate your consent to be in the study.

