

**The role of Virtual Reality in situated, embodied collaborative analysis  
and communication for planetary scientists**  
**QUT Ethics Approval Number 9188**

**Research team** Please list all members and organisations in this section

Principal Researcher:	Alex Douglass-Bonner	PhD student
Associate Researcher(s):	Selen Türkay Laurianne Sitbon	Principal Supervisor Associate Supervisor
	<b>School of Computer Science/Faculty of Science</b> <b>Queensland University of Technology (QUT)</b>	

**Why is the study being conducted?**

This research project is being undertaken as part of a PhD study for Alex Douglass-Bonner. The purpose of this project is to explore how we can develop optimal immersive reality environments (e.g., virtual or augmented reality) to facilitate scientists' work especially when working with remote data. In particular, we will be exploring how we can develop an immersive reality environment where scientists like you can work with your colleagues, visualize data and test hypotheses.

You are invited to participate in this project because you have expertise in geology, planetary science or a related field where you conduct field work and use remote sensing data for your scientific endeavors.

**What does participation involve?**

Your participation will involve an audio and video recorded interview, where you will be asked about your fieldwork and data analysis experience. You may also be shown demonstration materials, and asked how these could fit into your current work flow.

Questions may include:

Describe the last time you carried out fieldwork. What did you do?

How could an immersive reality system address these problems?

All responses and data will be made non-identifiable following the interviews to ensure that none of the research team will know the identities of specific participants.

**Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary.** If you agree to participate you do not have to complete any question(s) you are uncomfortable answering. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT (for example your grades). If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from the project without comment or penalty. On request any identifiable information already obtained from you will be destroyed.

You will be able to review a transcript of your responses after the interview.

### **What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?**

It is expected that this project will not benefit you directly. However, it may further current understanding of how scientists work with remote data, what kind of technologies use to do so, the problems with these technologies and how immersive reality systems could address these problems. This could lead to more effective approaches to design such environments for workplace, training and education.

You will be provided with a \$20 voucher for your participation.

### **What are the possible risks for me if I take part?**

We don't anticipate any risks in participating in this study other than the risks associated with your everyday work activities. Still, we would like to provide the following information.

QUT provides for limited free psychology, family therapy or counselling services (face-to-face only) for research participants of QUT projects who may experience discomfort or distress as a result of their participation in the research. Should you wish to access this service please call the Clinic Receptionist on **07 3138 0999** (Monday–Friday only 9am–5pm), QUT Psychology and Counselling Clinic, 44 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove, and indicate that you are a research participant.

Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call **13 11 14** for 24 hour telephone crisis support.

### **What about privacy and confidentiality?**

All comments and responses will be made anonymous and will be kept as anonymous throughout the study. Participants' faces will be blurred in the videos if they are to be used for publication purposes.

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy. Data will be stored for a minimum of 5 years, and can be disclosed if it is to protect you or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body such as the ethics committee requests it.

As the research project involves an audio/video recording:

The recording will be destroyed 5 years after the last publication.

The recording will not be used for any other purpose.

Only the named researchers will have access to the recording.

It is not possible to participate in the research project without being recorded.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the data you provide cannot be traced back to you in reports, publications and other forms of presentation. For example, we will only include the relevant part of a quote, we will not use any names, or names will be changed, and/or details such as dates and specific circumstances will be excluded. Nevertheless, while unlikely, it is possible that if you are quoted directly your identity may become known.

### **How do I give my consent to participate?**

We would like to ask you to sign a written consent form (enclosed) to confirm your agreement to participate.

### **What if I have questions about the research project?**

If you have any questions or require further information please contact one of the listed researchers:

Alex Douglass-Bonner  
Selen Turkey

Alexandra.douglassbonner@qut.edu.au  
[selen.turkey@qut.edu.au](mailto:selen.turkey@qut.edu.au)

**What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?**

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on +61 7 3138 5123 or email [humanethics@qut.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@qut.edu.au).

**Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.**