

Participant Information Sheet

Project title:	Using Deep-Learning to Recognise Satirical Articles
Principal investigator:	Nicholas Sanders
Researcher collecting data:	Callum Leak, Ammir Barakat
Funder (if applicable):	

This study was certified according to the Informatics Research Ethics Process, reference number 221341. Please take time to read the following information carefully. You should keep this page for your records.

Who are the researchers?

Conducting this research are Callum Leask and Ammir Barakat. Both are 4th Year Informatics students taking part in the Machine Learning Practical course. This research is being supervised by Nicholas Sanders, one of the Tutors for this course.

What is the purpose of the study?

We are working to develop a deep-learning model that can accurately detect satirical articles from their headlines. As part of this work, we wish to compare the performance of this model to real human performance to gauge whether a substantial improvement is present.

Why have I been asked to take part?

This study aims to evaluate people from all backgrounds, with varying levels of familiarity with online satire.

Do I have to take part?

No – participation in this study is entirely up to you. You can withdraw from the study at any time, up until you have completed the questions and handed in your resulting answers, without giving a reason. After this point, personal data will be deleted and anonymised data will be combined such that it is impossible to remove individual information from the analysis. Your rights will not be affected. If you wish to withdraw, contact the PI. We will keep copies of your original consent, and of your withdrawal request.



What will happen if I decide to take part?

As part of the study, you will complete a set of questions where you will read various news headlines and decide whether you believe they are satirical or not. The only data collected will be your answers to the questions, and a self-reported confidence value indicating how well you believe you'll perform. The questions will be answered online and should take no more than 20 minutes.

Are there any risks associated with taking part?

There are no significant risks associated with participation.

Are there any benefits associated with taking part?

There is no compensation for taking part.

What will happen to the results of this study?

The results of this study may be summarised in published articles, reports and presentations. Quotes or key findings will be anonymized: We will remove any information that could, in our assessment, allow anyone to identify you. With your consent, information can also be used for future research. Your data may be archived for a maximum of 4 years. All potentially identifiable data will be deleted within this timeframe if it has not already been deleted as part of anonymization.

Data protection and confidentiality.

Your data will be processed in accordance with Data Protection Law. All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential. Your data will be referred to by a unique number with no connection to individual information. Your data will only be viewed by the researcher/research team listed at the top of this form.

All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected encrypted computer, on the School of Informatics' secure file servers, or on the University's secure encrypted cloud storage services (DataShare, ownCloud, or Sharepoint) and all paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the PI's office. Your consent information will be kept separately from your responses in order to minimise risk.

What are my data protection rights?



The University of Edinburgh is a Data Controller for the information you provide. You have the right to access information held about you. Your right of access can be exercised in accordance Data Protection Law. You also have other rights including rights of correction, erasure and objection. For more details, including the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office, please visit www.ico.org.uk. Questions, comments and requests about your personal data can also be sent to the University Data Protection Officer at dpo@ed.ac.uk.

Who can I contact?

If you have any further questions about the study, please contact the lead researcher, Callum Leask at s2083848@ed.ac.uk.

If you wish to make a complaint about the study, please contact inf-ethics@inf.ed.ac.uk. When you contact us, please provide the study title and detail the nature of your complaint.

Updated information.

If the research project changes in any way, an updated Participant Information Sheet will be made available on <http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/study-updates>.

Alternative formats.

To request this document in an alternative format, such as large print or on coloured paper, please contact s2083848@ed.ac.uk.

General information.

For general information about how we use your data, go to: edin.ac/privacy-research

By participating in the study you agree that:

- I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet for the above study, that I have had the opportunity to ask questions, and that any questions I had were answered to my satisfaction.
- My participation is voluntary, and that I can withdraw at any time without giving a reason. Withdrawing will not affect any of my rights.
- I consent to my anonymised data being used in academic publications and presentations.
- I understand that my anonymised data will be stored for the duration outlined in the Participant Information Sheet.



- I allow my data to be used in future ethically approved research.
- I agree to take part in this study.

