

Information Sheet

Study title: Abusive Language Online

Investigators:

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What are the possible risks of taking part in this study?

Some of the examples you will see contain hateful language and may be offensive or upsetting.

Warning – this research exposes participants to offensive language which may cause mental or physical stress to the reader. Please consider this before participating, you are under no obligation to take part and if you choose not to we thank you for considering taking part. Please do remember that you can withdraw from participating at any time.

Has this research been approved?

Yes. The project has been approved by the Heriot-Watt University School of Mathematics and Computer Science ethics committee (2023-5536-8232).

What is the purpose of this research?

To research what people consider to constitute abusive language on social media.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to participate as you are a highly qualified worker on Amazon Mechanical Turk.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part is voluntary. You may choose not to take part or to decide to stop taking part at any time without giving a reason.

What do I have to do if I decide to participate?

1. Consent to participate in the study by checking "Yes, I agree" below.
2. Complete the survey questions.

What are the benefits of participating in this study?

You will be paid at least the UK Living Wage per hour for participating in this part of the study.

You will be paid for your time regardless of whether you complete the study.

What will happen if I don't wish to carry on with the study?

If you decide that you no longer wish to take part you can withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

Privacy and confidentiality

Heriot-Watt University is the data controller for the personal data collected in this project.

This means that we are responsible under data protection law for making sure your personal

information is kept secure, confidential and used only in the way you have been told it will be used.

Only the investigators will have access to the personal information that you provide.

No information that could identify you will appear in any report on the results of this research.

Should you wish to enquire about data protection, you can contact:

Heriot-Watt Data Protection Officer: dataprotection@hw.ac.uk

For further information on data protection, see:

<https://www.hw.ac.uk/uk/services/docs/information-governance/PrivacyNoticeResearch-V4Finalversion.pdf>

We will collect and use your personal data for this project to undertake research in the public interest as part of our core purpose under our University Charter and Statutes.

If you decide to stop taking part in this study, we will not be able to withdraw all of your data from the study if this will have an adverse impact on the integrity and validity of the research. If we can withdraw from the study your data that has been collected or generated within the research project, we will usually need to retain a record of your initial consent to participate within the project governance documentation for as long as required for audit purposes.

If you would like to know more about what Heriot-Watt University does with your personal data and your rights under privacy law, please visit our data protection web pages at <https://www.hw.ac.uk/about/policies/data-protection.htm> or contact our Data Protection Officer by email at dataprotection@hw.ac.uk.

What happens at the end of the project?

The research team will use the findings of the research to produce a published report.

Please contact the researcher if you would like to obtain a copy of the report.

We will not include any information that could identify you in any report or publication.

We may keep data permanently where it is necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest.

Will I be identifiable from my Amazon ID?

We will not collect your Worker ID from Amazon Mechanical Turk. This will be deleted and replaced with an anonymised ID number so that you cannot be identified by the investigators or anyone else.

What if I have questions or concerns?

If you have questions about any aspect of this study, please contact Dr. Gavin Abercrombie:

g.abercrombie@hw.ac.uk

If you have a concern or complaint about the study please contact Dr. Ioannis Konstas

i.konstas@hw.ac.uk

If you have any questions or concerns about the use of your personal data or your rights under data protection law please contact dataprotection@hw.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for your interest in this research.