Ethics Review Form

*NB the actual ethics review form is available on SharePoint – this template is provided to COMP320 students for convenience*

Project title \*

**How easy is it for players to complete a navigational task within a Non-Euclidean virtual environment?**

Applicant name \*

**Oliver Tennant**

Job title \*

**Student**

Research Programme \*

**BSc Computing for Games**

Department \*

**Falmouth Games Academy**

Email

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# Checklist Part 1: HIGH RISK CATEGORIES

Will your project involve clinical trials? \*

**No**

Will your project involve the use of human blood or other human tissue? \*

**No**

Will your project involve administering any drugs, placebos, food stuffs or drink to participants? \*

**No**

Will your project involve the participation of NHS and/or Social Services staff, patients, equipment and/or facilities? \*

**No**

Will your project involve participants who are particularly vulnerable? (e.g. refugees, prisoners, victims of violence) \*

**No**

Will your project involve participants who are unable to give informed consent? (e.g. children, people with learning disabilities) \*

**No**

Will your project risk causing psychological stress or anxiety or other harm or negative consequences beyond that normally encountered by the participants in their life outside research? \*

**No**

Will your project involve actively deceiving the participants? (e.g., will participants be deliberately falsely informed, will information be withheld from them or will they be misled in such a way that they are likely to object or show unease when debriefed about the study) \*

**No**

Will your project involve accessing and/or storing data that comes under the Official Secrets Act and/or poses a risk to National security? \*

**No**

Is there potential for your project to have unintended harmful consequences (e.g. military use of technology / ‘weaponisation’ of artificial intelligence)? \*

**No**

# Checklist Part 2: MEDIUM RISK CATEGORIES

Will your project involve participants? \*

**Yes**

Will it be necessary for participants to take part in the study without their knowledge and consent at the time? (e.g. covert observation of people in non-public places) \*

**No**

Will financial inducements (other than reasonable expenses and compensation for time) be offered to participants? \*

**No**

Will your project involve collecting participant data (e.g. personal and/or sensitive data referring to a living individual)? \*

**No**

Will your project involve accessing secondary data that is not in the public domain (e.g. personal data collected by another user)? \*

**No**

Will your project involve accessing commercially sensitive information? \*

**No**

Could your project have negative environmental impacts (e.g. disturbance of natural habitats; damage to, or contamination of, buildings/artefacts/wildlife) \*

**No**

# Details

Other Researchers/ Co-Investigators (please indicate whether internal or external and where external, please identify partner company/ institution):

Please provide below, a lay summary of the proposed research, outlining the project's main aims, methods, and primary outputs:

Secured Funding:

**None**

Funding Awaiting Confirmation:

**No**

Primary locations of research (Country, place):

**Falmouth University**

**Penryn, United Kingdom**

Do you need to make a request for Expedited Review?

**No**

Has this project been considered by this, or any other (external) Research Ethics Committee?

**No**

Are you able to provide an age range of participants?

**Yes – 18 to 30**

Are any of the participants you are working with likely to come from vulnerable groups such as refugees, those with a physical or intellectual impairment or learning difficulty, victims of crime or abuse or members of marginalised communities?

**No**

Research Methods, please tick all that apply:

Interviews

Observation

Controlled Trial ✓

Focus Groups

Physiological Data

(Artistic) Practice Research ✓

Questionnaires ✓

Literature Review ✓

Site Survey

Action Research ✓

Use of Personal Records

Other (please describe in the summary box below)

Please briefly summarise proposed methods:

**I aim to test a user’s efficiency within a simple navigational task. Then when the task has been completed, I will hand them a questionnaire which will ask if they have had any previous experience with Non-Euclidean geometry in games before and how they found the experiment. On completion, they will be asked to go through a different version of the same level but with more Non-Euclidean elements.**

How and by whom will potential participants or personal records be identified?

**The experiment is anonymous, but the way I shall gather information is by using the questionnaire. The questions that will be asked will be along the lines of: *“How often do you play games?”,* *“Have you played a game with Non-Euclidean elements before?”* or *“How did you find the test?”***

Will personal information be gathered as part of the research process?

**No, as this kind of information is not relevant to this type of experiment.**

Please outline criteria for inclusion/ exclusion of participants:

**There should not be any need to exclude participants within this experiment as it is more of a generalised topic that anyone can partake in.**

Have you made arrangements for participants to opt out of taking part in the research before, during or after the research takes place?

**If the participant wants to opt out of the experiment at any time, that is completely fine.**

How long will each participant be in the study in total, from when they give informed consent to their last contact with the research team?

**The participants will not have a set time to complete the tasks.**

* **My first reason behind this is due to the nature of the experiment. So, it is more about how *long* it will take not *if they can*.**
* **The second reason is that by creating a timer until the experiment concludes, might cause anomalous results due to anxiety within the candidate.**

What are the potential risks and burdens for research participants, and how will you minimise them? Describe what steps would be taken to minimise risks and burdens:

**My main risk with the experiment is that it might have the potential to make the participants nauseas. I aim to alleviate some of this feeling by giving the participant some information of what Non-Euclidean geometry is beforehand and tell them that they are free to leave the experiment if they do not feel certain about taking part.**

Describe the measures you have in place in the event of any unexpected outcomes or adverse effects to participants arising from involvement in the project:

**To ensure that the participant does not suffer any adverse effects during/after testing the product, a supervisor may be required just encase.**

Will any aspect of the research include topics that might be sensitive, embarrassing or upsetting, or is it possible that criminal or other disclosures could occur during the study?

**No, there should not be anything along these lines within the research topic.**

What are the potential benefits to research participants?

**I believe that being able to participate in an experiment of this nature is quite a unique opportunity. Not only that, but the results also gained from this experiment might give an indication of where Non-Euclidean geometry could possibly go in the future.**

What are the potential risks to the research team?

**I don’t really believe that there are any major risks to the research team. However, if something were to happen, a first aider will be present within the main research station. (The main station being within the Games Academy (GA) at the university campus.)**

What are the potential risks to the University? Risks might include damage to reputation, loss or damage of property or negative impact on other University activities:

**Again, I don’t really think that my experiment has the potential to causes such instances. But, if any of these were to happen, supervisors will be present.**

Will research participants receive any payments, reimbursement of expenses, or any other benefits or incentives, for taking part in this research?

**No, as the budget of this experiment would not cover such expenses.**

Who will data be collected from?

**I aim to gather data from preferably two fields. The first one being gamers who spend their free time playing or people that have an extensive knowledge when it comes to games in general.**

**For my second field, I am wanting to gather information from people that do not have as much experience or those that do not play games.**

Please provide details of the type of personal data to be collected:

**My reasoning is to ensure a solid conclusion on one of my hypotheses. *“Users that have less experience with games will perform more efficiently in the experiment compared to those that do;”***

Please provide details on how and where the data will be stored (Note that all personal data should be stored on a 256-bit encrypted, password-protected device):

**I don’t plan on having data stored on a hard drive since the information given isn’t personal. I only plan on using the information given to me through the questionnaire since that is all I will need. This will then be put into an Excel format to make it clearer.**

How long will data and records be stored for and in what format?]

**I’m wanting to keep the results for around 2 to 3 weeks just so it has enough time to gather the needed information.**

Have you undertaken University-approved training in compliance with GDPR legislation?

**Yes, we covered the legislations within the COMP280 module as part of one of the assignments we were given.**

Will the results of your research be embargoed for any reason?

**No, I do not think this is a necessary procedure.**

How do you intend to disseminate the results of your work?

**I intend on spreading the results possibly on social media or maybe get some help through the university to help spread it.**

Please outline arrangements you have made to share the findings of your work with research participants:

**I will be placing a social media handle on the download page that will have my website and social media links. So, they can follow the progress of the experiment.**

# Researcher Declaration

To be signed by the Main Researcher/ Principal Investigator:

I agree to comply, and will ensure that all researchers involved with the study comply with all relevant legislation, accepted ethical practice, Falmouth University policies and guidelines, and appropriate professional ethical guidelines during the conduct of this research project.

If any significant changes are made to the design of the research, I will notify the Research Integrity & Ethics Committee and understand that further review may be required before changes can be implemented.

I agree to notify the Research Integrity & Ethics Committee of any unexpected adverse events that may occur during my research.

I agree to notify the Research Integrity & Ethics Committee of any complaints I receive in connection with this research project.