

Consent Document for Enrolling Adult Participants in a Research Study

Purpose:

This research aims to study the harmful narratives of anti-Asian hate speech amidst the COVID-19 crisis. Understanding the narratives is crucial in comprehending the messages conveyed, the entities being targeted, and the impacts on targeted communities. This research will help gather the necessary information to design intervention strategies.

Participant Involvement:

As a participant, you will read some social media posts of anti-Asian hate speech, rate the perceived level of harmfulness for each instance, and provide justifications.

Exclusion/Inclusion Criteria:

To participate in this study, you must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Fluent in English
- *NOT* be located in the United Kingdom (UK), a European Union (EU) country, or the Republic of China (PRC) due to the General Protection Data Regulation (GDPR) and Personal Information Protection Law (PIPL).

Procedures:

At the beginning of the study, you will be given a brief description of the research purpose and process. Then, you will (1) fill out an entry questionnaire that collects demographic information and your belief in hate speech harm, (2) answer questionnaires to annotate, and (3) provide justifications for your annotations and general comments.

Risks:

It is possible that some of the content may contain health misconceptions or hate speech. Since you will be interacting with content that could be misinformative, we recommend you critically verify any content that you see before believing it. You are also encouraged to verify with fact-checking websites (such as Snopes, PolitiFact, and FactCheck) to avoid falling for misconceptions.

In reading hateful speech, some content may provoke unpleasant feelings or experiences. You may choose to decline to answer any questions for any reason. In addition, you may choose to stop participation at any time.

If you experience extreme stress, anxiety, or emotional distress, during or after the study, please reach out to a trained professional at one of the services listed below:

- 7 Cups of Tea (www.7cupsoftea.com): to chat anonymously with a trained active listener
- Crisis hotline (www.iamalive.org) and Crisis Text Line (www.crisistextline.org): to chat confidentially with a volunteer trained in crisis intervention
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988 or 1-800-273-8255): to chat confidentially with a skilled, trained counselor at a crisis center in your area

Benefits:

Your annotation and feedback would contribute to future detection tools and intervention strategies to combat hate speech and misinformation toward minority groups.

Confidentiality:

No personally identifiable information will be collected. Your participation will be recorded under a code number rather than by name. Your records will be accessible only to study staff. Your name and any other fact that might point to you will not appear when the results of this study are presented or published. The Georgia Institute of Technology Office of Research Integrity Assurance and the Office of Human Research Protections may look over study records during required reviews.

Participant Rights:

As a participant in this study, you have the following rights:

- Your participation in this study is voluntary. You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to be.
- You have the right to change your mind and stop the study at any time without giving any reason or penalty.
- You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.
- You do not waive any of your legal rights by signing this consent form.

Data Management:

Our dataset will not include any information that can be used to identify any of our participants personally. Participants' names will not appear when the results of this study are presented, published, or shared. We will always refer to participants with a unique anonymous identifier (e.g., P1, P2, etc.) in any documentation.

Compensation:

You will receive payment through Prolific for your participation.

Costs to You:

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

Questions About the Study:

If you have any questions about the study, you may contact the student investigator, Jiawei Zhou, at j.zhou@gatech.edu.

Questions About Your Rights as a Research Participant:

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Georgia Institute of Technology Office of Research Integrity Assurance at IRB@gatech.edu.