

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**Project ID: 36056**

**Project Title: Visually Communicating Narratives**

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You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

### What does the research involve?

This study aims to investigate narrative visualisations about text data. In particular, this research explores and analyses text data, and produces visualisations to communicate the narratives from the data. This research will assess how well these visualisations reveal the narratives, and users' understanding of the visualisations and their interpretation of the narratives from the visualisations.

If you choose to participate in this research, you will be asked to complete a user study by using a computer. This user study will be conducted online.

You will go through the following steps:

1) be given a copy of the electronic Consent Form, and be asked to sign the form if you wish to proceed;

- 2) be asked to provide a Prolific ID;
- 3) be given instructions on narrative visualisations;
- 4) be asked to use a series of visualisations and answer questions based on the visualisations;
- 5) be asked to complete a survey on demographics.

Throughout the session, the time you take to complete each task and your answers will be recorded with coded identification. No name or contact details will be recorded in any electronic data during the experiment.

### **Why were you chosen for this research?**

You have been invited to participate in this research, as we believe that your experience and opinions will be valuable to our research. This Explanatory Statement has been presented to you as you expressed your interests in participation and were redirected to this study via Prolific.co.

### **Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research**

Should you wish to participate in the study, your consent will be required to proceed. Your consent is voluntary and can be given by signing and dating a Consent Form before the beginning of the study. You may choose not to participate in this study without any implication. If you do proceed, you may also choose to withdraw at any stage during the study without any implication.

The Consent Form and this Explanatory Statement has been presented to you for your review before the study. Once you have read the documents, you will be asked to sign and date the Consent Form before proceeding. If you wish to withdraw, simply exit from the online website and any recorded information up until that time will be deleted.

Once you have completed the study, the final step of your participation is completing a questionnaire with demographic questions. This questionnaire does not require any identifiable information and is submitted anonymously. Therefore, if you request to withdraw after this step, all information will be deleted except the questionnaire.

### **Possible benefits and risks to participants**

Should you choose to participate, you will gain exposure to state-of-art narrative visualisations and gain insights into these kinds of visualisations. Information collected from this research will lead to the development of useful tools for narrative visualisations.

We do not foresee any risks to you should you choose to participate. However, should you experience discomfort you will be free to end your participation in the research at any time. Breaks may be taken at any between tasks.

### **Payment**

As an appreciation for your time, we provide a payment of \$5 with a rate of \$7.5/hour to you after the study is completed. The payment is made automatically to your Prolific.co paypal account. No user name or contact details are recorded for processing the payment.

### **Confidentiality**

The confidentiality of your data is a priority throughout the course of the project. Any personally identifiable information will not be shared with anyone not involved in this project. Access will be limited to the researchers as listed at the top of this Explanatory Statement.

After analysis, the collected information will be discussed as part of a report to the funding body, Paul Ramsay Foundation, and publications. If any answers you have given as part of your questionnaire are to

be quoted, you will be contacted directly for permission to use this within the publications. You will be kept anonymous in the final work and you will not be identifiable from any responses that you give.

### **Storage of data**

Data collected will be stored within a Monash University Google Drive account. No physical copies of the data will be made. Access is limited to the owner user account by default, but limited access (view only) may be given to the members of the research team. This data will be retained for five years after the completion of the study.

### **Results**

The analysis of this data will be published in a report to Paul Ramsay Foundation and a publication. If you would like to be notified when the results are available, please send a request to the Chief Investigator, using the contact details at the beginning of the document.

### **Complaints**

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics (MUHREC):

Executive Officer  
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)  
Room 111, Building 3e  
Research Office  
Monash University VIC 3800

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Thank you,

**Dr. Ying Yang**