

University of California, Los Angeles  
CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

**Studying Human Cooperation with Computer-Based Multi-Player Games**

Principal Investigators:

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**Introduction**

You are invited to participate in a study that examines how humans cooperate using visual signals and verbal communication in computer-based multi-agent games simulated in a 2D environment. This research is being conducted through the UCLA Department of Communication in conjunction with the Department of Statistics. You may be able to participate in this study if you are at least 18 years of age, proficient in English, and have normal to corrected vision. Your participation in this study is voluntary.

**Why is this study being done?**

The purpose of this study is to better understand how and when humans cooperate. The proposed research will examine: (1) How people infer others' intentions in visual scenes; (2) How individuals act when they intend to communicate; (3) How cooperators coordinate actions; (4) How people interpret and send communicative signals.

**What will happen if I decide to take part in this study?**

If you volunteer to take part in this study, the researcher will ask you to play with other participants or a computer in multi-player games in a simulated game presented on a 2D computer screen. You will control a player in the game by pressing keyboards or moving the cursor. Further instructions pertaining to the particular task will be presented on the computer screen preceding the task. This study may take place on campus or through the internet in the privacy of your home depending on how you are recruited.

**How long will I be in this study?**

Your participation in this study will be a one time event that should last approximately an hour.

**What kind of potential risks or discomforts could I expect?**

There are no anticipated risks.

**Are there any benefits if I participate?**

There will be no direct benefit to you from participating in this study. However, the study will help researchers to learn more about human cooperation. Ultimately, this can provide human benchmarks for developing artificial intelligence with social commonsense and improve models of human-computer cooperation.

**How will information about me and my participation be kept confidential?**

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can identify you will remain confidential. It will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. No

identifiable information will be collected during the experimental trials. The research team have access to study data and records to monitor the study. Publications and/or presentations that result from this study will not contain identifying information. The researchers intend to keep the research data and records indefinitely for future research.

**Will I be paid for my participation?**

You will receive 1 hour of credit for your communication class if you signed up for the study through the UCLA Communication Department Subject Pool or \$20 compensation at the time of participation, for alternative recruitment methods.

**What are my rights if I take part in this study?**

- You can choose whether or not you want to be in this study, and you may withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time.
- Whatever decision you make, there will be no penalty to you, and no loss of benefits to which you were otherwise entitled.

**Who can I contact if I have questions about this study?**

You may contact Stephanie Stacy at [stephaniestacy@ucla.edu](mailto:stephaniestacy@ucla.edu) or Tao Gao (Principal Investigator) at [tao.gao@stat.ucla.edu](mailto:tao.gao@stat.ucla.edu) with any questions or concerns about the research or your participation in this study.

If you have questions about your rights while taking part in this study, or if you have concerns or suggestions and want to talk to someone other than the researchers, you may contact the Office of the Human Research Protection Program by phone (310) 206-2040; by email: [participants@research.ucla.edu](mailto:participants@research.ucla.edu) or by mail: Box 951694, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1694.