Proposal of Individual project

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**General Idea:**

A website that facilitates the participant recruiting process for clinical and social science researchers.

**Background:**

In social science fields, especially psychology, researches often need to recruit volunteer participants for behavioral experiments or questionnaire survey to examine certain research hypotheses. Moreover, in clinical and medical technological research, such as medical imaging engineering, there is a constant need for participants to serve as a human model for some non-invasive physiological or anatomical tests. These data collected from human participants are often the last and the determinant step to validate a research typically with a long-lasting theoretical and/or technical development process. Under certain circumstances, researchers working on different projects take turns to act as participants in each others’ experiments.

The experiments are usually safe, easy-finishing, interesting and offer a good pay (typically from $30/hour to $500/hour, depending on task difficulty) that many people want to be involved in, but researchers often cannot find the participants at the time when they need them. Reasons include that the recruit screening filters exclude the available people; potential participants have no knowledge and/or access to the information of the experiment; researchers fail to spread the announcement widely to get a cohort with sufficiently balanced demographics (gender, age, etc.). All these issues call for a platform that could help sharing research and participants information within the same community.

**Front-end Website**:

The website should have two views: one is the potential participants view, and the other is the researchers view. A potential participant would be able to browse available experiments without register and could also search experiment by specify key words. A researcher could upload experiment description, apply recruit filters, browse applying participants profiles and send invitation to potential participants. The website also shows general introduction to featured experiments to emphasize the significance of participating in science research.

**Database:**

The database of the website should store the information of the registered users, including demographic (age, race, sex, region, marital status) and offers general filters of research (highest education completed, whether dyslexia, how many kids have, hearing ability, native language, how many people in the household. etc.). Optional information includes areas of interest of participants so that they could get notifications if any related experiments are released.

**Data source:**

This website first aims at serving local research institutes specifically the Towson University and the Johns Hopkins University. Interested researchers will be advertised to register their projects on the website. Advertisement for potential participants will be at first released among researchers from different groups, students and local residents. After the pilot run, the website could scale to include a more complete list of research institutes from Baltimore.