# Informed Consent Document

You are being asked to participate in a research study. Participation in this research study is voluntary and you may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. Your identity will be coded to ensure confidentiality.

The purpose of this study is to assist text-based human conversations using chatbots that can help to maintain the conversational flow and identify the key parameters behind a successful conversation. As a participant in this study, you will be signing up on the online platform and would be connected to another participant or a chatbot and are asked to have a conversation. You can disconnect with the partner and connect over again to meet with several participants.

During this experience, you will be completing questionnaires about the other participant with whom you match and about your experience while using the platform. Apart from that, while signing up, you will be asked to fill a demographic questionnaire.

While having a conversation with the partner subject, you may be provided with conversational assistance that can suggest the next sentence or phrase that may be related to the conversation. You can use these suggestions and modify it if needed.

The conversations and the questionnaires will be released online but your identity will be coded to ensure confidentiality. However, you are advised not to have conversations that may reveal your identity.

Although participation involves no future obligation, you may be contacted for future assessment sessions and may have the opportunity to participate in additional research if you so wish.

**Risks:** Some of the risks presented during this research study are:

1. Discomfort caused due to the risk of breach of confidentiality
2. Participant’s disability or impairment being exposed while having a conversation with another participant if any.
3. Feel inhibited in a manner that participant cannot conversate openly since the chats are being recorded.
4. Participant may feel irritated due to the questionnaires or the chat suggestions.
5. The assistive chatbot may not be able to understand the context of participant’s conversations and can generate irrelevant or inappropriate suggestions.
6. Participant may feel afraid that the conversation is being driven by the chatbot instead of the humans.
7. Participants may feel like the conversations lose the human touch if a bot would advice what to say next.
8. Participants may feel uncomfortable about artificial intelligence taking over humans.

We are committed to respect your privacy and to keep your personal information confidential.

Any further questions about the research and your rights as a participant will be answered if you contact the project director {Prof. Shlomo Argamon, Department of Computer Science, argamon@iit.edu}. The IIT Counseling Center is available to you, free of charge, to discuss your situation or your feelings. IIT Counseling Center can be contacted at 312-567-7550. **(NOTE: IIT Counseling Services are only available to IIT students. Participants who are not IIT students should be referred to appropriate counseling resources.)**

Illinois Institute of Technology is not responsible for any injuries or medical conditions research participants may suffer during the time of the research study unless those injuries or medical conditions are due to IIT’s negligence. Questions and complaints can be addressed to the Executive Officer of the IRB at 312-567-7141.

**AFFIRMATION OF PARTICIPANT:**

I have read the material above and any questions I asked have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate in this activity, realizing that I may withdraw without penalty at any time.

Please save or print a copy of this consent form for your records.