

Impact of Coronavirus on Alternative Credentials Survey

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

RESEARCH PROCEDURES

This research is being conducted to help researchers understand how Americans perceive people with different kinds of education.

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to answer questions about so-called alternative credentials. For the purposes of this survey, alternative credentials include certificates, documents, and other proof of receiving education, other than traditional credentials. Traditional credentials include a high school diploma or an undergraduate degree from an accredited university. Five specific examples of an alternative credential include a Certified Project Manager certification, a portfolio of work, a Khan Academy profile, or a Nanodegree from Udacity. This information is intended to be used both for academic and commercial purposes.

The questionnaire is intended to take about 15 minutes and is composed of 15 questions. These questions ask about your employment situation and whether the coronavirus epidemic has impacted you negatively.

RISKS

There are no foreseeable risks for participating in this research.

BENEFITS

There are no benefits to you as a participant other than to further research in the fields of economics, education, and psychology, and payment for participation.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The data in this study will be confidential. Personally identifiable information including participant names are not retained. Participant identity is associated with an Amazon Mechanical Turk User ID, but this information will not be used for research. John Vandivier, the study administrator, will be the sole individual with User ID access, in order to facilitate payments and service requests for assistance by survey participants.

The de-identified data, data from which all personally identifiable information has been removed, could be used for future research without additional consent from participants. Code which is used to analyze the anonymous survey data will be made public in order to facilitate replication of results.

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) committee that monitors research on human subjects may inspect study records during internal auditing procedures and are required to keep all information confidential. While it is understood that no computer transmission can be perfectly secure, reasonable efforts will be made to protect the confidentiality of your transmission.

PARTICIPATION

Participation is open to United States citizens of age 18 or higher. A Mechanical Turk account is required in order to participate and to receive payment.

Your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study at any time and for any reason. If you decide not to participate or if you withdraw from the study, there is no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. There are no costs to you or any other party, other than cancellation of the payment received for participation in this study. The value of the incentive to participate is estimated at \$3 USD.

Under the U.S. federal tax law you may have individual responsibilities for disclosing the dollar value of the incentive received on this study.

CONTACT

This research is being conducted by John Vandivier, a graduate student, and Dr. Robin Hanson, an associate professor, who are members of the Economics Department at George Mason University. They may be contacted for questions or to report a research-related problem at:

John Vandivier, jvandivi@masonlive.gmu.edu, 202.805.7622

Robin Hanson, rhanson@gmu.edu, 703.993.2326

You may contact the George Mason University Institutional Review Board office at 703-993-4121 or IRB@gmu.edu if you have questions or comments regarding your rights as a participant in the research.

The reference number for this study is IRBNet Number 1708739-1.

This research has been reviewed according to George Mason University procedures governing your participation in this research.

CONSENT

By clicking “I agree” below, I confirm that I have read this form, all of my questions have been answered by the research staff, and I agree to participate in this study.

I agree