

Project and Purpose:

I'm Adrian Smith, a computer science student at Sonoma State University in California, United States. I'm interested in the practices of moderators online, and on reddit in particular. I'm hoping to ask you some question so as to get a better sense of how moderators manage their communities, and to use that knowledge to build better tools and platforms for moderation. Additionally, the knowledge gained from this study may be published in an academic publication so as to provide assistance to others working to find answers to similar questions.

Time: 15 minutes, with an optional 30 minute interview

Compensation: \$10

Requirements: English speakers of age 18 or over who moderate an online community of over 10 members for more than an hour a week on average

Procedure:

First, I will ask you for some basic demographic information. This will be followed by several multiple choice and free response questions about your experiences and insights as a moderator. These questions are intended to be answered in as much detail as possible, so don't worry about writing responses that are too long. Should you feel that questions are too private or wish to stop mid survey for any reason, you may do so at any time. In that case, your responses on any part of the survey will not be recorded.

The final question in the survey will ask you if you are willing to take part in a 30 minute interview over the voice or video chat application of your choice. Should you chose to opt-in, you will be contacted later via reddit messaging and we will arrange the interview.

Please do not provide any personally identifying information (which includes your reddit username or the name of the community you moderate) outside of the fields designated for those purposes.

There are no more than minimal risks to participating in this study.

Privacy and Confidentiality

Your reddit username and the subreddit you moderate will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team. Your username will only be used for the follow-up interview should you choose to opt-in, and will be anonymized in any data that is published. Anonymity will be preserved by replacing all usernames with a randomized unique code.

All of your survey responses will be recorded securely. Should you opt in to the interview, all of your voice responses will be recorded as well, unless you would like to say something "off the record", in which case the recording can be paused for your privacy. Voice recordings will not be

published, and only transcripts of those recordings will ever be available to anyone outside of the research team.

Contact Information

If you have any questions related to the study, please contact me here:

Principal Investigator:

Adrian Smith, smithadr@sonoma.edu

Or via my reddit account at /u/VivaLaPandaReddit

Faculty Supervisor:

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This research has been reviewed by the Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects at Sonoma State University at irb@sonoma.edu or 707.664.3972.