STUDENT PROJECT ETHICAL REVIEW (SPER) FORM

The aim of the University's *Research Ethics Policy* is to establish and promote good ethical practice in the conduct of academic research. The questionnaire is intended to enable researchers to undertake an initial self-assessment of ethical issues in their research. Ethical conduct is not primarily a matter of following fixed rules; it depends on researchers developing a considered, flexible and thoughtful practice.

The questionnaire aims to engage researchers discursively with the ethical dimensions of their work and potential ethical issues, and the main focus of any subsequent review is not to 'approve' or 'disapprove' of a project but to make sure that this process has taken place.

The *Research Ethics Policy* is available at
www.intranet.rgu.ac.uk/credo/staff/page.cfm?pge=7060

Student Name	AIDA OVALLE FILIPPOVA
Supervisor	KYLE MARTIN
Project Title	CUSTOMISING CHILDREN'S STORIES USING RETRIEVAL AUGMENTED GENERATION AND MACHINE LEARNING
Course of Study	MSCI COMPUTING SCIENCE
School/Department	SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Part 1 : Descriptive Questions				
1	Does the research involve, or does information in the research relate to:		Yes	No
	(a) individual human subjects		X	
	(b) groups (e.g. families, communities, crowds)			X
	(c) organisations			X
	(d) animals?			X
	Please provide further details:			
	One of the ideas for my project is to take user input and gather prompts that later get generated into a children's story. These can be used by parents as an aid. I do not intend to get people to input the prompts themselves for my study, as I will use public data for this, but I may do a user study at the end to see how good the results are and how people benefit from them. However, my plan at present does not include a user study.			
2	Will the research deal with information which is private or confidential?		Yes	No
				X
	Please provide further details:			
	I will not be taking people's personal information. I will use public data to gather children's stories and emotions.			

Part 2: The Impact of the Research			
3	In the process of doing the research, is there any potential for harm to be done to, or costs to be imposed on	Yes	No
	(a) research participants?		X
	(b) research subjects?		X
	(c) you, as the researcher?		X
	(d) third parties?		X
	Please state what you believe are the implications of the research: There will not be negative implications to the research. It will be important to make sure that the content is appropriate for children and that the RAG's are accurate.		
4	When the research is complete, could negative consequences follow:	Yes	No
	(a) for research subjects		X
	(b) or elsewhere?		X
	Please state what you believe are the consequences of the research: There will not be any negative consequences to the research.		

Part 3: Ethical Procedures			
5	Does the research require informed consent or approval from:	Yes	No
	(a) research participants?		X
	(b) research subjects		X
	(c) external bodies		X
	If you answered yes to any of the above, please explain your answer:		
6	Are there reasons why research subjects may need safeguards or protection?	Yes	No
			X
	If you answered yes to the above, please state the reasons and indicate the measures to be		
7	Has PVG membership status been considered?		
	(a) PVG membership is not required.		X
	(b) PVG membership is required for working with children.		
	(c) PVG membership is required for working with protected adults.		
	(d) PVG membership is required for working with both children and protected		
	If you answered yes to (b), (c) or (d) above, please give details:		
8	Are specified procedures or safeguards required for recording, management, or storage of data?	Yes	No
		X	
	If you answered yes to the above, please outline the likely undertakings: The stories that are generated can be stored in a database so that people can access them at a different time.		

Part 4: The Research Relationship			
9	Does the research require you to give or make undertakings to research participants or subjects about the use of data?	Yes	No
			X
	If you answered yes to the above, please outline the likely undertakings:		
10	Is the research likely to be affected by the relationship with a sponsor, funder or employer?	Yes	No
			X
	If you answered yes to the above, please identify how the research may be affected:		

Part 5: Other Issues			
11	Are there any other ethical issues not covered by this form which you believe you should raise?	Yes	No
			X

Statement by Student			
I believe that the information I have given in this form is correct, and that I have addressed the ethical issues as fully as possible at this stage.			
Signature	AIDA OVALLE FILIPPOVA	Date	30/09/2024

If any ethical issues arise during the course of the research, students should complete a further Student Project Ethical Review (SPER) form.

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Part 6: To be completed by the supervisor				
12	Does the research have potentially negative implications for the University?	Yes	No	
			X	
	If you answered yes to the above, please explain your answer:			
13	Are any potential conflicts of interest likely to arise in the course of the research?	Yes	No	
			X	
	If you answered yes to the above, please identify the potential conflicts:			
14	Are you satisfied that the student has engaged adequately with the ethical implications of the work? [In signifying agreement, supervisors are accepting part of the ethical responsibility for the project]	Yes X	No	
	If you answered no to the above, please identify the potential issues:			
15	**Appraisal:** Please select one of the following			
	The research project should proceed in its present form – no further action is required	X		
	The research project requires ethical approval by the School Ethics Review Panel			
	The research project needs to be returned to the student for modification prior to further action			
	The research project requires ethical review by an external body. If this applies please give details			
	Title of External Body providing ethical review			
	Address of External Body			
	Anticipated date when External Body may consider project			

Affirmation by Supervisor			
I have read the student's responses and have discussed ethical issues arising with the student. I can confirm that, to the best of my understanding, the information presented by the student is correct and appropriate to allow an informed judgement on whether further ethical approval is required.			
Signature	KM	**Date**	01/10/2024