



Climate Change Initiative  
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# World Climate Project Study

## *Informed Consent Statement*

The World Climate Exercise has been partly funded by a National Science Foundation grant entitled “Transforming mental models of climate change through simulations, games, and systems thinking,” led by Juliette Rooney-Varga and conducted on behalf of UMass Lowell. The purpose of this grant is to discern the effects of this exercise on students’ understanding of and attitudes toward climate change.

We are asking if you would be willing to participate in a voluntary research component of this project. If you are willing to help us with the research, we will be asking you to complete a short survey about your understanding of climate change and your reactions to the experience prior to participating in the exercise and then again at the end, where you will also be asked to comment on what you thought about the exercise and how it affected you. Each survey will take about ten minutes to complete. The results from your survey responses will be compared to those from other individuals who have participated in the game to gain a better picture of the exercise’s impact and information on how to improve the experience.

The surveys are anonymous, meaning that we will not be asking for your names or any other information that would allow us to identify who you are, though we will be asking you for an anonymous identifier so that we can match your two surveys. The survey includes several questions about demographics, such as gender, age, home country, education, and worldview. The risks involved in this research are no more than minimal, however you may feel that your participation or non-participation will have a negative impact on your course grade. Your participation or non-participation will have no negative impact on your academic. There are no benefits to you for completing this survey other than the possibility that your responses may help shape the future of how the exercise is used.

Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary, and if you do not wish to complete the survey you may hand in a blank form or not hand it in at all. You may also choose to skip any question you like. Please answer honestly and thoughtfully—your responses are very important to us and may be very important toward helping us make improvements to climate change education in the future.