



Consent form

Welcome and thank you for your interest in participating in this distance estimation study! Before proceeding further, please read carefully the following information.

You are invited to participate in a study conducted by Vivien Buchbinder, Valentina Balsarini and Alisha Aydin as part of their Masters course participation in GEO873 on Cognitive issues in GIScience, carried out at the Geography Department of the University of Zurich (UZH), in Zurich, Switzerland. Your contact person for this study is Alisha Aydin (alishayasmin.aydin@uzh.ch). The project is supervised by the course instructor for GEO873, Prof. Dr. Sara Irina Fabrikant (sara.fabrikant@geo.uzh.ch).

Purpose of the study

With this study, we wish to gain new insights into how to run an empirical study in the context of map usage behavior. We are interested in people's perceptions of maps and their metrics such as scale or distance. This study is part of a semester project of the course GEO873. Personal information is kept anonymized, and all the results of this study will only be presented in the class of GEO873.

General information

The study will be conducted as part of a course in the GIScience curriculum (GEO873) where we learn how to conduct empirical studies with participants. This study will require about 25-30 minutes of your time. The study will take place with your instructor staying near you in case you have any questions. The experiment is on paper, and you do not need any personal devices for participation.

Procedure of the study

If you decide to take part in this study, you will receive a study instruction manual where you can find the exact procedures and tasks you need to do during the study. In case you have questions about the task descriptions, you can ask your instructor for clarification. When you are ready to continue, you will receive the task sheets where you can fill in your answers to the tasks.

Once you completed the main part of the study, you will receive a questionnaire sheet where you will fill in training and study related preferences.

Your answers to the tasks will be anonymized, and only the instructors and the project supervisor can access the data. The analyzed data and results will be presented in the GEO873 class. They will not be published. Your responses to the post-experiment questionnaire only serve as a help to interpret the results and will be presented anonymized.

Voluntary Participation

Your participation in the study is entirely voluntary. You may withdraw your consent to participate in the study at any time without providing notice or reasoning.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Any healthy adult may participate in the experiment.

Obligations of the participant

It is expected that you will carefully follow the given instructions, and fully and faithfully complete all questionnaires and experiment tasks.

Risk to the participants

The study entails no foreseeable risks to you. The study is carried out in a pen-and-paper environment and there are no physical or other effects affecting participants' health.

Benefits to the participant

There are no benefits to participating in this study.

Data confidentiality

Any information that can be linked to you during the study will be treated confidentially and will only be passed on to third parties with your expressed permission. With your consent, you allow us to write up a class report with the (anonymized) study results. No information will be published that makes it possible to identify you. All data collected will be kept encrypted and archived on a secure server located at the University of Zurich, which is only accessible by study conductors.

Costs

The entire study will not bear any costs to participants.

Termination of participation

The participation will be cancelled in the case you decide to withdraw from the study. All obtained data from you will be permanently deleted.

Study Results

If you would like to be informed about the results of this study, you can contact the researcher at the email address below.

Contact persons

If you have any questions or worries about the study, please contact your contact person for this study Alisha Aydin (alishayasmin.aydin@uzh.ch).

Course instructor for GEO 873: Prof. Dr. Sara Irina Fabrikant (sara.fabrikant@geo.uzh.ch)

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INFORMED CONSENT

By participating in this study, I agree and affirm that:

- 1) I was given enough time to read this information sheet.
- 2) I understand the requirements of the experiment, and I agree to participate in this study.
- 3) My participation is entirely voluntary, and I have not been forced to participate in this study in any way.
- 4) I acknowledge that I may withdraw my consent to participate in this study at any time without any further notice or reasoning.
- 5) I agree that my data may be used in anonymized form for research purposes only and may be used for the class project report.
- 6) I understand that my personal information will be kept confidential under all circumstances.
- 7) I understand that the study directors, in the interest of the study, may terminate my participation at any time.
- 8) I understand that I must follow the instructions of the instructor and comply with the requirements of this and other instruction sheets.

I understand the conditions of this study and I consent to participate

Place (city), date	Signature of the participant	Signature of the experimenter