



Social Behavioral Research Consent Form

Qualitative Analysis of Content Moderator Decisionmaking

You are being asked to participate in a voluntary research study. The purpose of this study is to understand the decisionmaking process for online content moderators. Participating in this study will involve reporting how you would act on various comments and why you would make certain decisions. Your participation will last no more than 30 minutes. Risks related to this research include the research team seeing your responses along with your online pseudonym, however anonymous identifiers will be used in any dissemination of research results; benefits related to this research include getting a better understanding of the moderator decisionmaking process.

Principal Investigator Name and Title: Carl Gunter, Professor
Department and Institution: Computer Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Contact Information: cgunter@illinois.edu

Why am I being asked?

You are being asked to be a participant in a research study about content moderation. The purpose of this research is to understand the decisionmaking process that volunteer content moderators use. You have been asked to participate in this research because you are a volunteer content moderator. Approximately 10 participants will be involved in this research.

Your participation in this research is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future dealings with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without affecting that relationship.

What procedures are involved?

The study procedures are explaining how you would action particular comments from the subreddit.

This research will be performed via an online survey. You will need to participate 1 time for up to 30 minutes.

What are the potential risks and discomforts?

Researchers will have access to your answers along with your Reddit pseudonym. If the research is published, Reddit pseudonyms will not be published and identifiers will be anonymized.

What are the benefits of participating in the study?

This study is not designed to benefit you directly. This study is designed to learn more about online content moderation. The study results may be used to help other people in the future.

What other options are there?

You have the option to not participate in this study.

Will my study-related information be kept confidential?

We will use all reasonable efforts to keep your personal information confidential, but we cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality. When this research is discussed or published, no one will know that

you were in the study. But, when required by law or university policy, identifying information (including your signed consent form) may be seen or copied by: a) The Institutional Review Board that approves research studies; b) The Office for Protection of Research Subjects and other university departments that oversee human subjects research; c) University and state auditors responsible for oversight of research; d) Federal regulatory agencies such as the Office of Human Research Protections in the Department of Health and Human Services;

Will I be reimbursed for any expenses or paid for my participation in this research?

There will be no reimbursement for participation.

Can I withdraw or be removed from the study?

If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time. The researchers also have the right to stop your participation in this study without your consent if they believe it is in your best interests, you were to object to any future changes that may be made in the study plan. Your decision whether or not to participate, or to withdraw after beginning participation, will not affect your current or future dealings with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

What if I am an Illinois student?

You may choose not to participate or to stop your participation in this research at any time. This will not affect your class standing or grades at UIUC. The investigator may also end your participation in the research. If this happens, your class standing or grades will not be affected. You will not be offered or receive any special consideration if you participate in this research.

What if I am an Illinois employee?

Your participation in this research is in no way a part of your university duties, and your refusal to participate will not in any way affect your employment with the university, or the benefits, privileges, or opportunities associated with your employment at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. You will not be offered or receive any special consideration if you participate in this research.

Will data collected from me be used for any other research?

Your de-identified information could be used for future research without additional informed consent.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Contact the researchers Carl Gunter at 217-244-1981 or cgunter@illinois.edu if you have any questions about this study or your part in it, or if you have concerns or complaints about the research.

What are my rights as a research subject?

If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this study, please contact the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Office for the Protection of Research Subjects at 217-333-2670 or irb@illinois.edu.

I have read the above information. I have been given an opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate in this research. I will be given a copy of this signed and dated form.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

Date (must be same as subject's)

Printed Name of Person Obtaining Consent