

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

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Informed Voluntary Consent to Participate in Research Study

Project Title: An Empirical Investigation for Patterns of Belief Change in Human Reasoning

Invitation to participate, and benefits: You are invited to participate in a research study conducted with native English speakers. In this study, the aim is to evaluate general claims about the world for clarity and bias. The end goal of this research project is to test how and why human reasoners change their beliefs when presented with new information. I believe that your experience would be a valuable source of information and hope that by participating you may gain useful knowledge.

Procedures: You will receive two documents: a consent form (.docx) and a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet (.xlsx). First, you must read and complete the consent form. Next, you will need to open the Excel spreadsheet. In this spreadsheet, you will be provided with an evaluation table and survey table. You will be provided with 30 (thirty) general "if... then..." statements pertaining to behaviours of people in a variety of professions. Your task is to evaluate each of these statements for clarity (whether the statements make sense in English) and bias (whether the statements are prejudiced or are not plausible) by writing your answers in the evaluation table that is provided. At the end of the study you may submit your banking details to the researcher via email and you will receive your payment of ZAR 60 via EFT.

Recording: We will not take photographs nor record audio/video as part of the study. You will only be required to provide typed responses using a laptop, smartphone or other computing device.

Risks: There are no potentially harmful risks related to your participation in this study, other than those which you may encounter in everyday life.

Feedback: You may choose to receive feedback about the results of this research by contacting the researcher using the contact information provided in this consent form. The results of this survey will also be published as part of a Master's (MSc) thesis in computer science by the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Disclaimer/Withdrawal: Your participation is completely voluntary; you may refuse to participate, and you may withdraw at any time without having to state a reason and without any prejudice or penalty against you. Should you choose to withdraw, the researcher commits not to use any of the information you have provided without your signed consent. Note that the researcher may also withdraw you from the study at any time.

Confidentiality: All information collected in this study will be kept private in that you will not be identified by name or by affiliation to an institution. Confidentiality and anonymity will be maintained as pseudonyms will be used. We will collect only your first name, your last name and email address.

What signing this form means: By signing this consent form, you agree to participate in this research study. The aim, procedures to be used, as well as the potential risks and benefits of your participation have been explained verbally to you in detail, using this form. Refusal to participate in or withdrawal from this study at any time will have no effect on you in any way. You are free to contact me, to ask questions or request further information, at any time during this research.

I agree to participate in this research (place an "X" in between the square brackets corresponding to your choice):

[] Yes [] No

Clayton K. Baker
Name of Researcher

C. K. Baker
Signature of Researcher

18 September 2020
Date