**Online Consent for Research Study**

This survey is part of a research study “Study of User Interaction with Common Social Media Posts” (STUDY2023\_00000209) conducted by Elijah Bouma-Sims and Dr. Lorrie Cranor at Carnegie Mellon University and is funded by Carnegie Mellon University Software and Societal Systems Department.

Many people today use social media services such as YouTube. While these platforms offer opportunities for self-expression and social connection, they also present various safety risks. We are interested in learning how people interact with social media posts they may encounter in daily life in order to improve their online experience.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the research is to investigate how adults interact with content they may encounter on YouTube.

**Procedures**

After completing this form, you will be directed to a survey that should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. First, you will be asked questions about your use of technology, such as how many hours you spend using devices with screens and which social media platforms you use. You will then be asked to review several social media posts from YouTube and describe what action you would take in response to the post. After viewing the social media posts, you will be asked a few more questions to contextualize your responses before the survey concludes.

**Participant Requirements**

Participants in this study must be over the age of 18. All participants must be fluent in English and located in the United States. You also must use YouTube.

**Risks**

The primary risk of this study is a breach of confidentiality. An example of a breach of confidentiality would be someone who is not on our research team getting unauthorized access to information about participants in the study. This risk is similar to the risk you encounter anytime you provide identifiable and private information to websites or companies on the internet.

Our team takes confidentiality very seriously and will take precautions to prevent a breach of confidentiality, including storing data in secure, password-protected locations accessible only to the study team members. We will not collect any identifiable information about you. You will be required to share your random Prolific ID for the purposes of receiving compensation.

**Benefits**

There may be no personal benefit from your participation in the study. There is an indirect benefit to you and the scientific community, as the knowledge received by the study may be of value to humanity.

**Compensation & Costs**

You will receive $5 via prolific for participating in this study.

There will be no cost to you if you participate in this study.

**Confidentiality**

Your survey responses and demographic information (e.g. your age, gender, race/ethnic identity, household income, etc.) will be stored using a unique identifier that does not refer to your name.

We may share anonymized data collected in the survey with people outside of the research team. This may include sharing de-identified data and findings with other researchers, as well as publishing our findings in academic publications.

The study will collect your research data through Qualtrics and Prolific. These companies are not owned by CMU. The companies will have access to the research data that you produce and any identifiable information that you share with them while using their product. Please note that Carnegie Mellon does not control the Terms and Conditions of the companies or how they will use or protect any information that they collect.

**Payment Confidentiality**

Payment methods, especially those facilitated by third-party vendors (such as Prolific, Venmo, Amazon, PayPal), may require that the researchers and/or the vendor collect and use personal information (such as your first and last name, email addresses, phone numbers, banking information) provided by you in order for your payment to be processed. As with any payment transaction, there is the risk of a breach of confidentiality from the third-party vendor. All personal information collected by the researcher will be held as strictly confidential and stored in a password-protected digital file, or in a locked file cabinet until payments are processed and reconciled. This information will be destroyed at the earliest acceptable time. Personal information held by the third-party vendor will be held according to their terms of use policy.

**Future Use of Information**

In the future, once we have removed all identifiable information from your data, we may use the data for our future research studies, or we may distribute the data to other investigators for their research studies. We would do this without getting additional informed consent from you (or your legally authorized representative). Sharing of data with other researchers will only be done in such a manner that you will not be identified.

**Right to Ask Questions & Contact Information**

If you have any questions about this study, you should feel free to ask them by contacting the Principal Investigator Elijah Bouma-Sims, a Ph.D. student in the Software and Societal Systems Department at Carnegie Mellon University ([eboumasi@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:eboumasi@andrew.cmu.edu)). You also may contact the faculty advisor for the project, Dr. Lorrie Cranor, a professor of Computer Science and of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University ([lorrie@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:lorrie@andrew.cmu.edu)) If you have questions later, desire additional information, or wish to withdraw your participation please contact the Principal Investigator by e-mail in accordance with the contact information listed above.

If you have questions pertaining to your rights as a research participant, or to report concerns about this study, you should contact the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance at Carnegie Mellon University. Email: [irb-review@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:irb-review@andrew.cmu.edu) . Phone: 412-268-4721.

**Voluntary Participation**

Your participation in this research is voluntary. You may discontinue participation at any time during the research activity. You may print a copy of this consent form for your records.

1. I am age 18 or older. ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. I am located in the United States ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. I have read and understand the information above. ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. I use YouTube☐ Yes ☐ No
5. I want to participate in this research and continue with the survey. ☐ Yes ☐ No

[If the answer to any of the above questions is no, the participant will not be permitted to proceed to the survey]

1. This study will require you to be able to play videos and listen to the audio or view the subtitles. To confirm that your audio or subtitles are working correctly, please select the word read in the video.  *Video will be embedded wherein a person is reading the word “Raildroad”:* 
   1. Highway
   2. Bus
   3. Train
   4. Plane
   5. Railroad
   6. Subway
   7. Path
   8. Sidewalk
   9. Interstate
   10. I could not hear the audio or read the subtitles

[If the participant selects anything other than “Railroad”, they will be unable to continue to the study]