Maynooth University
Plain Language Statement for participants in the Using Biometric Response to Locate Personally Interesting Digital Content Project

I. Introduction to the Research Study

Project Title: Using Biometric Response to Locate Personally Interesting Digital Content

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II. Details of what involvement in the Research Study will require

Biometric response provides a measure of an individual's arousal levels or engagement with a life situation, e.g. a person's biometric response would be different when their football team scored the winning game of a match than when they lost a match. This biometric response can be measured using small wearable computing devices. This research study is investigating using biometric response to identify digital images from their daily life that a person is most interested in by measuring their biometric response when viewing them. To do this, we examine how a person's biometric response increases and decreases when they capture individual digital photos, and for patterns in these variations in biometric response.

Participants in this project are required to wear an armband that captures their biometric response when they are capturing digital photos for multiple days (on average 2-3 days). Software is provided to the participants so that they can conduct this data capture in their own time away from the investigator. The participants will be provided with software to run on their PC. This software will automatically process the participant's captured biometric data, and digital photos; and categorise digital photos into 'events' based on biometric response levels. The software will then generate a questionnaire containing a series of questions about these 'events' pertaining to the participants digital content and associated biometric response levels (again this questionnaire is completed in own time away from investigator). Only the completed questionnaire (which does not contain personal data but rather just an indicator as to whether the computer programme deemed each event to be important or not important to the participant) will be returned to the investigator. Participants will also conduct an informal interview with the investigators to further explain the relationship between their biometric response and digital content. The participant's biometric response and digital content is stored on their computer only; that is the investigators (or any other third party) will not have access to the data. The questionnaire captures impersonal binary judgements only.

The estimated time commitment for involvement in this research is approximately 1.5 hours.

III. Potential risks to participants from involvement in the Research Study

The personal information collected by participants as part of this study is no greater than that collected in the normal course of life in today's digital society. Information collected by participants is stored only by them on their personal computer. As such, there is no greater risk to participants from involvement in this study than that encountered in everyday life.

IV. Benefits (direct or indirect) to participants from involvement in the Research Study

This study offers participants the indirect opportunity to reflect on the types of digital content they are capturing and on what is of most interest to them.

V. Advice as to arrangements to be made to protect confidentiality of data, including that confidentiality of information provided is subject to legal limitations

Data will be stored securely on participants own PC and only content owners (i.e. the participant) will have access to the data.

Questionnaire results will be securely stored by the investigators - since this is only binary relationship data, such data on its own is meaningless from the perspective of yielding any information about participants.

We will completely anonymize any results presented internally or externally (e.g. in conference papers etc.) This will include the removal of individuals' names and the aggregation of statistics.

VI. Advice as to whether or not data is to be destroyed after a minimum period

Digital data captured on the participant's PC will be permanently deleted upon completion of the project experiments involving the individual subjects, or on written request to the investigators. Associated completed questionnaires obtained by investigators from participants will be similarly permanently deleted by the investigators upon completion of project experiments involving the individual subjects, or on written request to the investigators.

VII. Statement that involvement in the Research Study is voluntary

Involvement in this research study is voluntary. A participant may withdraw from the research study at any point and request for any data pertaining to them to be permanently deleted. There will be no penalty for withdrawing before study is completed.

VIII. Any other relevant information

Participant data will not be used, shared, or distributed outside of the participant's PC.

Participants will be given a copy of any publications resulting from this study.

If participants have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact:
The Head of Department, Department of Computer Science, Maynooth University. Tel.: +353 1 708 3847. Email: computerscience.department@mu.ie