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Research Protocol

1. **Project Title:** Observations of newcomers to clubs during orientation

2. **Investigators:**

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3. **Purpose:** The purpose of our research is to understand how communities are formed and the social interactions in the formation of such communities to help us derive requirements for the design of novel interactive computational media that are intended to be useful to the students of UofT that may be interested in some form of aid in the finding or creation of a community or social circle. A brief description of our design concept is the observation of the orientation of a pre-established community, and the methods in which new members are welcomed and integrated into said community as well as the observable results of such actions.

4. **Process to be followed:** We will brief the participants about the purpose of the study, explain the consent form to them, and ensure that they sign the consent form. We will then engage the participants in an event long observational study. We will also with their permission make observations as follows: Notes on observations in regards to methods and results of integration techniques of recruits to their community, and pictures if participants are willing.

5. **Participant selection:** Participants will be chosen from all willing members of clubs. They will be identified via name and identity and selected according to acceptance of the observation study. In general, they will be characterized by the fact that they are all newcomers to a club and are participating in the current orientation in which the investigator is observing.

6. **Relationships:** There is no relationship with any participant

7. **Risk and benefit:** There will be minimal risk to the participants, for example that they feel that they have wasted their time. The only benefit will be to contribute to the education of the investigators. Participants are free to withdraw before or at any time during the study without the need to give any explanation.

8. **Consent details:** We will brief the participants about the purpose of the study, and explain the **attached consent form** to them, and ensure that they consent to participate and sign the consent form.

9. **Compensation:** Participants will receive no compensation.

10. **Information sought:** The information to be sought is described in the attached observational study plan.

11. **Confidentiality:** Information will be kept confidential by the investigators. Names or other identifying or identified information will not be kept with the data. The only other use will be to include excerpts or copies in the assignment submitted, but names and other identifying or identified information will not be submitted

Observational study plan

Goals of observation

The observation and analysis of the orientation of a pre-established community. Things that must be observed are the methods in which new members are welcomed and integrated into said community, the observable results of such methods. The success of such methods will be determined based on observable comfort and social level of participants.

Recruitment Plan

There is no requirement for informed consent for participant observation, however should the investigator speak or interact with any other persons, it will be emphasized that they are not required to speak to the investigator. Should there be any further involvement beyond participant observation, the participant will be requested to fill a consent form.

Potential Communities

- Project A: Anime Club
- Scarborough Campus Smash Club
- UTSC Dungeons and Dragons

Method of Observation

The method chosen will be as a participant observer. Selected participants be observed in how they are encouraged to join a community and how they may form social circles and friends with other newcomers. The investigator will participate in any activities as well and note how effective these methods were. Expected method of observational data collection will be through field notes, although photographs may be included if participants are willing. Field notes will consist of general notes and observations by the investigator. Explanations of activities or events that the investigator observes or participates in. Statements from participants. A timeline of the event activities, and events.

Important things to observe

As well as the effectiveness of methods used to integrate newcomers to a community, general structure, organization of said communities. It will be important to note perspectives of participants where possible.

Duration of Observation

The investigator will be observing for only the duration of the orientation or welcoming event. This is expected to be 1-2 hours, but the investigator will be required to remain for the entire duration should the event continue beyond expected durations.

Consent Form: A study of student communities in UofT

I hereby consent to participate in a research study conducted by Ryan Young for an assignment in University of Toronto Computer Science course *CSC318 The Design of Interactive Computational Media*.

I agree to participate in this study the purpose of which is to observe the methods of social interaction and engagement within a community of students in UofT.

I understand that

- The procedures to be used are observational analysis.
- I will receive no compensation for my participation.
- I am free to withdraw before or any time during the study without the need to give any explanation.
- All materials and results will be kept confidential, and, in particular, that my name and any identifying or identified information will not be associated with the data.

PARTICIPANT

Name (please print)_____

Signature_____

Date_____

INVESTIGATOR(s)

Name_____Signature_____