

SHAPING AI

Participant Information Leaflet - Interviews

Study Title:

Shaping 21st Century AI: Controversy and Closure in Research, Policy and Media

Investigator(s):

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Introduction

You are invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take the time to read the following information carefully. This information sheet is for you to keep, please contact us if something is not clear or if you want further information.

Who is organising and funding the study?

Shaping 21st Century AI: Controversy and Closure in Research, Policy and Media is a 3- year research project funded by the ESRC as part of the Open Research Area scheme involving a consortium of research teams from four countries (Germany, France, Canada, and the UK). The project is led by the Humboldt Institute of Internet and Society in Berlin, with the University of Warwick leading the UK-based research. Other partners include the Medialab at Sciences Po in Paris, the NENIC Lab at INRS Montreal, and the Algorithmic Media Observatory at Concordia University (Canada).

What is the study about?

The project investigates Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a sociotechnical phenomenon. In our approach AI is not only a set of innovative scientific technologies and methodologies that are being introduced into our societies, it also entails a distinctive approach to solving social problems through automation and potentially new ways of organising society and the public sphere.

What would taking part involve?

We would like to collect your perspective on controversies in AI research. Interviews will last between 30–90 minutes. They will be led with open-ended questions that will be specifically tailored to your area of expertise. Follow-up questions might involve your viewpoints on research-based controversies identified in the scientific literature or in conferences and workshops. If you consent, the interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed. In the consent form that we have attached to this email you will be able to specify your preferences.

Do I have to take part?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to sign the consent form attached. You will still be free to withdraw at any time and you are not required to provide a specific reason. Further details about withdrawing from the study are provided in this document. If you decide not to take part, there will be no disadvantage of any kind and we thank you for considering our request.

What are the possible benefits of taking part in this study?

Conceptually and empirically, the project promises substantial contributions to our understanding of the institutionalization of AI as the (perceived) key innovation of our time, contributing both to our understanding of what forms of AI come into being and our expertise to shape its future developments for the public good.

With your participation in this study you will be contributing to a project which is first of its kind, and will create a baseline of empirical data to contextualize the initial proliferation of 21st-century AI and untangle its cultural, political and economic costs and consequences.

You will help bring to the surface underlying assumptions and wider forces that inform beliefs in the fundamental capacity of AI to solve society's problems, cement geo-political power, and transform what it is to be human.

Uncovering different pathways for AI's social integration is of eminent importance for building expertise in policy, business and public understanding. With your participation you will help envision different possible ways of living with and without AI in society.

As part of the project (if you agree in the consent form) you will be notified via email of the publication of the research in which you have participated.

What are the possible disadvantages, side effects or risks, of taking part in this study?

We do not foresee or anticipate any significant risk to you in taking part in this study. If, however, you feel uncomfortable at any time you can ask for the interview to stop or to withdraw your participation. Only the members of the team will have access to your identifiable information. The research team are experienced interviewers and the interviews are designed with high confidentiality standards and respect of data protection.

Expenses and payments

There is no reimbursement for expenses or payments for participation in the study.

Will my taking part be kept confidential?

Your answers are going to be collected in an interview (online or in person). The information collected from your answers will be used to inform the development of further research and may be included in anonymised form in publications.

All data will be held confidentially in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR. This means that any physical copy of personal information will be stored in a secure location and any electronic data will be stored on a secure, password-protected computer or information processing system. None of your data will not be stored on third party systems. You have the right to withdraw your consent to data processing at any time.

If you wish to withdraw and want us to delete your data, we will be able to delete it within 3 months from the interview. Please inform us before that deadline. Otherwise, the data will be deleted after 10 years by the co-I, the PDRA and the PI.

If you are happy for us to associate your identity to direct quotations in publications you can opt in by ticking the option in the consent form attached.

What will happen to the data collected about me?

As a publicly-funded organisation, the University of Warwick has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use

personally-identifiable information from people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, such as this, we will use your data in the ways needed to conduct and analyse the research study.

We will be using information from the interviews in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. We are committed to protecting the rights of individuals in line with data protection legislation. The University of Warwick will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished, we will delete data upon request, up to 3 months after your participation.

Research data will be pseudonymised as quickly as possible after data collection. This means all direct and indirect identifiers will be removed from the research data and will be replaced with a participant number or pseudonym. The key to identification will be stored separately and securely to the research data to safeguard your identity.

Data Sharing

None of your data will not be stored on third party systems.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. The University of Warwick has in place policies and procedures to keep your data safe. This data may also be used for future research, including impact activities following review and approval by an independent Research Ethics Committee and subject to your consent at the outset of this research project.

For further information, please refer to the University of Warwick Research Privacy Notice which is available here:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/idc/dataprotection/privacynotices/researchprivacynotice> or by contacting the Legal and Compliance Team at GDPR@warwick.ac.uk.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on being part of the study?

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you are free to withdraw your participation from the study without giving a reason. Please note that even though you can withdraw from the study at any time, we will only be able to delete your data within 3 months from your interview, after which point the data will have been anonymised. If you prefer to delete your data please inform us before that

deadline. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible and keep the data secure in line with the University's Information and Data Compliance policies.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The research will be submitted in top communication and social sciences journals including New Media and Society, Big Data and Society, Design Studies, Regulation and Governance and Science Communication as well as presenting research at top international conferences including the International Communication Association and the Society for Social Studies of Science. Anonymised extracts of data may be used in these publications. In the consent form, you can consent to obtain the notification of future publications related to the study.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the University of Warwick's Humanities and Social Science Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC).

Who should I contact if I want further information?

For any concerns and queries, you can contact the Lead researcher Prof Noortje Marres (PI), contact: n.marres@warwick.ac.uk

Who should I contact if I wish to make a complaint?

Any complaint about the way you have been dealt with during the study or any possible harm you might have suffered will be addressed. Please address your complaint to the person below, who is a senior University of Warwick official entirely independent of this study:

Head of Research Governance
Research & Impact Services
University House
University of Warwick
Coventry
CV4 8UW
Email: researchgovernance@warwick.ac.uk
Tel: 02476 575733

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter: DPO@warwick.ac.uk.

If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Thank you for taking the time to read this Participant Information Leaflet.