

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
INFORMED CONSENT FORM

LEAD RESEARCHERS: Isabelle Bryans

BACKGROUND OF RESEARCH:

You are invited to participate in a study that focuses on assessing ethical considerations in the integration of linked open datasets. This research is centred around the use and evaluation of a tool developed to aid data integrators in conducting comprehensive ethical assessments during data integration processes. The research addresses the existing gap in exploring ethical dimensions of open data usage, which is crucial to responsible management of the ever-expanding pool of open data. Your participation is invaluable in contributing to the development of a more ethical approach to data integration, particularly within the Linked Open Data (LOD) community.

PROCEDURES OF THIS STUDY:

You will be asked to engage with an online tool designed to assist you in performing ethical assessments on a provided set of linked open datasets, simulating integration scenarios. You will be asked to evaluate the tool's effectiveness and provide feedback through an anonymous survey. The survey will ask for your technical background and questions on the effectiveness of the tool as part of an ethical assessment when performing data integration of linked open datasets.

The linked datasets provided for the integration scenarios will be sourced from open data portals published by governments or research groups. It is important to note that these datasets will not contain any confidential information. However, for the purpose of evaluating the tool in an ethical assessment scenario, the integrated datasets may produce data that could potentially pose ethical issues if misused. The objective is to assess the tool's effectiveness in identifying such issues, thereby preventing unethical consequences of open data use.

We anticipate no risks to participants throughout the study. Both tool usage and survey submission are completely anonymous, with no personal data stored on the participant. Participation is entirely voluntary, and data relating to participants' technical backgrounds will be requested voluntarily in the survey. There is no risk of de-anonymization from this data, as the experiment's sample size will be large.

We expect the participation to take approximately 20 minutes, where you will interact with the tool and share your insights in the survey.

PUBLICATION:

The results of the experimentation will be analysed and included in the MAI dissertation conducted by the student, which will be published on the SCSS website of Trinity College Dublin.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

We declare that this research complies with ethical standards and all efforts will be taken to maintain the scientific rigor of the study. It is important to note that this research is not solely pursued for its own sake but also serves degree requirements for the MAI of Computer Engineering.

In the recruitment process for this study, we acknowledge the possibility of conflicts of interest arising from personal relationships, particularly within the researcher's immediate academic and professional network. The researcher is extending the invitation to participate in the evaluation survey to colleagues within their class, some of whom may be friends, as well as researchers in the School of Computer Science and Statistics at Trinity College. This acknowledgement is made to address any concerns regarding the impact of personal connections on participant recruitment and responses. While every effort will be made to ensure the objectivity and impartiality of the research, participants are encouraged to provide honest and unbiased feedback.

Individual results may be aggregated anonymously and research reported on aggregate results.

DECLARATION:

- I am 18 years or older and am competent to provide consent.
- I have read, or had read to me, a document providing information about this research and this consent form. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and all my questions have been answered to my satisfaction and understand the description of the research that is being provided to me.
- I agree that my data is used for scientific purposes and I have no objection that my data is published in scientific publications in a way that does not reveal my identity.
- I understand that if I make illicit activities known, these will be reported to appropriate authorities.
- I understand that I may refuse to answer any question and that I may withdraw at any time without penalty.
- I understand that my data has been fully anonymised so that after I have submitted the survey, it can no longer be attributed to me, then it will no longer be possible to withdraw.
- I freely and voluntarily agree to be part of this research study, though without prejudice to my legal and ethical rights.
- I understand that my participation is fully anonymous and that no personal details about me will be recorded.
- I have received a copy of this agreement.

By signing this document I consent to participate in this study, and consent to the data processing necessary to enable my participation and to achieve the research goals of this study.

PARTICIPANT'S NAME:

PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE:

Date:

Statement of investigator's responsibility: I have explained the nature and purpose of this research study, the procedures to be undertaken and any risks that may be involved. I have offered to answer any questions and fully answered such questions. I believe that the participant understands my explanation and has freely given informed consent.

RESEARCHERS CONTACT DETAILS: Isabelle Bryans
Email: bryansi@tcd.ie

RESEARCHER'S SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isabelle Bryans', written over a horizontal line.

Date: 09/02/2024