

**STUDENT PROJECT ETHICAL REVIEW (SPER) FORM**

The aim of the University's *Research Ethics Policy* is to establish and promote good ethical practice in the conduct of academic research. The questionnaire is intended to enable researchers to undertake an initial self-assessment of ethical issues in their research. Ethical conduct is not primarily a matter of following fixed rules; it depends on researchers developing a considered, flexible and thoughtful practice.

The questionnaire aims to engage researchers discursively with the ethical dimensions of their work and potential ethical issues, and the main focus of any subsequent review is not to 'approve' or 'disapprove' of a project but to make sure that this process has taken place.

The *Research Ethics Policy* is available at [www.intranet.rgu.ac.uk/credo/staff/page.cfm?page=7060](http://www.intranet.rgu.ac.uk/credo/staff/page.cfm?page=7060)

<b>Student Name</b>	Jack Neilson
<b>Supervisor</b>	Dr. John Isaacs
<b>Project Title</b>	Using Facial Recognition to gather Social Media Intelligence
<b>Course of Study</b>	Computer Science
<b>School/Department</b>	Computer Science and Digital Media

Part 1 : Descriptive Questions			
1	Does the research involve, or does information in the research relate to:	Yes	No
	(a) individual human subjects		x
	(b) groups (e.g. families, communities, crowds)		x
	(c) organisations		x
	(d) animals?		x
	Please provide further details:		
2	Will the research deal with information which is private or confidential?	Yes	No
			x
	Please provide further details:		
	The research will use publicly available images from the YouTube Faces repository within the limits of it's terms and conditions.		

## Part 2: The Impact of the Research

3	In the process of doing the research, is there any potential for harm to be done to, or costs to be imposed on	Yes	No
	(a) research participants?		x
	(b) research subjects?		x
	(c) you, as the researcher?		x
	(d) third parties?		x
	Please state what you believe are the implications of the research:		
4	When the research is complete, could negative consequences follow:	Yes	No
	(a) for research subjects		x
	(b) or elsewhere?	x	
	Please state what you believe are the consequences of the research:		
	<p>When it is finished, the research could be applied to actual data on a social media website and could gather potentially damaging information about a single person. The licensing agreement should make clear that the research is for personal use only, unless the informed consent of all participants can be obtained.</p>		

### Part 3: Ethical Procedures

5	Does the research require informed consent or approval from:	Yes	No
	(a) research participants?		x
	(b) research subjects		x
	(c) external bodies		x
	If you answered yes to any of the above, please explain your answer:		
6	Are there reasons why research subjects may need safeguards or protection?	Yes	No
			x
	If you answered yes to the above, please state the reasons and indicate the measures to be		
7	Has PVG membership status been considered?	x	
	(a) PVG membership is not required.	x	
	(b) PVG membership is required for working with children.		
	(c) PVG membership is required for working with protected adults.		
	(d) PVG membership is required for working with both children and protected		
	If you answered yes to (b), (c) or (d) above, please give details:		
8	Are specified procedures or safeguards required for recording, management, or storage of data?	Yes	No
			x
	If you answered yes to the above, please outline the likely undertakings:		
	No private or confidential data will be recorded or stored. Any data that is recorded or stored will be anonymised and will follow RGU's data protection policy.		

**Part 4: The Research Relationship**

9	Does the research require you to give or make undertakings to research participants or subjects about the use of data?	Yes	No
			x
	If you answered yes to the above, please outline the likely undertakings:		
10	Is the research likely to be affected by the relationship with a sponsor, funder or employer?	Yes	No
			x
	If you answered yes to the above, please identify how the research may be affected:		

**Part 5: Other Issues**

11	Are there any other ethical issues not covered by this form which you believe you should raise?	Yes	No
			x

**Statement by Student**

I believe that the information I have given in this form is correct, and that I have addressed the ethical issues as fully as possible at this stage.

Signature	J. Neilson	Date	03/11/2017
-----------	------------	------	------------

**If any ethical issues arise during the course of the research, students should complete a further Student Project Ethical Review (SPER) form.**

The *Research Ethics Policy* is available at [www.intranet.rgu.ac.uk/credo/staff/page.cfm?page=7060](http://www.intranet.rgu.ac.uk/credo/staff/page.cfm?page=7060)

Part 6: To be completed by the supervisor			
12	Does the research have potentially negative implications for the University?	Yes	No
	If you answered yes to the above, please explain your answer:		
13	Are any potential conflicts of interest likely to arise in the course of the research?	Yes	No
	If you answered yes to the above, please identify the potential conflicts:		
14	Are you satisfied that the student has engaged adequately with the ethical implications of the work? [In signifying agreement, supervisors are accepting part of the ethical responsibility for the project]	Yes	No
	If you answered no to the above, please identify the potential issues:		
15	<b>Appraisal:</b> Please select one of the following		
	The research project should proceed in its present form – no further action is required		
	The research project requires ethical approval by the School Ethics Review Panel		
	The research project needs to be returned to the student for modification prior to further action		
	The research project requires ethical review by an external body. If this applies please give details		
	Title of External Body providing ethical review		
	Address of External Body		
	Anticipated date when External Body may consider project		

Affirmation by Supervisor			
<b>I have read the student's responses and have discussed ethical issues arising with the student. I can confirm that, to the best of my understanding, the information presented by the student is correct and appropriate to allow an informed judgement on whether further ethical approval is required.</b>			
Signature		Date	