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## Title of research study: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Virtual Sociology in World of Warcraft

## Investigator: Rhyse Bendell

## Key Information: The following is a short summary of this study to help you decide whether or not to be a part of this study. More detailed information is listed later on in this form.

## Why am I being invited to take part in a research study?

We invite you to take part in a research study because you play World of Warcraft: Classic.

## Why is this research being done?

We are conducting this study to determine whether it is possible to predict individual choices made in World of Warcraft based on information about you, the player. We will be using your responses to a set of questionnaires to build a model which may allow us to estimate the likelihood that you will make decisions such as playing as a Night Elf versus a Gnome or choosing to rely on melee versus ranged combat. Understanding the relationship between your responses and the choices that you make will help us better understand how and why gamers play different games, and will lay the foundation for addressing more complex issues such as the effect that playing games may have on players.

## How long will the research last and what will I need to do?

We expect that you will be participating in this research study for 10-30 minutes depending on the level of detail that you choose to provide in your responses

You will be asked to respond to a set of questionnaires relating to your choices when developing a character in World of Warcraft as well as to your personality and motivations.

More detailed information about the study procedures can be found under ***“What happens if I say yes, I want to be in this research?”***

## Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me?

No. This study does not involve any activities or request any responses that could be harmful to you, and none of your responses will be tied to you as a person: all responses will be anonymous.

More detailed information about the risks of this study can be found under ***“Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me? (Detailed Risks)[Delete if not applicable]***

## Will being in this study help me any way?

There are no benefits to you from your taking part in this research. We cannot promise any benefits to others from your taking part in this research.

## What happens if I do not want to be in this research?

Participation in research is completely voluntary. You can decide to participate or not to participate.

## Detailed Information: The following is more detailed information about this study in addition to the information listed above.

## What should I know about a research study?

1. An introductory survey page will explain this research study to you.
2. Whether or not you take part is up to you.
3. You can choose not to take part.
4. You can agree to take part and later change your mind (i.e., you can start answering the surveys and if you choose to stop you may do so at any time).
5. Your decision will not be held against you.

## Who can I talk to?

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think the research has hurt you, talk to the research team: the primary contact for this study is Mr. Rhyse Bendell, he can be reached most readily by email at [rhyben94@knights.ucf.edu](mailto:rhyben94@knights.ucf.edu).

This research has been reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board (“IRB”). You may talk to them at 407-823-2901or [irb@ucf.edu](mailto:irb@ucf.edu) if:

1. Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.
2. You cannot reach the research team.
3. You want to talk to someone besides the research team.
4. You have questions about your rights as a research subject.
5. You want to get information or provide input about this research.

## How many people will be studied?

We expect 500 people will participate in this research study.

## What happens if I say yes, I want to be in this research?

If you agree to be a part of this study the majority of the time you will spend participating will consist of reading brief introductory/explanatory material and then completing questionnaires. First you will complete a general demographics questionnaire which will ask you about information such as your age (e.g., are you between 18-25 years old? 25-35 years old?) and video game experience. Next you will be asked to answer a series of questions about your experience with World of Warcraft such as how many years you have played, and how many characters you have played as in the past. Completion of the experience related section will be followed by a brief set of questions that will ask you what choices you would make if you were creating a character. After the WoW specific questions, you will be asked to fill out two commonly used questionnaires: a personality index known as the “Big Five Index,” and a motivations survey called “Motivation to Play Online Games.” Finally, you will be asked to optionally respond to two free-response questions about your preferences and experiences in WoW.

## What happens if I say yes, but I change my mind later?

You can leave the research at any time it will not be held against you.

## What happens to the information collected for the research?

Efforts will be made to limit the use and disclosure of your information, including research study records, to people who have a need to review this information. We cannot promise complete secrecy. Organizations that may inspect and copy your information include the IRB and other representatives of this organization. Note that no information such as your name, contact information, or reasonably identifiable aspects such as your biological sex or exact age will be collected during this study.