PROTOCOLS

#812627 - Studying the Evolution of Automoderator Configurations on Reddit

Protocol Information

Submission Type	Review Type	Status	Time in Current Status
New	**Not Human Subjects Research**	**Not Human Subjects Research**	**Since April 28 – 9 minutes**

Feedback

NHSR Determination Date

Apr 28, 2025

NHSR Determination Comment

The above-referenced project has been reviewed by an IRB chair or designee and is certified as not human subjects research according to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, part 46 and UCSD Standard Operating Policies and Procedures; and therefore, does not require IRB review.

Though certified as not human subjects research, the investigator should ensure that the activities associated with the project are conducted in compliance with applicable UCSD and Rady Children's Hospital – San Diego policies and ethical standards as well as local, state, and federal regulations.

Exemption from IRB review does not exempt the PI and study team from their responsibilities under UC San Diego PPM 100-5 (Responsibilities section, item d) or from any other approvals or permissions required by applicable laws or university policies.

The application listed the following funding (or potential funding) information: None.

You may contact our office at 858-246-4777 or at irb@ucsd.edu. Your call or email will automatically generate a support ticket for the Office of IRB Administration to track and respond to your request.

Best wishes for the successful conduct of the protocol.

Project Basics

STUDY TITLE

Studying the Evolution of Automoderator Configurations on Reddit

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Kumar, Deepak

Lead Department:

Computer Science and Engineering

Facesheet Inclusion

General Information

SUBMISSION TYPE

Administrative Determination or Registration

Submission for Administrative Determination or Registration.

Activity Not Human Subjects Research

Please note submissions of Not Human Subjects Research activities generally receive initial review within 4-6 weeks from the date of initial submission in the Kuali system.

Once submitted an OIA analyst will be in touch should revisions be needed. If revisions are needed, the team will be notified through an automatic notification from the Kuali IRB system.

PI is a PI-eligible UCSD employee

Yes

LOCATION WHERE ACTIVITY(IES) WILL BE PERFORMED

Web-based

LAY LANGUAGE SYNOPSIS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The goal of this work is to examine the role that automation plays in moderation for online communities. We seek to examine the scope of automation (i.e., what rules of an online community are attempted to be enforced by automation, vs. which are not?), the tactics of automation (i.e., how are each of the rules implemented?), how automation grows over time (i.e., when does the scope of automation increase? When new rules are implemented, do new updates to AutoMod configurations happen as well?), and finally, we seek to compare different community's strategies for automation by conducting a comparative analysis across many subcommunities. In conducting the work, we hope to understand what best common practices exist for automated moderation today on Reddit and use this as a frame to examine how new moderation tools might be used to support community moderation.

Study Personnel

Update the PI line by pressing the Edit Pencil and answer the pop-up questions Do not list any other personnel here. If needed, add an administrative contact in Permissions.

Person

Kumar, Deepak

Home Unit

Computer Science and Engineering

Institutional Title

Assistant Professor

Researcher Role

Principal Investigator

Permissions

Please choose **ONLY ONE** option from the below.

Full Access

Do any of the personnel listed above have any potential conflict of interest related to the research?

No

Funding

Choose the option that describes the funding for this project.

No funding planned for this study

Not Human Subjects Research

Does the activity constitute a clinical investigation under FDA regulations (e.g., testing a medical device, drug, biologic, or any other product meant to cure, mitigate, treat, diagnose, or prevent disease)?

No

Is this activity solely designed as a *Evidence-Based Practice/Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance* project?

All statements below must be TRUE to answer Yes:

- Implementing the practice as outlined in the project **will not incur patient harm.**
- The practice change outlined in the project is **not new or novel** and **has been published elsewhere.**
- The practice outlined in the project will be **implemented in a practice location.**
- **All staff and affected patients** in the project location will be **expected to participate** in the project.
- The project is **not testing issues or adding research questions that go beyond common** practice.
- The project will **not randomize patients** into different intervention groups.
- The project will **not deliberately delay interpretation of data.**
- The project will **not deliberately delay or abbreviate feedback** to those who would benefit from the findings to enhance likelihood of publication.
- The project has **no funding support from an outside organization with a commercial interest in the use of the results.**

No

Do the proposed activities involve a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation?

No

Is the intent of the proposed activity to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge?

Yes

Does the research involve obtaining information or biospecimens through intervention or interaction with living individuals, and using, studying, or analyzing the information or biospecimens?

No

Does the research involve obtaining, using, studying analyzing, or generating private information or identifiable biospecimens about living individuals (i.e., the identity of the individual is or may be ascertained by the investigator or associated with the information)?

No

Are you receiving an award, contract, or cooperative agreement directly from HHS (e.g., NIH, PHS, CDC, CMS) for non-exempt human subjects research and all activities will be conducted by another institution (i.e., sub award process)?

No

The proposed activity as described does not constitute human subjects research. IRB review is not required.

Confirmation by the Office of IRB Administration is not required. We recommend that you print this form for your records.

If you prefer confirmation from the Office of IRB Administration, please submit this form along with supporting documentation (e.g., project description).

Confirm the following statements:

- The information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of your knowledge, and that you agree to conduct the project in compliance UCSD and Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego policies as well as state and federal regulations.
- If the activities conducted as part of this project change in the future whereby the project meets the definition of human subjects research, you will submit an IRB application for review and approval prior to conducting human subjects research activities.

I confirm that the preceding statements are true.

SCRO Screening

Does this research involve creation or use of a culture-derived, human pluripotent stem cell population derived from an embryo?

No

Does this research involve creation or use of a culture-derived, human pluripotent stem cell population that is a product of somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT)?

No

If this project does not include covered Stem Cell Lines then SCRO Review is not required.

Supporting Information

Supporting Document

automod-irb.docx

Attachment Type

Protocol

Name/Version

Supporting Document

automod-recruitment.docx

Attachment Type

Recruitment Materials

Name/Version

Added Information - Optional

Include any additional information that you want to communicate about the study.

Assurance/Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, I confirm that the information within this form is accurate and complete.

I am the Principal Investigator

Administrative Details Form

Determinations

Review Type

Not Human Subjects Research

Study Status

Not Human Subjects Research