

Informed Consent

Information about the Study

The aim of this study is to analyze the messaging behavior in the context of war and identify how social interactions change due to armed conflict or displacement. This study is completely anonymous and online. It includes the donation of your anonymized social media data and answering questionnaires. After having downloaded your interaction data from facebook, participation in the study will take around 30 minutes.

By agreeing, you confirm that you have read and understood the background and process of this online study.

Benefits and risks

With your participation you enable us to identify and characterize new insights about the adverse effects of war on social interactions. You gain insights into your own personal messaging behavior through visualizations after your donation. Furthermore, at the end of the study, you receive a 10€ voucher ([Cadooz-Bestchoice](#)). We only collect anonymized data. During the study we ask you to fill out questionnaires. These include questions about distressing war-related events that might have happened to you such as the loss of loved ones, questions on your displacement status, questions on psychological well-being, questions about loneliness, resilience and support from friends and family. As these questions are potentially triggering or might elicit strong emotions, we ask you to only participate if you feel healthy and able to answer these kind of questions. Receiving visual feedback may be triggering or elicit strong emotions, as the sudden stop in communication, such as in cases of bereavement, is apparent in the feedback graphs and could lead to re-exposure. You can stop the study at any time, without a reason and without any repercussions for you. Before the donation of your data you have to download the messaging data locally on your own device. Since this data contains sensitive information we recommend to delete the local copy of your data after the end of the study. Please conduct the study alone and in a calm environment to ensure your privacy.

Collected Data

Data Donation: When donating your interaction data, we extract metadata (e.g. length and timestamp of message as well as pseudonyms of conversation participants) and no actual contents (e.g. message text or name of message sender). To ensure that, we anonymize your data client-side, meaning that your private data is anonymized locally and does not leave your device. This means that we will never see the content of your conversations. Before uploading, we will show you a preview of the data so that you can verify it is sufficiently anonymous.

Questionnaires: You first fill out multiple questionnaires about your socio-demographic information, messaging usage, experiences during the war, questionnaires about your psychological well-being and questionnaires about feelings of support and loneliness . You can then carry out the data donation and will receive feedback on your messaging data. The questionnaire data is collected completely anonymously using [LimeSurvey](#).

Voluntary Participation

The participation in this study is entirely voluntary. At any time you may stop the study and revoke your consent concerning your participation in this study, without giving any reason and without any kind of negative consequences. Before uploading the data to our research platform, you may revoke, without giving reason, your consent concerning the storage of your anonymized data, without any negative consequences.

Data Security

Since we are not collecting any names or other person-specific data, we will not be able to associate you with your data once the study has been completed from your side - the donated data is anonymous. This means that your data cannot be deleted on your request after submission. Due to the completely anonymous data handling and processing, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) does not apply. In case of questions or concerns, please contact the office for data protection at the University of Bielefeld:

Data protection officer
University Bielefeld
Office: UHG T6-234
Phone +49 521 106-5225
datenschutzbeauftragte@uni-bielefeld.de

The email you use to sign-up for the voucher will not be connected to your messaging or questionnaire. You will receive further information when signing up for the voucher at the end of the study.

Usage of data

The data and results of these surveys will be published in scientific journals. The published data will be anonymous, meaning that it cannot be associated with individuals. The fully anonymized data will be uploaded to a research data repository and qualified scientists will be granted access.

I hereby confirm that I have read and understood the information above and agree to the conditions for participation.