

## **Informed Consent**

### **Information about the Study**

The aim of the study is to measure the dynamics of people's social interactions based on their social media data. The study takes place completely online and anonymously. The study includes the data donation of your anonymized social media data as well as a questionnaire. No content (text, names, numbers, pictures etc.) from your social media data will be used. Once you have downloaded your online interaction data, the study only takes 10 minutes to complete.

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 gain new insights about social interactions between humans. You gain insights into your own personal messaging behavior. Furthermore, at the end of the study, you will receive 5€ compensation for your participation. We only collect anonymized data. 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 you donate your social media data, we only collect metadata (e.g., text length, time of writing a message or a post, pseudonyms of the conversation participants) and no content (e.g., no text, media or name of the conversation participants). Your online interaction data will be anonymized on your computer. We therefore never see your messages, posts or comments. Before submitting your anonymized data, you can review them. This way you can verify that they are sufficiently anonymized.

*Questionnaires:* You first fill out questionnaire about your demographic information. You can then carry out the data donation and receive feedback. Questionnaire data is also collected completely anonymously using [LimeSurvey](#).

### **Voluntary Participation**

The participation in this study is entirely voluntary. At any time you may 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](mailto:datenschutzbeauftragte@uni-bielefeld.de)

## 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.**