

Informed Consent

Information about the Study

The aim of the study is to record the social interaction dynamics of people based on their social media messages. The study takes place completely online and anonymously. The study includes the data donation of your anonymized online messages as well as a few questionnaires. Once you have downloaded your online interaction data, the study only takes 20 minutes to complete.

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

Benefits and risks

By participating, you will help to identify and characterize new findings about peoples social interaction behavior. You will also gain insight into your own messaging behavior. You can also receive a €10 reward at the end of the study. We only collect anonymized data. Before donating data, you must download the messaging data to your device. As this is sensitive data, we strongly recommend that you delete the original data from your device after completing the donation. To ensure your privacy, conduct the study in an undisturbed environment and alone.

Collected Data

Data Donation: When you donate your social media data, we only collect metadata (e.g. message length, message time and pseudonyms of the conversation participants) and no content (e.g. message text, media or name of the conversation participants). Your online interaction data is already anonymized on your computer. We therefore never see your messages. Before we save your anonymized messages, you can review them. This way you can make sure that they are sufficiently anonymized.

Questionnaires: You first fill out questionnaires about your demographic information, well-being and life events. You can then complete the data donation and receive feedback, followed by a questionnaire about your chats. The collection of questionnaire data is also done completely anonymous on the platform [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

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.