

INDIANA UNIVERSITY STUDY INFORMATION SHEET FOR

A Study on Online Communication Practices

Sanchari Das, Braxton Larson, Sameer Patil

You are invited to participate in a research study on online communication practices. You were selected based on your answers to an online questionnaire. Please read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to participate in the study.

The study is being conducted by Sanchari Das (First Year Ph.D. student), Braxton Larson (Master's student) and Prof. Sameer Patil (Assistant Professor) from the School of Informatics and Computing at Indiana University, Bloomington.

STUDY PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to understand people's communication practices and preferences when using online communication platforms, such as social media. Specifically, the study will focus on the use or non-use of Facebook.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE TAKING PART IN THE STUDY

If you agree to participate, you will be one of the fifty participants participating in this research.

PROCEDURES FOR THE STUDY

If you agree to participate in the study, you will be asked to engage in a 30-45 minute in-person interview conducted by the researchers. The interview format is conversational and you are encouraged to provide open-ended and detailed responses to the questions and topics discussed. With your permission, we will audio-record the interview in order to ensure that we accurately and extensively capture your responses. The audio recordings will be transcribed and destroyed immediately after transcription. The transcripts will be anonymized to remove any references to your identity. As a token of our appreciation for your participation in the study, you will receive a cash payment of \$10.

RISKS OF TAKING PART IN THE STUDY

Participating in the study poses no more than minimal risks. The risk is that you may experience a small amount of stress while contemplating your answers. Your responses are confidential. We will not ask for any personal information that could identify you. To maintain confidentiality, your responses will be accessible ONLY to the research team. Audio recordings of the interview will be destroyed immediately upon transcription. Transcripts will be anonymous and will not contain any personally identifiable information about you.

BENEFITS OF TAKING PART IN THE STUDY

This is a research effort and is not intended to provide any direct health benefit to you. However, you may benefit indirectly by developing an increased awareness and understanding of your online communication practices. Your responses will be used to generate research insight that could inform theories of online communication and to produce solutions that can help improve social media systems and their features.

COMPENSATION

As a token of our appreciation for your participation, you will receive a cash payment of \$10 at the end of the interview.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Every effort will be made to keep your personal information confidential. We cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality. Your personal information may be disclosed if required by law. Your identity will be held in confidence in reports in which the study may be published. The information will be stored securely in the Scholarly Data Archive at Indiana University and will be accessible only to those conducting the study.

Organizations that may inspect and/or copy your research records for quality assurance and data analysis include groups such as the study investigator and his research associates, the Indiana University Institutional Review Board or its designees, and (as allowed by law) state or federal agencies, specifically the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), who may need to access your research records.

CONTACTS FOR QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS

For questions about the study or a research-related injury, you may contact the researchers:

Sanchari Das, sancdas@indiana.edu

Braxton Larson, btlarson@indiana.edu or

Prof. Sameer Patil, patil@indiana.edu

For questions about your rights as a research participant, to discuss problems, complaints, or concerns about a research study, or to obtain information or offer input, contact the IU Human Participants Office at 812-856-4242 or 800-696-2949.

VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THIS STUDY

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to take part or leave the study at any time. Leaving the study will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. Your decision whether to participate in this study will not affect your current or future relations with Indiana University.