



Consent form

Impostor Phenomenon in Software Engineers: Investigating the Presence of this Phenomenon and the Impacts on Their Perceived Productivity for Generative AI and Copilot Users

You are invited to take part in a research study being conducted by me, MSc Paloma Guenes, a PhD student of Informatics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro; Dr. Marcos Kalinowski, from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro; Dr. Maria Teresa Baldassare, from the University of Bari; and Dr. Margaret-Anne Storey, from the University of Victoria, Victoria, Canada.

The purpose of this research is to analyze software engineering professionals to evaluate the presence and the extent of the Impostor Phenomenon in different roles and profiles and its impacts on their perceived productivity from the point of view of researchers in the context of software engineering professionals. We will write up the results of this research to publish in a peer-reviewed academic journal or conference.

As a participant in the research, you will be asked to answer questions about your well-being, productivity, and various factors that may affect them in an online survey using Tally. There are also 20 questions from a scale Dr. Pauline Rose Clance created. It will take approximately 20 minutes to complete this survey. In the end, you will have your results about how impostor feelings impact your life based on Dr. Clance's scale.

This research requires your identification. Please be assured that your responses will be safeguarded and used solely for research purposes. Only the four researchers named above will have access to the survey data.

Your participation in this research is entirely your choice. You do not have to answer questions that you do not want to answer, and you are welcome to stop the survey at any time if you no longer want to participate. All you need to do is close your browser. We want to emphasize that your privacy rights are respected throughout the survey process. If, at any point after submission, you wish to withdraw your consent for your data to be analyzed in this research, or if you wish to have your data deleted from our records, you have the right to request it. You can do this by contacting us directly at palomaguenes@gmail.com, and we will promptly take the necessary steps to honor your request.

We want to assure you that your participation in this survey is highly valued, and we are committed to upholding the highest standards of confidentiality and transparency. The results of this research will be described and we will share general findings in presentations and scientific journals to contribute to the collective knowledge in our field. However, neither your personal information nor the identity of the company will be disclosed. Your responses will be treated with utmost respect for your privacy, and any data shared will be aggregated and



analyzed collectively. We will ensure that individual responses are not identifiable in any published materials. Should you have any concerns or questions regarding the use of your data, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

If and only if we are satisfied that it is virtually impossible to de-anonymize any of the records in the dataset, we will publish an anonymous dataset in a scientific data repository. Publishing datasets helps scientists reproduce research, which helps improve our knowledge of the world. However, if we can think of any way that someone might be able to link some of the data back to a person, we will not publish the dataset and will delete it after five years (on April 1, 2029).

At the end, you will receive a score related to how impostor phenomenon feelings impact your life. Moderate to high scores are common to many successful professionals. Scoring more than 80 is not related to a pathological disease. A therapist can help you recognize feelings associated with the Impostor Phenomenon and create new behaviors to get past them. Moreover, the risks associated with this study are no greater than those you encounter in your everyday life.

If you have any questions about this project and survey, please feel free to contact us at palomaguenes@gmail.com or kalinowski@inf.puc-rio.br. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

If you have any ethical concerns about your participation in this research, you may contact the Câmara de Ética em Pesquisa da PUC-Rio: Rua Marquês de São Vicente, N° 225, Edifício Kennedy, 2º andar, Gávea- 22453-900. Rio de Janeiro, RJ. Phone number: (+5521) 3527-1618.

The research complies with all the specifications of Brazilian Health Council Resolution 466, of December 12, 2012, which approves the guidelines and regulatory norms for research involving human beings, and of Brazilian Health Council Resolution 510, of April 7, 2016, which provides for the norms respected to the research in human and social sciences.