

	<b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</b> Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects	<b>Application #</b> (assigned by COUHES)	
		<b>Date</b>	03/30/16

**APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO USE HUMANS AS EXPERIMENTAL  
 SUBJECTS (EXEMPT STATUS FORM)**

*Please answer every question. Positive answers should be amplified with details. You must mark N/A where the question does not pertain to your application. Any incomplete application will be rejected and returned for completion.*

**I. BASIC INFORMATION**

<b>1. Title of Study</b> PERCEPTIONS OF MEDIA BIAS IN THE 2016 ELECTIONS	
<b>2. Investigator</b>	
Name: SOPHIE CHOU	Building and Room #: E14-526
Title: RESEARCH ASSISTANT	Email: soph@media.mit.edu
Department: MIT MEDIA LAB	Phone: (908) 922-9782
<b>3. Faculty Sponsor.</b> <i>If the investigator does not have PI Status (faculty, SRS or PRS) then a faculty sponsor must be identified and sign below.</i>	
Name: DEB ROY	Email: dkroy@media.mit.edu
Title: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	Phone: 617-253-0596
Affiliation: MIT MEDIA LAB	
<b>4. Collaborating Institutions.</b> <i>If you are collaborating with another institution(s) then you must obtain approval from that institution's institutional review board, and forward copies of the approval to COUHES).</i>	
<b>5. Funding.</b> <i>If the research is funded by an outside sponsor, the investigator's department head must sign this form. Please enclose one copy of the research proposal (draft is acceptable) with your application. <b>Do not leave this section blank. If your project is not funded check No Funding.</b></i>	
A. Sponsored Project Funding:	

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<input type="checkbox"/> Current Proposal Sponsor Title	Proposal #
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Award  Sponsor TWITTER INC. Title TWITTER SIG	Account # 6929773
B. Institutional Funding:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gift <input type="checkbox"/> Departmental Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain) <input type="checkbox"/> No Funding	
<b>6. Statement of Financial Interest</b>	
Does the principal investigator or any <u>key personnel</u> involved in the study have any <u>financial interest</u> in the research? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes then attach a <b>Supplement for Disclosure of Financial Interest</b> for each individual with an interest. <i>This supplement, together with detailed guidance on this subject and definitions of the highlighted terms, is available on the COUHES web.</i>	
<b>7. Human Subjects Training.</b> <i>All study personnel in research <b>MUST</b> take and pass a training course on human subjects research. MIT has a web-based course that can be accessed from the main menu of the COUHES web site. COUHES may accept proof of training from some other institutions. List the name, MIT or outside affiliation and emails of all study personnel and indicate if they have taken a human subjects training course.</i>	
SOPHIE CHOU, MIT, soph@media.mit.edu, Y	
<b>8. Anticipated Dates of Research</b>	
Start Date:      04/11/16	Completion Date: 04/15/16

## II. STUDY INFORMATION

<b>1. Purpose of Study.</b> <i>Please provide a brief statement of the background, nature and reasons for the proposed study. Use non-technical language.</i>
<p>The purpose of this study is to study perceptions of media bias in news coverage of the 2016 elections. Participants will read 6 political news stories each and answer questions about the content of each story, preceded by a standard demographic and political affiliation survey. Half of the participants will be shown the source of the story while the other half does not have access to this information.</p>

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**2. Study Protocol.** Please provide an outline of the proposed research. You should provide sufficient information for effective review by non-scientist members of COUHES. Define all abbreviations and use simple words. Unless justification is provided, this part of the application must not exceed 2 pages. Attaching sections of a grant application is **not** an acceptable substitute for the description requested here. Include copies of any questionnaire or standardized tests you plan to use. If your study involves interviews, submit an outline of the types of questions you will include. Your research outline should include a description of:

**A. Experimental procedures:**

24 quizzes will be posted on Crowd Flower (crowdfunder.com), a crowd-sourcing platform built on top of Amazon Turk. Each quiz consists of 6 news stories about the US presidential candidates. Participants read each story and rate the favorability towards a particular candidate. In addition, they submit a standard demographic and political affiliation survey.

The study is split into two groups, with one group reading redacted versions of the stories removing the source and author of the stories.

Personal information such as age, gender, race, political party will only be used for aggregate analysis and will not be individually released. Names will not be collected.

**B. Type and number of subjects involved:** 144 subjects recruited from crowd sourcing platform Crowd Flower which is an extension of Amazon Mechanical Turk. Subjects must be at least 18 years old and of US citizenship, otherwise no restrictions.

**C. Subject Compensation: (describe all plans to pay subjects in cash or other forms of payment i.e. gift certificate).** Each participant will be paid \$0.50 determined by the COUHES suggested rate of \$0.02 - \$0.04 per minute (the estimated total time is about 12 minutes) via Crowd Flower.

**D. Method of recruitment** (attach recruitment materials flyer, poster, email message, Internet posting, etc.) Using Crowd Flower platform job posting.

**E. Length of subject involvement:** Subject only involved in a one-time quiz taking. They may only participate once, estimated time about 10-15 minutes, depending on the reading speed of the participant.

**F. Location of the research:** Online.

**G. Procedures for obtaining informed consent** (if a waiver of written informed consent is requested an explanation of an alternative consent mechanism must be submitted): The following statement from COUHES guide for Amazon Turk will be shown before the start of survey:

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*This job is part of a MIT scientific research project. Your decision to complete this job is voluntary. There is no way for us to identify you. The only information we will have, in addition to your responses, is the time at which you completed the survey. The results of the research may be presented at scientific meetings or published in scientific journals. Clicking on the 'SUBMIT' button on the bottom of this page indicates that you are at least 18 years of age and agree to complete this job voluntarily.*

**H. Procedures to ensure confidentiality:** No personal information will be released in the analysis. Demographic and political information will only be analyzed in aggregate.

**3. HIPAA Privacy Rule.** *If you are in any way working with individually identifiable health information for a research study that is sponsored by MIT Medical, an MIT Health Plan or another healthcare provider, then the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") likely applies to your study and you must comply with HIPAA in the conduct of your study. However, we expect that if you are applying for exempt status, you will only receive de-identified health information from participants in connection with your study. If you expect to receive identifiable health information from or about research participants in your study, you should complete the standard COUHES application form rather than this application form. You may consult with COUHES staff if you have questions about the exempt/non-exempt status of your proposed research study.*

**Signature of Investigator**

**Date**

**Signature of Faculty Sponsor**

**Date**

**Signature of Department Head**

**Date**

**Print Full Name and Title**

***The electronic file should be sent as an attachment to an e-mail: [couhes@mit.edu](mailto:couhes@mit.edu). In addition, two hard copies (one with original signatures) should be sent to the COUHES office: Building E25-Room 143B.***

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