



Universität
Basel

Philosophisch-Historische
Fakultät



Swiss National
Science Foundation

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. What are digital social reading practices?

Digital social reading practices are any activity a person can partake in revolving around the act of reading (for example writing a book review, sharing a book recommendation, watching other readers' content, or engaging in conversation with other readers on social media or online platforms (e.g., Twitch, Discord, Tumblr, etc.), reading or contributing to fanfiction, etc.) in online environments that are specifically set up for such activities (e.g., Goodreads, Wattpad, AO3, etc.) or online spaces that are home to communities of avid readers (e.g., BookTok, BookTube, Bookstagram, etc.).

2. What is the purpose of this study?

We would like to ask you to talk about which platforms you use, why you use them and how you make use of them. We are also interested to learn more about how engaging in online shared reading practices makes you feel.

3. Who is doing the research?

The research is led by Prof. Dr. Moniek Kuijpers from the University of Basel, as well as research associate Pema Frick.

4. Who is funding the research?

The research is funded by the SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation).

5. If I take part in the study, what will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to fill in a survey (10 to 15 minutes) and take part in a one-on-one interview (1 to 2 hours), over Zoom. During that interview you will be asked what kind of platforms you use to engage in digital social reading practices and after that you will be asked to sort a set of statements about digital social reading practices in order of how much each of these statements applies to you. After this so-called "Q-sort", we will ask you to elaborate on how you sorted the set of statements.

6. What are my duties as a participant?

As a participant, you are expected to answer our questions truthfully, and to the best of your abilities. You are also expected to behave respectfully towards the researchers, as they will towards you to.

7. If I decide to take part, can I change my mind?

Your participation is completely voluntary. You have the right to leave the study at any time.

8. Are there any risks in taking part in this study?

This study poses little to no risk to you. In the case you feel emotional distress during the interview, you will be attended to by one of the researchers present in the session. They are trained in handling the situation and can advise you to professional mental health-care providers.

9. What kind of data will be collected?

The interview will be videorecorded with the online meeting tool Zoom. It will be transcribed by the research team with help from AI assisted software after the study, and it will be manually



pseudonymized by us. Initially the video recordings will help the research team to analyze the data, as they provide additional data to the transcripts such as facial expressions or gestures. However, once this stage of the data analysis is completed, the video recordings will be deleted.

10. Will my identity be protected?

The video will be recorded in a password-protected Zoom-meeting with end-to-end encryption and never be shared with persons outside the research group. The video data will be stored for two years after completion of the study and afterwards deleted. Your identity in the transcribed dataset will be pseudonomized. This means that names and other identifiable details will be changed, and the identity of participants will only be known to the researchers. To ensure your data is secure and anonymous, your data will be stored on local computers only, and we will not use any cloud-based services throughout the processing of your data.

11. How will my anonymized data be stored?

We use a secure web space, offered by the University of Basel, to store the data. Only team members will have access to this web space. The transcribed and pseudonomized data will be stored separately from your personal information (such as the video recordings). Your personal data will only be stored on the personal computers of the research team members and not on any cloud-based servers. Two years after the study is complete, the personal information will be deleted. Once the study has been published the anonymized data will be stored in the online open access repository Open Science Framework so it can inspire further research as well as give other researchers the chance to replicate our analysis.

12. What are my rights as a participant with respect to my own data?

You can request for the data to be corrected, handed over to you, blocked for processing or deleted until that time that the results of the study are published, as after that time the original data will be deleted and we will be unable to make any changes. To do so, please contact Moniek Kuijpers at dsrstudy-dhlab@unibas.ch.

13. Will I be remunerated for my participation?

We greatly appreciate your contribution to our research. You will receive a book voucher of 25£/25 CHF as an expression of our gratitude for your time.

14. Who to contact if I have any questions or concerns?

You can reach out to the research group leader Prof. Dr. Moniek Kuijpers or the research associate Pema Frick via dsrstudy-dhlab@unibas.ch