**General University Ethics Panel (GUEP)**

**Ethical Approval Form**

**SECTION A: Applicant details**

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| **A1. Name of applicant (principal researcher):** Tom Wallace |
| **A2. Email address: tom.wallace@stir.ac.uk** |
| **A3. Faculty affiliation:** FoSS **Division/Research group: Social Surveys and Social Statistics** |
| **A4. Designation: Research postgraduate  Staff** |
| **A5. RESEARCH POSTGRADUATES ONLY**  **Programme of study:** PhD  **Supervisor name:** Alasdair Rutherford |
| **A6. STAFF ONLY**  **Job title:** Click here to enter job title |
| **A7. Details of additional internal applicant(s): Not applicable**  **Name:** Click here to enter name **Faculty:** Choose Faculty **Division:** Click here to enter text  **Post held:** Click here to enter text **Hrs/week on project:** Click here to enter text  *Copy and paste the above to add further applicants* |
| **A8. Details of additional external applicant(s): Not applicable**  **Name:** Click here to enter name **Institution:** Click here to enter text  **Post held:** Click here to enter text  *Copy and paste the above to add further applicants* |
| **A9. Is ethical review by an external body required? Yes  No**  **If YES, at what stage is this at?** Choose an item |
| **A10. Type of review required: Light touch  Full review**  *Although the GUEP will determine what kind of review is required, you may request a light touch review if you think it is justified. Please refer to the* [*ESRC Framework for Research Ethics*](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/files/funding/guidance-for-applicants/esrc-framework-for-research-ethics-2015/) *for examples of research that would normally require full review.* |
| **A11. Supporting documentation:** Please submit all applicable documents with this form:  Participant info sheets Consent formsRisk assessments Data collection instruments  Interview schedules or topic guides Participant recruitment materials  Participant Debrief information  Other Please specify: Click here to enter text |

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| **FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY:**  **Ethics application reference numbers: GUEP/**Select year**/**Add unique number**/**Choose review type  **Application complete, signed and dated  Date received by GUEP** Click here to enter a date  **Fieldwork risk assessment required  Date risk assessment completed** Click here to enter a date |
| **GUEP decision Date** Click here to enter a date  **Approved  Approved subject to minor amendments  Major amendments required  Rejected**  **Requires interim review  Proposed date of interim review** Click here to enter date **Requires final review** |
| **Details of required amendments/reason for rejection:**  Click here to enter text |

**SECTION B: Project details**

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| **B1. Project title:** UK Charities on Twitter | | | |
| **B2. Project funder: ESRC and Scottish Government fund PhD, no specific funding for this paper** | | | |
| **B3. Project start date:** 15/01/2018 | **Project end date:** 02/07/2018 | | |
| **B4. Short project description:**  Research paper looking at how UK charities use twitter | | | |
| **B5. Provide a brief justification for the proposed study:**  Click here to enter text | | |
| **B6. What are the study’s main objectives and expected outcomes?**  To map a charities twitter network and determine if charity size has an impact on connectedness | | |
| **B7. Does this project involve fieldwork? (see** [**definition**](http://www.she.stir.ac.uk/documents/guidance_on_health_and_safety_in_fieldwork.pdf)**)**  **If your project involves fieldwork the risk assessment process of your faculty or a** [**GUEP Fieldwork Risk Assessment Form**](https://stir.box.com/s/3kwfkdpsksj0q6fe98swfjc7udwci5kw) **must be completed.** | | **Yes  No** |
| **B8. Please summarise the potential ethical issues and how they will be addressed:**  Primary data collection from twitter concerning organisational twitter accounts. The sample will not include individuals, the data collected is all public and made available for research by Twitter through their API. The results will be anonymised for publication. The data will be stored as if it were personal sensitive data on password protected machines and will fully comply with the data protection act and any other relevant legislation. | | |
| **B9. Is further scrutiny required at a later date (e.g. where the research design is emergent)?** | | **Yes  No** |
| **If YES please provide details**  Click here to enter text | | |
| **B10. Will external contractor be involved (e.g. transcription services, interpreters, fieldworkers)?** | | **Yes  No** |
| **If YES comment on their compliance with ethical requirements:**  Click here to enter text | | |
| **B11. Has this proposal been subject to any external ethical review process?** | | **Yes  No** |
| **If YES please provide details:**  Click here to enter text | | |

**SECTION C: Research involving human participants**

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| **C1. Does your research involve human participants?**  **If YES please answer the following questions. If NO proceed to C6.** | **Yes  No** |
| **C2. Please provide details of the intended participants:**  **Who?** Click here to enter text  **How many?** Click here to enter number  **Identification and recruitment:** Click here to enter text | |
| **C3. Does the proposed research involve vulnerable groups?**  e.g. children under 18, people with learning or communication difficulties, patients, people in custody, people engaged in illegal activities such as drug taking. | **Yes  No** |
| **If YES please provide details:**  Click here to enter text | |
| **C4. Please give details of procedures for informed consent (including information provided and methods of documenting initial and continuing consent) – consent forms must be attached to the application.**  Click here to enter text | |
| **C5. Please detail the measures that will be taken to ensure confidentiality, privacy and data protection:**  Click here to enter text | |
| **C6. Please detail the methods of data collection:**  Initial sample of twitter handles obtained through Google searches and charity websites. Twitter data on these handles then collected through the twitter API using the research software NodeXL. Data collected will include following links between accounts and general twitter metrics (number of tweets, etc) | |
| **C7. Please detail the methods of data analysis and data storage (see** [**Guidance on Research Data**](http://www.stir.ac.uk/is/researchers/data/)**):**  Data will be analysed with network analysis methods including sociogram visualisations, calculation of centrality scores and network modelling. Twitter handles will be analysed in groups of 40 (160 accounts total) determined by their size and not identified individually.  Data will be stored on password protected computers and accounts, including encrypted cloud storage such as Box. Data is public and does not concern individuals but will be treated as if it were sensitive and private. | |
| **C8: How will the results from this study (including feedback to participants) be disseminated?**  Paper seeking publication in world leading journal (likely NVSQ). Findings shared by author on blog/twitter | |

**SECTION D: Research involving or impacting on animals**

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| **D1. Does your research involve animals?** | **Yes  No** |
| **If YES please also submit an application to the University AWERB (**[**click here**](https://stir.box.com/s/03p7ztbre4ognd1u85vrxh0yiqad7rho)**) – these applications can run in parallel.** | |

**SECTION E: Data protection, copyright and other considerations**

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| **E1.** Does the proposed research involve accessing records of personal or confidential information? | **Yes  No** |
| **If YES please give details:**  Click here to enter text | |
| **E2.** Does the proposed research involve the recording of participants through the use of audio-visual methods? | **Yes  No** |
| **If YES please give details:**  Click here to enter text | |
| **E3.** Does the proposed research involve the [remote acquisition of data](https://stir.box.com/v/IMREthics) from or  about human participants using the internet and its associated technologies | **Yes  No** |
| **If YES please give details:**  **Data collected from twitter API, does not involve contacting participants – data is public and available for research. Subjects of research is organisational accounts controlled by one or more people in a professional capacity, debatable if this constitutes human participants.** | |
| **E4.** Does the proposed research involve accessing potentially sensitive data through third parties? | **Yes  No** |
| **If YES please give details:**  Click here to enter text | |
| **E5.** Does the proposed research involve reproducing [copyrighted work](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/375954/Research.pdf) in published form (other than brief citation)? | **Yes  No** |
| **If YES please give details:**  Click here to enter text | |
| **E6.** Does the proposed work involve activities which could temporarily or permanently damage or disturb the environment, or archaeological remains and artefacts? | **Yes  No** |
| **If YES please give details:**  Click here to enter text | |
| **E7.** Does the proposed work involve a potential conflict of interest or raise ethical issues regarding the source of funding or where publication of research data may be restricted? | **Yes  No** |
| **If YES please give details:**  Click here to enter text | |

By signing below (digital signatures accepted), you certify that the information provided is true and correct to the best of your knowledge. Please return your form in **Word** to guep@stir.ac.uk

**RESEARCH POSTGRADUATES**

**Applicant’s signature: C:\Users\tw18\Dropbox\signature.jpg Date:** 06/12/2017

**Supervisor’s signature: Date:** Click here to enter a date

**STAFF**

**Applicant’s signature:**  **Date:** Click here to enter a date