



UT Austin IRB Approved  
Protocol Number: 2019-10-0029  
Approved:

Title of the Project: Computational behavior in the context of human reactions, instructions, and feedback

Principal Investigator: Peter Stone, Professor, UT Austin

Study Sponsor: Robert Bosch, LLC

### **Consent to Participate in Research**

#### **Invitation to be Part of a Research Study**

You are invited to be part of a research study. This consent form will help you choose whether or not to participate in the study. Feel free to ask if anything is not clear in this consent form.

#### **Important Information about this Research Study**

Things you should know:

- The purpose of the study is to investigate how humans like you interact with robots and other computational actors and use such investigations to improve the design of these systems.
- In order to participate, you must be over 18 years old.
- If you choose to participate, you will be asked to interact with and/or observe a robot or other type of computational actor over 15-60 minutes either in our study room or in an online experiment setting.
- Known risks or discomforts from this research are not greater than everyday life.
- There is no direct benefit for participating in this study.
- Taking part in this research study is voluntary. You do not have to participate, and you can stop at any time.

More detailed information is described later in this form.

Please take time to read this entire form and ask questions before deciding whether to take part in this research study.

#### **What is the study about and why are we doing it?**

The purpose of the study is to investigate how humans like you interact with robots and other computational actors, to evaluate the effectiveness of technology that is designed to act in proximity to humans and in some cases to learn new things from these humans, and to investigate human preferences in the design of such technology.

#### **What will happen if you take part in this study?**

If you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked to be involved in the following:

- **Preparation:**  
You will be given instructions after this page, prior to the start of the experiment.
- **Your interaction or observation of the robot or other computational actor:**  
You might be asked to collaborate with a robot or other computational actor on a task, or

to observe as the robot or other computational actor attempts to perform a task.

- You may be randomly assigned (like by the flip of a coin) to receive one of two or more experimental conditions.
- **Survey:** After the interaction there may be a short survey about your experience.
- **Exit Interview:** Participants who take part in online experiments may not have an exit interview but can ask questions via the contact information on this form.

This study will take 15 minutes to an hour, and will include approximately 20-200 study participants each time that we are testing a particular new interactive technology.

#### **How long will you be in this study and how many people will be in the study?**

Participation in this study will last 15 minutes to an hour and will include approximately 20-200 study participants each time that we are testing a particular new interactive technology.

#### **What risks and discomforts might you experience from being in this study?**

There are no foreseeable risks to participating in this study beyond that of typical daily activities of a normal person. The researchers will let you know about any significant new findings (such as additional risks or discomforts) that might make you change your mind about participating in this study.

#### **How could you benefit from this study?**

Although you will not directly benefit from being in this study, others might benefit because this research aims to help enable personal service robots and other computational actors to be reliably and robustly deployed in human environments.

#### **What will happen to the samples and/or data we collect from you?**

As part of this study we will record instructive information generated by the participant, such as demonstration data (e.g., joystick or keyboard signals), written transcripts of the participant's natural language instructions to the agent, and the participant's button presses associated with feedback data.

We may also record the information that was presented to the participant (e.g., the visual information presented on a computer monitor).

#### **How will we protect your information?**

We will protect your information by the following procedures: The data that is collected about participants will be kept private to the extent allowed by law. Your name and any other information that can directly identify you will be stored separately from the data collected as part of the project.

Your research records will not be released without your consent unless required by law or a court order.

We will share your data or samples with other researchers for future research studies that may be similar to this study or may be very different.

The data or samples shared with other researchers will not include information that can directly identify you.

Information about you may be given to the following organizations:

- The study sponsor and/or representative of the sponsor
- Representatives of UT Austin and the UT Austin Institutional Review Board
- Officials of the Department of Health and Human Services

We plan to publish the results of this study. To protect your privacy, we will/will not include any information that could directly identify you.

#### **What will happen to the information we collect about you after the study is over?**

We will not keep your research data to use for future research studies that may be similar to this study or may be very different. Your name and other information that can directly identify you will be kept secure and stored separately from the research data collected as part of the project.

#### **How will we compensate you for being part of the study?**

You will receive a gift card or a direct deposit payment based on multiple factors, including but not limited to, number of questions answered, time spent on the questions, and in some cases, performance of the computational agent.

Payments will occur within 30 days of completing the study, provided you have completed the tasks in a satisfactory manner. . You will be responsible for any taxes assessed on the compensation. You can withdraw from this study at any point, which includes forfeiture of your compensation.

In some cases you may be able to receive class points or extra credit for participating in this study. Any professor offering this option is required to provide an alternative option in case you do not want to participate in this study but still want to obtain class points or extra credit.

Only one form of compensation can be made, you can either receive financial compensation or credit, not both.

#### **Your Participation in this Study is Voluntary**

It is totally up to you to decide to be in this research study. Participating in this study is voluntary. Your decision to participate will not affect your relationship with The University of Massachusetts Amherst or The University of Texas at Austin. You will not lose any benefits or rights you already had if you decide not to participate. Even if you decide to be part of the study now, you may change your mind and stop at any time. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to answer. If you decide to withdraw before this study is completed, any data already collected you're your participation will be deleted

#### **Contact Information for the Study Team**

If you have any questions about this research, you may contact Peter Stone at 512-810-3373 or [pstone@cs.utexas.edu](mailto:pstone@cs.utexas.edu), Tuhina Tripathi at [ttripathi@umass.edu](mailto:ttripathi@umass.edu), or Dr Scott Niekum at [sniekum@umass.edu](mailto:sniekum@umass.edu).

#### **Contact Information for Questions about Your Rights as a Research Participant**

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or wish to obtain information, ask questions, or discuss any concerns about this study with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact the following:

The University of Texas at Austin Institutional Review Board at 512-232-1543 or [irb@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:irb@austin.utexas.edu). Please reference study number 2019-10-0029.

<b>Your Consent</b>
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By clicking the “I Agree” button below, you are agreeing to be in this study. Please print or save a copy of this page for your records. We will keep a copy with the study records. If you have any questions about the study after you sign this document, you can contact the study team using the information provided above.

*I understand what the study is about and agree to take part in this study.*

By clicking “I agree” below you are indicating that you are at least 18 years old, have read this consent form and agree to participate in this research study. Please print or save a copy of this page for your records.