

The University of Massachusetts Amherst,

Consent to Act as a Research Participant

Title: Exploring Agency, connectedness, and Interactions in social media

**** All safety measures will be taken while conducting this study according to UMass health and safety guidelines.*

Who is conducting the study, why you have been asked to participate, how you were selected, and what is the approximate number of participants in the study?

Researchers from The University of Massachusetts Amherst and Simon Fraser University are conducting this study. You have been asked to participate in this study because you are at least 18 years old, have experience using social media, and expressed your willingness to participate in the study.

Why is this study being done?

The purpose of this study is to gain a better understanding of the experience of people who use social media. We are conducting this study to understand how new approaches to social media platform interfaces and interactions might shape people's experience of using social media platforms and how they perceive social media platforms will evolve in the future.

What will happen to you in this study and what will you be asked to do?

If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to participate in a study where you will be asked to explore social media posts using two different social media platform prototypes and perform 3 tasks. After the task completion, you will be asked to participate in a semi-structured interview to discuss your experiences of using the platforms and discuss your ideas about the design of social platform interfaces in the future.

We will video and audio record the interview for us to analyze later. You can opt out of the video recording but audio recording is necessary for the study. All data you provide will be anonymized and will only be accessible by CITI-certified researchers. We will never use your name and the data we collect will never be used for commercial purposes.

How much time will each study procedure take, what is your total time commitment, and how long will the study last?

The exploration and task completion will take around 20 minutes. The follow-up interview will take around 35-40 minutes to complete. In total, we request around 60 minutes of your time for the study in a single session.

What risks are associated with this study?

Participation in this interview is of minimal risk. However, it may involve some added risks or discomforts. These include the following:

Potential for the loss of confidentiality: we will ensure that only the research team can access the video and audio recordings and other data collected during the interview. Research records will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law. Research records may be reviewed by the University of Massachusetts Amherst Institutional Review Board. All participants' data and research findings will be destroyed 2 years after the end of the study. You will be informed of any significant new findings. Apart from this, the risk associated with this study is minimal.

What are the alternatives to participating in this study?

The alternatives to participation in this study are not to participate.

What benefits can be reasonably expected?

There may or may not be any direct benefit to you from participating in this study. However, the experience you share might lead to designing and developing social media platforms to improve the experiences of using social media platforms in the long run.

Can you choose not to participate or withdraw from the study without penalty or loss of benefits?

Participation in the study is entirely voluntary. You may refuse to participate or withdraw from participating in the study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. You will be told if any important new information is found during the course of this study that may affect your willingness to continue. You will also be in control of notifying us if you do not want us to use the data we collected from you at any point during the study. If you decide to withdraw or end participation mid-way through the session, you will still be provided with a gift appropriate to the time you spent participating with us.

Can you be withdrawn from the study without your consent?

The PI may remove you from the study without your consent if the PI feels it is in your best interest or the best interest of the study. You may also be withdrawn from the study if you do not follow the instructions given to you by the study personnel. If the PI decides to withdraw or end participation mid-way through the session, you will still be provided with a gift appropriate to the time you spent participating with us.

Will you be compensated for participating in this study?

As a token of appreciation for your participation, we will provide you with a \$25 Amazon gift card.

Are there any costs associated with participating in this study?

There will be no cost to you for participating in this study.

Who can you call if you have questions?

If you have questions or research-related problems, you may contact Mahmood Jasim at mjasim@cs.umass.edu or +1 413 345 3755.

If you have any questions concerning your rights as a research participant, you may contact the University of Massachusetts Amherst Human Research Protection Office (HRPO) at (413) 545-3428 or humansubjects@ora.umass.edu.

- ☐ I have received a copy of this consent document
- ☐ I agree to participate.

Your Signature and Consent to the study
