

Consent to be Part of a Research Study

Title of the Project: Social Preferences

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Co-investigator: Geoffrey Castillo, Senior Researcher, Vienna Center for Experimental Economics, University of Vienna

Invitation to be Part of a Research Study

You are invited to participate in a research study. In order to participate, you must currently reside in the United States of America. Taking part in this research project is voluntary.

Important Information about the Research Study

Things you should know:

- The purpose of the study is to investigate Social Preferences. If you choose to participate, you will be asked to answer survey and possibly other questions on your computer or mobile device. We have included in the HIT description an estimate of how long this will take based on previous participants' performance.
- Risks or discomforts from this research include answering questions about potentially sensitive topics and the possibility that we share your anonymized responses to these questions with other mTurk workers in future studies.
- The study will result in a flat fee which is specified in the HIT description upon completion of the HIT.
- Taking part in this research project is voluntary. You don't have to participate and you can stop at any time.

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

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

The purpose of the study is to learn more about social preferences and how they impact our interactions with others.

What will happen if you take part in this study?

If you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked to answer survey and possibly other questions on your computer or mobile device. We have included in the HIT description an estimate of how long this will take based on previous participants' performance. Potentially sensitive topics include socio-demographic questions and questions asking your opinions on issues related to current affairs.

How could you benefit from this study?

You will receive compensation of your time for participating in the study. More generally, others might benefit from this study because learning about how social preferences function in society might increase our ability to foster cooperation in our world.

What risks might result from being in this study?

There are some risks you might experience from being in this study. One risk is being asked about potentially sensitive subjects. Another risk is the possibility of a breach of confidentiality. We might use your anonymized responses to the survey questions in future studies and it is possible that someone with high levels of technical skill and effort could determine your identity. We think this possibility is quite low and we will make efforts, should we use your responses, to keep them as anonymous as possible.

How will we protect your information?

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

We will protect the confidentiality of your research records by using best practices during collection, while stored, and during the transmission of data. Your mTurk Worker ID and any other information that can directly identify you will be stored separately from the data collected as part of the project.

As stated above, there is the possibility of a breach of confidentiality. We might use your anonymized responses to the survey questions in future studies and it is possible that someone with high levels of technical skill and effort could determine your identity. We think this possibility is quite low and we will make efforts, should we use your responses, to keep them as anonymous as possible.

It is possible that other people may need to see the information we collect about you. These people work for Connecticut College and government offices that are responsible for making sure the research is done safely and properly.

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

We will keep your research data to use for future research. 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.

We may share your research data with other investigators without asking for your consent again, but it will not contain information that could directly identify you. Data collected as part of this research will be provided to the Dryad Digital Repository for future use by other researchers. This data will not contain information that could directly identify you.

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

You will receive the flat fee as specified in the HIT description in compensation for your participation in this study upon completion of the HIT. This flat fee will be paid to you via the mTurk platform. If you withdraw from the research before the end of the study, you will not receive compensation.

What are the costs to you to be part of the study?

There are no costs to you beyond your time for participating in this study.

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. 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, please exit and return the HIT. Your data will be removed from the dataset before analysis begins.

Contact Information for the Study Team and Questions about the Research

If you have questions about this research, you may contact Benjamin Beranek, bberanek@conncoll.edu, (860) 439-5519.

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:

Kira Phillips, IRB Administrator
Jason Nier, IRB Chairperson
Connecticut College Institutional Review Board
270 Mohegan Avenue
New London, Ct 06320
Phone: (860) 439-2330
Email: irb@conncoll.edu

Your Consent

Before agreeing to be part of the research, please be sure that you understand what the study is about. We will give you a copy of this document for your records [or you can print a copy of the document for your records]. If you have any questions about the study later, you can contact the study team using the information provided above.