

Informed Consent

Information about the Study

The aim of the study is to measure the social interaction dynamics of people based on their social media messages. The study takes place completely online and anonymously. The study includes the data donation of your anonymized social media data as well as a few questionnaires. No content (text, names, numbers, pictures etc.) from your social media data will be used. Once you have downloaded your online interaction data, the study only takes 30 minutes to complete.

By agreeing, you confirm that you have read and understood the background and process of this online study.

Benefits and risks

By participating, you will help to identify and characterize new findings about people's social interaction behavior. You can also gain insight into your own messaging behavior. You will receive a €30 compensation (cash or Cadooz-Bestchoice voucher) at the end of the study. We only collect anonymized data. Before donating data, you must download the messaging data to your device. As this is sensitive data, we strongly recommend that you delete the original data from your device after completing the donation. To ensure your privacy, conduct the study in an undisturbed environment and alone. At the end of the study, you will receive an automatic analysis and visualization of your data. This visual feedback may provide you with interesting and helpful insights into your messaging behavior.

Collected Data

Data Donation: When you donate your social media data, we only collect metadata (i.e., message length (number of words or length in seconds for voice messages), time of writing a message, pseudonyms of the conversation participants) and no content (i.e., no message text, media or name of the conversation participants). Your online interaction data will be anonymized locally on your device. We therefore never see your messages. Before submitting your anonymized data, you can review it. This way, you can verify that it is sufficiently anonymized.

Questionnaire: You first fill out questionnaire about your demographic information. You can then carry out the data donation and receive feedback, followed by a questionnaire about your chats. Questionnaire data is also collected completely anonymously using [LimeSurvey](#).

Voluntary Participation

The participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You may revoke your consent concerning your participation in this study at any time, without giving any reason and without any kind of negative consequences. Before uploading the data to our research platform, you may revoke, without giving reason, your consent concerning the storage of your anonymized data, without any negative consequences.

Data Security

Since we are not collecting any names or other person-specific data, we will not be able to associate you with your data once the study has been completed from your side – the donated data is anonymous. This means that your data cannot be deleted on your request after submission. Due to the completely anonymous data handling and processing, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) does not apply. In case of questions or concerns, please contact the office for data protection at the University of Bielefeld:

Data protection officer
University Bielefeld
Office: UHG T6-234
Phone +49 521 106-5225
datenschutzbeauftragte@uni-bielefeld.de

Usage of (anonymized) data

The data and results of these surveys will be published in scientific journals. The published data will be anonymous, meaning that it cannot be associated with individuals given the current state of research. This fully anonymized data will be uploaded to a research data repository (e.g., Zenodo) and made accessible upon request to qualified researchers (e.g., employees of a research institution, verified through a university email address and the signature of the principal investigator). Access will only be granted after the application has been reviewed and approved by a member of our research team.

- **I hereby confirm that I have read and understood the information above and agree to the conditions for participation.**