

Informed Consent

Pre-consent Message

Thank you for your participation in the Understanding America Study. We are launching a new study in the UAS about use of social media. On the next page you will see a consent form to review before you decide whether or not you would like to participate in this project. If you have any questions about this form or this project, please contact Professor Jieun Shin (jieun.shin@ufl.edu).

Purpose of the study

The main goal of this study is to investigate the media consumption patterns of citizens, their political beliefs, and their perception of the media environment.

Consent

You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by Jieun Shin, PhD, at the University of Florida and Lian Jian, PhD, at the University of Southern California. You are invited because you are an adult living in the United States, and a member of the Understanding America Study. This study is funded by the Department of Telecommunication, University of Florida.

Your participation is voluntary. You should read the information below, and ask questions about anything you do not understand, before deciding whether to participate. Please take as much time as you need to read the consent form. You may also decide to discuss participation with your family or friends or ask us for more information before you decide. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to agree at the bottom of this screen. We can send you a copy if you request it from uashelp@usc.edu.

Study procedures

If you agree to participate in this study by providing us with permission to follow your Twitter account, you will answer a few more survey questions. We then will follow your account on Twitter for a period of no longer than 30 days. Our analysis will combine observations of study participants Twitter feeds with other information obtained from participants' UAS survey responses. The study compares aggregated information from many participants. At no time will we have access to your personally identifying information, and will delete from our records any personally identifying information that may be inadvertently included in your Twitter feed.

Potential risks and discomforts

There are no anticipated risks beyond the unlikely event of disclosure of your Twitter account name in relation to your responses to the short questionnaire.

Potential benefits to participants and/or to society

There are no direct benefits to participants, but the research and results being studied we anticipate to have benefits for society.

Confidentiality

The researchers of this study, Professor Jieun Shin and Lian Jian, will collect anonymized data, and will not have direct access to your personal identifiable information. We will keep your records for this study confidential as far as permitted by law.

After our data analyses, all results will be reported in aggregate. No individual account names will be mentioned in our written reports or published research. We will use your information only for purposes of this study.

Participation and withdrawal

Your participation is voluntary. Your refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study.

Investigator's Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact: Principal Investigators, Professor Jieun Shin (jieun.shin@ufl.edu) and Lian Jian (ljian@usc.edu).

Rights of Research Participant – IRB Contact Information

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about your rights as a research participant or the research in general and are unable to contact the research team, or if you want to talk to someone independent of the research team, please contact the University of Southern California Institutional Review Board, 1640 Marengo Street, Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90033-9269. Phone (323) 442-0114 or email irb@usc.edu.

I have read the information provided above. I have been given a chance to ask questions. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I agree to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this form.