

Study Information Sheet – UAS Beliefs and Issues Study (UAS members)

Welcome to the UAS Beliefs and Issues Study at the University of Southern California

This Study Information Sheet describes why we are doing this new research study, what the study is about, and what participation in the study involves. It also provides information about who to contact if you have more questions, or concerns. Please keep this information sheet until after the study is over. If you need to replace it, you can contact the UAS help desk (uashelp@usc.edu) to send you another one.

Question: Who is doing this study, what is it about, and what will I be asked to do?

Answer: This study was funded by the National Science Foundation. It is about understanding people's beliefs about different scientific and societal issues (for example, genetically modified foods or childhood vaccines), and how those beliefs are formed.

Your participation in this study will be to answer questions in two surveys that will take a total about 15 minutes to answer. The questions are about you and your beliefs. We will also ask about the beliefs of your social contacts, and about other people's beliefs.

If you decide to participate, we will also ask you to think about one or two of your social contacts that you could nominate to be invited to participate in this study with you. The social contacts can be friends, family members, neighbors, colleagues, or acquaintances. They cannot be a member of UAS and they must live in a different household. We will ask you to provide their first name or a nickname, and their email address, so that we can invite them. You can nominate up to two people for us to invite.

If possible, we would like you to nominate people whose beliefs about current events or issues are different in at least some ways from yours.

If one of your contacts joins the study, fills out our survey, and agrees to let us share their answers with you, we will then invite you to complete the final 10-minute survey where you will be asked questions about your beliefs about societal issues and also about the beliefs of your social contact.

Question: What will my social contact be asked to do? How will you invite them? Can I talk to them about it?

Answer: The UAS will send an email to the first contact you listed, inviting them to read about this study. If the first person on your list does not reply after two weeks, we will invite the second one listed. Both contacts will have up to 4 weeks to respond.

Your social contact will be given information about the study and what they will be asked to do if they decide to join. If they do decide to answer the questions in the survey, after they have filled them out, they will be asked if they want to let us share those answers with you.

The survey will take them about 5 minutes to complete. Any of your contacts who answer the survey, no matter whether they want to join the study or not, will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card code.

Your contact will also be asked if they consent to us sharing their answers to the survey questions with you. If they do allow us to share, then we will invite you to fill out a final survey, which will take about 10 minutes, and you will earn \$7.

It would be great if you want to let the people you nominate know that we will be sending them an email invitation. You are also welcome to ask them if it is okay for you to give us their email address.

We prefer that you don't talk with them about the content of the surveys or the issues we ask about, until after they have filled out their survey and you have filled out your second one.

Question: How long will each survey take, and how much will I earn?

Answer:

The first survey (UAS448), will take about 2 minutes or less to read about the study so you can decide if you want to join. If you decide to join the study, you will provide your nominated social contact's email information and there will be a few more questions to answer that will take about another 5 minutes. You

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will earn \$2 as our thank you for reading about the study whether or not you decide to join. If you do join and nominate a social contact and answer the additional questions, you will earn an additional \$3 - for a total of \$5.

If one of your social contacts fills out their survey, it will take them about 5 minutes, and they will receive a \$5 Amazon gift card.

If one of your social contacts fills out the survey and agrees to let us share their answers, you will be invited to do the final 10-minute survey and will receive \$7 if you complete it.

Question: What are the risks or discomforts of participating in this survey?

Answer: There are no risks in this research that are greater than what you encounter in everyday life. You may experience discomfort with learning about the answers given by your contact, if that information is new to you.

There is a small risk that people not connected with the study could learn your identity or personal information, but your survey responses are stored separately, so they will not be connected together.

We are legally bound to protect your privacy, just as with all of the surveys you take with the UAS. As we described when you joined the UAS, we have obtained a *Certificate of Confidentiality* from the National Institutes of Health. It allows us to legally refuse any request to identify you with your responses, unless you say it is ok.

Question: Are my answers private? Will you share my answers with my social contact?

Answer: As with all UAS surveys, we protect your privacy by keeping your survey responses confidential. Your survey answers are never shared with anyone who can identify you, including the social contacts that you nominate to participate in the study.

Question: Are there any benefits involved?

Answer: There are no benefits to you personally. Your contribution will contribute to research. The findings from this project will provide information on belief formation.

Question: What happens if I decide not to participate?

Answer: If you decide NOT to participate in this project, we won't contact you further about this specific project, and nothing else will change. We will continue to invite you to complete other UAS surveys!

- Your decision is completely voluntary
- Even if you say yes first, you can change your mind and stop at any time.
- Whether or not you participate in this project, we appreciate your continuing to complete our regular UAS surveys.
- If you choose not to participate now, it will not affect your ability to participate in future UAS surveys or projects.

Question: What if I want more information or have questions about the study, or help with filling out the surveys?

Answer: For any questions about the study, or for help in filling out the surveys, call the UAS helpdesk at (855) 872-8673 or send us an email at uashelp@usc.edu.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject or complaints regarding this research study, or if you are unable to reach the research staff at the contact information above, you may contact a

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person independent of the research team at the Biomedical Research Alliance of New York Institutional Review Board at 516-318-6877. Questions, concerns or complaints about research can also be registered with the Biomedical Research Alliance of New York Institutional Review Board at www.branyirb.com/concerns-about-research.