

Introduction and consent

Many thanks for considering taking part in this survey which is being carried out by researchers at The Open University as part of an EPSRC funded research project on 'Citizen Forensics'.

The aim of the survey is to explore prosocial behaviour and online platform use during a time of 'social distancing' due to the novel Coronavirus, COVID-19. This project has been reviewed by, and received a favourable opinion from The Open University Human Research Ethics Committee, reference HREC/3542/Elphick.

Please read the information below about the aims of the survey that will help you decide whether you wish to complete it or not. Even if you start the survey, you can decide to stop at any time by closing your browser and we will not use any of the information that you give us.

If you have any concerns or discomfort regarding the topics covered in this study, you may find it useful to consult the following resource on coronavirus and mental wellbeing, <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>. We will also post this resource at the end of the survey, and on our webpage, <https://citizenforensics.org/home>.

Any information you provide through the survey will be stored anonymously. Data will be stored in a password protected file. Only the researchers will see individual survey responses, as any published data will be aggregated with data from other participants (e.g. averages of many people's responses). The aggregated data may be written up as a scientific paper in an academic journal, or used for other publications (e.g. university press releases, online articles written for the general public). Any such publications will not identify individuals.

We have taken care to avoid asking questions that might increase anxiety at this difficult time, but if this survey brings to mind anything that distresses you over and above your current frame of mind, please exit the survey by closing the window, whereupon your responses will

I am 18 years or over.

- Yes
- No

I understand this study requires completing a questionnaire. This will require approximately 15-20 minutes of my time in total.

- Yes
- No

I understand that at the end of the survey I will be provided with additional information about the purpose of the study and links to further support.

- Yes
- No

I understand that I can refuse to answer questions and I can withdraw from the study without providing a reason. I can do this at any time up before completing the survey, by closing the browser window.

- Yes
- No

I understand that information I provide will be used for research publications, academic conferences and the research group website <https://www.citizenforensics.org>.

- Yes
- No

I understand that the information provided by me will be held anonymously, so that it is impossible to trace this information back to me individually.

- Yes
- No

I understand that my (anonymised) data will be stored on <https://ordo.open.ac.uk>, the Open University Data Repository, in accordance with the GDPR.

- Yes
- No

I acknowledge that my consent will be kept until my data is destroyed. Consent will be stored electronically in an encrypted folder, separately from data.

- Yes
- No

I consent to participate in this study conducted by Dr Camilla Elphick in the School of Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, The Open University. I understand that by ticking the box below, I will have provided my consent to take part in this research, and that I can withdraw from the study at any time during the survey without having to give a reason. As my data will be anonymised, I will not be able to withdraw after completing the survey.

I understand what I need to do, and I am ready to start the survey.

I consent



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