

Plain Language Statement

School of Computing and Information Systems
Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology



Project: Misinforming narratives and frames in media

Project Supervisor: Dr Yulia Otmakhova
Email: y.otmakhova@unimelb.edu.au

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. The following few pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research.

Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

Your participation is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

What is this research about?

The purpose of this research is to better understand how metaphors are used by media to influence the interpretation of news on polarising issues such as climate change or immigration.

What will I be asked to do?

Should you agree to participate you will be asked to read and answer questions about 50 sentences from news articles on different topics published recently in English speaking newspapers. Each question will take you around 20-30 seconds to answer, with 30 minutes paid for the task. There will be a 10 second delay between presenting the question and showing the options to choose from.

What are the possible benefits?

Your participation in this study will help us understand if humans can reliably detect deceptive elements in news, and whether we can detect them automatically using machine-learning algorithms.

What are the possible risks?

Your participation in this study does not involve any risk to you beyond that of reading everyday newspapers. All documents are drawn from UK, US, Indian or Australian newspaper articles that have appeared in public press. However, since some of the topics we study are polarising, there is a risk that some of the articles can be triggering to you. If you fear that any of the suggested topics might expose you to undesirable content such as strong opinions or comments on the issue that you find sensitive, you can opt out from doing this task.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You are able to withdraw at any time. Your decision will not change any present or future relationship with the University of Melbourne. You will be able to withdraw any data already collected from you at any moment.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

Copies of any publications that use the data collected in this project, as well as the anonymized annotated data, will be available freely online, in particular, in the researcher's repository <https://github.com/julia-nixie>

What is the compensation?

You will be paid £6 for each completed Prolific task, which contains 50 sentences to read and annotate, and is expected to take around 30 minutes.

PLEASE NOTE: This study contains attention checks (5 additional questions) at the start to make sure that participants are finishing the tasks honestly and completely. If you fail these checks, your submission will be returned or rejected, and you will not be able to take part in other tasks in this project unless we re-approve your submission.

PLEASE NOTE: The study contains 10 questions for which we know correct answers. The participants who follow the instructions well and are able to answer such questions correctly will receive a bonus and will be invited personally for follow-up tasks.

PLEASE NOTE: If for some reason you fail to complete all 50 questions (for example close the study before completing it) the study will be returned to you.

What will happen to information about me?

Your Prolific ID will be used to distribute payment to you and will be recorded to ensure the data collected from you is associated with you (see Prolific policy at: <https://researcher-help.prolific.com/en/article/635fb9>). However, your Prolific ID will not be stored and released with the research data we collect from you or shared with anyone outside the study team. Prolific IDs will be removed from the dataset after finishing the annotation process. Data will be retained on the Prolific servers for less than 1 month and will be deleted by the research staff after this time. Data transferred from the survey site will be saved on a password protected computer for at least 5 years after the experiment is complete; however, it will not include any Prolific IDs or personal information. Any reports and presentations about the findings from this study will not include your name or any other information that could identify you. We may share the de-identified information from this study with other researchers doing future studies – if we share your data, we will not include any information that could identify you. If you decide to withdraw from this study,

the researchers will ask you if the information already collected from you can be used. You have the right to ask to permanently delete such information.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the researchers; Yulia Otmakhova, y.otmakhova@unimelb.edu.au, or Lea Frermann, lea.frermann@unimelb.edu.au.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne 32051. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 1376 or Email: research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team and/or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.