

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH STUDY

Studying Online Communities

Principal Investigator: Johnny L. Wilson, Game Design Faculty, CDM

Institution: DePaul University, USA

We are conducting a research study because we are trying to learn more about Internet online communities. We hope to learn more about experiences of their participants as well as their practices. We are asking you to be in the research because you are over 18 years old and are a vital participant in one of the communities we are studying. If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to participate in an interview to be conducted via telephone, in person, online, or through e-mail. In the case of face-to-face and phone interviews, the session will be audio taped to maintain accuracy of what you said during the interview. All tapes will be destroyed once the interview has been transcribed. The interview will include questions about a general description of yourself, the way you use the Internet, how you came to be a part of a given online community, how you describe your participation in said community, and how you would describe your experience in the online community being studied. If there is a question you do not want to answer, you may skip it.

This study will take about 45 minutes of your time. Your information will be retained under a pseudonym different from any online pseudonyms you may use. No personal identifiers other than gender and generalized age range will be retained.

Your participation is voluntary, which means you can choose not to participate. There will be no negative consequences if you decide not to participate or change your mind later after you begin the study. Your information will be kept confidential.

You must be age 18 or older to be in this study. This study is not approved for the enrollment of people under the age of 18.

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about this study or you want to get additional information or provide input about this research, please contact Dr. Johnny L. Wilson, 770-827-7533, jwilso61@cdm.depaul.edu.

If you have questions about your rights as a research subject you may contact Susan Loess-Perez, DePaul University's Director of Research Compliance, Office of Research Protections in the Office of Research Services at 312-362-7593 or by email at sloesspe@depaul.edu. You may also contact DePaul's Office of Research Protections if:

- ♦ Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.
- ♦ You cannot reach the research team.
- ♦ You want to talk to someone besides the research team.

You may keep [or print] this information for your records.