

Study Information Sheet

Understanding practices of online amateur data scientists

You are invited to participate in a research study seeking to understand how people learn to work with data in online self-research platforms. Specifically, we will look to understand how people communicate procedures and results of data analysis, interact with others and discuss data in online platforms.

Eligibility to Participate

Participants must be adults (i.e., at least 18 years old if they are from the United States and/or above the age of majority in their locale if they are not), be able to conduct an interview in English, have experience participating in online self-research forums, and be willing to participate in a 30-60 minute interview recorded over audio or video communication.

Procedures for the Study

If you agree to be in the study, you will first complete a short questionnaire asking about your engagement with online self-research communities. You will then participate in an interview conducted remotely by video either using Zoom or a platform of your choice. This interview will include questions about your experience with online self-research communities and discussion about data. You will be asked to recall and comment on your experience sharing data analysis results or procedures in online platforms and your interaction with other members in the platforms. You will be asked to share your screen during parts of the interview to showcase a past data analysis project or discussion. We expect that most interviews will last between 30 and 90 minutes. Your voice and your screen sharing will be recorded (recording of your image is not required) and then transcribed so that our research team can have a record of what you have said and shown to us. We will delete the recordings themselves once the interviews are fully transcribed. We will edit out any identifiers from these transcripts so that all retained records are anonymous.

Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to take part or may leave the study at any time. For example, you may decline to complete the short questionnaire, cancel the interview before it begins or choose to end the interview at any point. Leaving the study will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. Your decision of whether or not to participate in the study will not affect your current or future relations with the University of Washington.

Confidentiality

We will endeavor to keep your personal information confidential. However, we cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality. Your personal information may be disclosed if required by law. Your identifying information including our records of which communities we asked you about and audio/video recording of our conversation will be held in confidence until the reports resulting from the study are published, after which they will be deleted. Your email addresses and usernames will be retained as long as required by the university's financial compliance and will be deleted as soon as possible. The identities of platforms you participate in will be removed from the transcripts.

Payment for Participation

You will be compensated with a \$20 Tango gift card.

Questions or Problems

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about the study or this information sheet or if you think the research has hurt you, contact the researcher Regina Cheng at rcheng6@uw.edu

If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the University of Washington Human Subjects Division at 206-543-0098 or hsdinfo@uw.edu