

Responsible AI for inclusive, democratic societies: A cross-disciplinary approach to detecting and countering abusive language online

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether or not to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

1. What is the project's purpose?

Responsible AI for inclusive, democratic societies: A cross-disciplinary approach to detecting and countering abusive language online

2. What will happen to me if I take part? What do I have to do?

We are trying to build a new dataset for hostile tweet classification task . The task is to annotate tweets into 4 classes:

- Hateful - posts containing hateful sentiments towards a person.
- Abusive - posts containing abusive terms (eg: swear words) but not hateful sentiments.
- Undecided - posts that the annotator/model cannot label as hateful, abusive, or neutral with certainty.
- Neutral - posts that are certainly neither abusive nor hateful.

Along with this, you will also be asked to select what personal attribute (if any) is being referred to in a tweet. The attributes are:

- Race/ethnicity - hostile posts targeting a person's racial background or ethnicity
- Gender - hostile posts targeting a person's gender
- Religion - hostile posts targeting a person's religious beliefs
- Sexuality - hostile posts targeting a person's sexuality

3. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We will pay your salary via Amazon gift card.

4. Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

Your responses will be anonymised and aggregated with those from other respondents so that we can look at overall trends in the data. You will not be identifiable in any reports or publications, and your personal details will not be shared with other researchers.

5. What is the legal basis for processing my personal data?

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According to the data protection legislation, we are required to inform you that the legal basis we are applying in order to process your personal data is that 'processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest' (Article 6(1)(e)). Further information can be found in the University's Privacy Practice Notice <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/govern/data-protection/privacy/general>

6. What will happen to the data collected, and the results of the research project?

The data will be analysed by GATE team (<https://gate.ac.uk/>).

During data collection your responses will be stored separately to identifiable personal data in order to maintain confidentiality. All of your identifiable personal data will be destroyed as soon as the payment has been completed. Anonymised data will be shared with other researchers in a data archive. A summary of the findings will be published in an academic journal, a report, or presented at a conference.

7. Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is part of a project (i.e., Responsible AI for inclusive, democratic societies: A cross-disciplinary approach to detecting and countering abusive language online). PI: Prof. Kalina Bontcheva (k.bontcheva@sheffield.ac.uk). The project is funded by ESRC.

8. Who is the Data Controller?

The University of Sheffield will act as the Data Controller for this study. This means that the University is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

9. Who has ethically reviewed the project?

This project has been ethically approved via the University of Sheffield's Ethics Review Procedure, as administered by the Computer Science department.

10. What if something goes wrong and I wish to complain about the research or report a concern or incident?

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of the research and wish to make a complaint, please contact Dr. Diana Maynard: d.maynard@sheffield.ac.uk in the first instance.

If you feel your complaint has not been handled in a satisfactory way you can contact the Head of the Department of Computer Science, Prof. Guy Brown: g.j.brown@sheffield.ac.uk .

If the complaint relates to how your personal data has been handled, you can find information about how to raise a complaint in the University's Privacy Notice: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/govern/data-protection/privacy/general>.

*Contact for further information:

If you have any questions either ahead of participation or relating to your data and the study, please contact the researcher Mugdha Pandya (mugdha.pandya@sheffield.ac.uk) or Dr. Diana Maynard (d.maynard@sheffield.ac.uk) .

An electronic copy of this information sheet and consent form can be provided on request by contacting Mugdha Pandya (mugdha.pandya@sheffield.ac.uk)

Thank you for participating and giving off your time for taking part in the project.

*Required

Taking part in the project

1. I have read and understood the project information or the project has been fully explained to me. (If you will answer No to this question please do not proceed with this consent form until you are fully aware of what your participation in the project will mean.) *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the project. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. I understand that by choosing to participate as a volunteer in this research, this does not create a legally binding agreement nor is it intended to create an employment relationship with the University of Sheffield. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

4. I understand that my taking part is voluntary and that I can withdraw from the study at any time; I do not have to give any reasons for why I no longer want to take part and there will be no adverse consequences if I choose to withdraw. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

How my information will be used during and after the project.

5. I understand that all the information provided will be anonymised, and no personal details will be revealed to people outside the project. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

6. I understand and agree that the authorised researchers will have access to this data and may use my data in publications, reports, web pages, and other research outputs only if they agree to preserve the confidentiality of the information as requested in this form. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

So that the information you provide can be used legally by the researchers

7. I agree to assign the copyright I hold in any materials generated as part of this project to the University of Sheffield. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

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