



Information Sheet for participants taking part in the master thesis project by Udipta Boro from ITC, University of Twente, Enschede



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What is it?

This is a research project I am carrying out as part of my master's program at the Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-Information Management Department, ITC, University of Twente, Enschede. My research will explore the data practices of the LGBTQIA+ immigrants in Amsterdam. My interest lies in how this group of migrants is using technologies that produce data about them and what concerns they have while doing so. I will, then, try to understand if and how the city government uses these data and addresses the concerns.

Who am I?

My name is Udipta Boro, a second-year master's student at the previously mentioned institution. I can be contacted through the email address and phone number mentioned above. I am conducting my research under the supervision of Dr. Ana María Bustamante Duarte and Dr. Fran Meissner.

Why am I doing it?

By collecting and analyzing data that are generated through people using technology, city governments can provide different kinds of services to the people. However, sharing your data with a third party may also pose some risks. Now, once I achieve the aim of my study which is to understand the data practices and concerns of the LGBTQIA+ immigrants, and if and how the city government deals with these data and their concerns, it will help throw light into the city government's relationship with the LGBTQIA+ immigrants in terms of data practices. I expect this to facilitate better service provision from the government for the community.

Do you have to participate?

Your participation in this study is totally voluntary. Moreover, if you happen to change your mind after signing the informed consent form (which will be sent in a following email), you can still withdraw from the study at any time without having to provide a reason. There are no negative consequences for you if you refuse or withdraw your participation.

What will you be asked to do?

I will ask you to take part in an online interview with me. The interview will last no more than 45 minutes. The interview will take place via Skype because it is end-to-end encrypted and so, is secure for our interview. The time and date of the interview will be set according to your convenience. Please note that you can refuse to answer any questions during the interview without needing to provide an explanation. You are also at full liberty to stop taking part in the interview any time you want without further explanation. Please also be aware that you can withdraw your responses even after the interview is over or can ask me to exclude some specific information from the analysis without justifying your decision to me.

What data will I collect and how?

The data from the interview (your interview responses) will need to be collected for further analysis. There will be two options to choose from in order for you to decide in which way you want your data to be collected. The first option is audio recording. The interview will be audio-recorded from beginning to end unless you want some specific information to be excluded from being audio-recorded. In that case, you may ask me to pause the recording for that moment. The second option is that I will note down your responses using pen and paper. You can ask me not to record some specific information in this method as well. You will be asked to choose one of these two methods of recording in the informed consent form.

Your participation and responses will be processed anonymously. In order to communicate and conduct the interview with you, I will require your email address/Skype ID and your name (optional). Also, since my study particularly focuses on the LGBTQIA+ immigrants, I will also have information about your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and your country of origin. This information will only be accessible to me and will not be shared with anyone else. I will not share or publish any data or personal identifiers that can be linked back to you.

Data Storage

The data collected will be securely stored and no one else except for me will be able to access them. The data will be stored anonymously by adding random identifiers and removing personal information from the interview data collected. The data will be stored with me throughout the length of my thesis which is until July 2021. I may have to upload the data collected to my university's repository, but all the personal identifiers that can be linked back to you will be carefully removed.

Will you be reimbursed?

In order to compensate for the investment of your time and knowledge in my study, I will reimburse you with a gift voucher of your choice worth a maximum of €25. This means that you can choose any gift vouchers that cost up to €25.

How will it be published?

The research will result in a master thesis by July 2021. The research may also be published as a journal article later. It can be used by future researchers to investigate further into the research topic. However, your personal information will not be added in the publication. You may also receive a copy of my master thesis (or the published journal article) upon request. But for that, I will have to retain your contact information with me for a longer period of time.

Are there any risks?

While I will try to protect your identity through anonymization, given the nature of the research, in my final thesis your story may still be recognizable to people who know you well. After reading my final thesis, you may get to know how the government uses your data and how willing they are to address your data-related concerns. This may cause you emotional distress.

Who do you contact?

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or wish to obtain information, ask questions, or discuss any concerns about this study with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact the Secretary of the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation, University of Twente: ec-itc@utwente.nl

