

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

BeliefNet (Bruto's Bullshitometer)

I'm not just an artist sharing a game, I'm also a researcher interested in how people engage with the topics of belief and conspiracy. As such, when you play this game you are taking part in a research project. It is important that we disclose why the research is being undertaken and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others, if you wish.

1. What is the purpose of this research project?

We are testing the Bruto's Bullshitometer game to see what sort of engagement it generates around the topic of conspiracy thinking.

2. Why have I been invited to take part?

You are here because you found the link to the game, either on social media where we posted it, or elsewhere.

3. Do I have to take part?

No, playing this game and hence taking part in our research is entirely voluntary.

You are free to withdraw your consent to participate in the research project at any time, without giving a reason. However if you choose to withdraw your consent after you have taken part, we cannot remove any record of clicks made on the game, as this record is anonymous.

For comments made on social media, we will never directly quote these for any participant, and we will not collect usernames. We will only publish summaries of the social media response to the game. However if you don't want your comments to be counted in such summaries, you can delete them at any time before we create the summaries. We will post on our own social media threads to indicate the cut off date for deleting comments.

4. What will taking part involve?

Just play the game and/or discuss it on social media, as much or as little as you want to.

5. Will I be paid for taking part?

No, you will not be paid for taking part in this project. Any comments made will be as a gift and you will not benefit financially now or in the future.

6. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We hope you will find it fun and educational.

7. What are the possible risks of taking part?

If you are willing to discuss politics on social media, it's possible you may sometimes say things you regret on a public forum. This is true whether or not you take part in our study. We consider the risk to be much the same, whether or not you take part.

The game also presents conspiracy beliefs which may be damaging to those who believe them. However these beliefs are not presented in a serious or credible way, so it is unlikely to make you more susceptible to these beliefs.

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

Clicks on the game are recorded anonymously. Any posts you choose to make on public fora will be public, and governed by the privacy policies of those fora. All data will be managed in accordance with data protection legislation. Please see ‘What will happen to my Personal Data?’ (below) for further information.

9. What will happen to my Personal Data?

When participating in this project, you may choose to make comments on a public social media forum. These will not be directly quoted by us. Our own research will only summarize comments on the game, without attribution to the users who posted them. You may delete your comments in accordance with the policies of the social media platform you are using.

I am also measuring how long users play this game for, and how far they get towards completing it. The game will place a cookie on your machine so I know if you visited before, but it won’t record any other identifier such as social media usernames.

Cardiff University is the Data Controller for this project and is committed to respecting and protecting your Personal Data in accordance with your expectations and Data Protection legislation. Further information about Data Protection, including:

- your rights
- the University’s Data Protection Policy and broad data management principles; and
- how to contact the University’s Data Protection Officer and/or the Information Commissioner’s Office

can be found at <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/policies-and-procedures/data-protection>. The University’s overarching Data Protection Notice for research participants is available at <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/policies-and-procedures/data-protection/research-participants-data-protection-notice>. If you do not have access to the internet and/or otherwise require this information in another format, please let us know.

In accordance with Data Protection legislation, we are required to inform you of our lawful basis for collecting and processing your Personal Data. The lawful basis we are relying on as part of the research project is article 6(1)(e) of the UK GDPR, namely that the processing of your Personal Data is necessary for the performance of our public task.

This project also involves the collection and processing of some sensitive (‘special category’) data, namely any political opinions you publicly share. Our condition for processing your special category data is article 9(2)(j), namely that this is necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or statistical purposes.

Google LLC is a data processor for the collection of click data from the game.

10. What happens to the data and results at the end of the research project?

All de-identified data and information will be kept for a minimum of 5 years after the completion of the project, but may be published in support of the research project and/or retained indefinitely, where it is likely to have continuing value for research purposes.

It is our intention to publish the results of this research project in academic journals or other similar forums and to present findings at conferences. Publication is likely to take 1-2 years. We will share publications on the same social media where we announced the game.

Participants will not be identified in any write-up, report, publication or presentation arising from this project. No verbatim quotes will be used.

11. What if there is a problem?

If you have any concerns about how you have been approached or treated during this research or if you otherwise wish to make a complaint, please contact Dr Crispin Cooper cooperch@cardiff.ac.uk in the first instance. If your concern or complaint is not managed to your satisfaction, please contact COMSC Ethics comsc-ethics@cardiff.ac.uk.

If you are harmed by taking part in this research project, there are no special compensation arrangements. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, you may have grounds for legal action, but you may have to pay for it.

12. Who is leading and funding this research project?

The research is being led by Dr Crispin Cooper in Cardiff University.

Cardiff University is committed to protecting the safety, rights and dignity of research participants and insists that all research conducted by its staff and students is underpinned by the highest ethical standards. Further information about Research Ethics and Research Integrity (good research practice) at Cardiff University can be found at <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/research/our-research-environment/integrity-and-ethics>.

13. Who has reviewed this research project?

This research project has been reviewed by the School of Computer Science & Informatics Research Ethics Committee and has been granted a favourable ethical opinion.

14. Further information and contact details

Should you have any questions relating to this research project, you may contact me during normal working hours using the details below:

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