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'Towards a New Sociology of the Text: The Concept of the Author in the Digital Age' Focus Group Demographics Survey

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Authorship: Focus Group Demographics

Page 1: The Preamble

Thank you for expressing interest in participating in a focus group related to the research project entitled 'Towards a New Sociology of the Text: The Concept of the Author in the Digital Age'.

Please read the participant information below, and then click 'Next'.

Main Investigator

Leah Henrickson

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Other Investigators

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Section A:

What is the purpose of the study?

The primary aim of this study is to investigate the social and literary implications of algorithmic authorship and computer-generated texts. A secondary aim is to develop a historical overview of the development of algorithmic authorship and to determine its place within modern social and literary climates.

Who is doing this research and why?

Ms. Leah Henrickson is a PhD student at Loughborough University and will be responsible for running the study. The study will be supervised by Dr Wim Van Mierlo and Dr Clare Hutton, both lecturers within Loughborough University's School of the Arts, English and Drama. The study is part of a PhD student research project supported by Loughborough University.

Are there any exclusion criteria?

All participants must be aged 18 or over.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to attend either a small focus group session or a personal interview session. You may also be requested to attend follow-up interview sessions, should they be considered necessary by the main investigator; you are not required to attend these sessions. Focus group and interview sessions will be conducted in person, over online video/audio software, or over email. Each session shall last no more than one hour, unless you willingly volunteer to extend the time limit. Focus groups and interviews will be recorded using audio or video equipment; you will be made aware of the recording method prior to the interview taking place. If the interview occurs over email, emails will be archived for future reference.

Once I take part, can I change my mind?

Yes. After you have read this information and asked any questions you may have, you will be asked to complete an Informed Consent Form. However, if at any time, before, during or

after any focus group/interview session you wish to withdraw from the study, please contact the main investigator (Leah Henrickson). You may withdraw at any time, and for any reason, and you will not be asked to explain your reasons for withdrawing. However, once the results of the study are aggregated and/or published, and/or Leah Henrickson's final PhD thesis is submitted, it will not be possible to withdraw your individual data from the research.

Will I be required to attend any sessions and where will these be?

Yes. Focus group/interview sessions may be attended in person at Loughborough University in a University space determined by availability. Interview sessions may also be attended over the phone, online video/audio software (e.g. Skype or FaceTime), or email. Interview session locations will be determined by your proximity to Loughborough University and by the means most comfortable to you.

All interview sessions will be arranged for a time that is convenient for you and the main investigator.

How long will it take?

Each focus group/interview session will be booked for a one-hour time slot. However, a session may take less or more time, depending on the nature of the conversation. During a session, you shall be notified ten and five minutes prior to the one-hour time mark, and will not be expected to continue the interview past the one-hour time mark unless voluntarily consenting to do so.

While you are requested to make yourself available for the entire session, you are free to leave the session at any time. If possible, please notify the investigator before the session of your early departure.

What personal information will be required from me?

Before the study commences, you will be asked to provide contact details and schedule availability so that the main investigator can arrange the interview(s) described above. This information will be strictly confidential and your details will not be used for any other purpose. You will be assigned an identification number that will be used when data is stored, so that your name is not attached to the information you provide.

Are there any risks in participating?

During a session, you may be asked an unintentionally distressing question. The likelihood of this occurring is low, as all questions shall be approved by the main investigator's supervisors prior to the session taking place. You may choose not to answer any of the questions posed; you may refuse to any answer question without having to explain your

reason for the refusal.

In an in-person session, you will be made aware of all nearby emergency exits and any emergency evacuation procedures in place in the rare case of a fire.

The investigators are not aware of any other risks. All study procedures shall be carried out in line with Loughborough University's standards for conducting interviews and the UK Research Integrity Office's Code of Practice for Research (<http://ukrio.org/publications/code-of-practice-for-research>).

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Participation in this study shall be kept confidential to all but the researchers listed above. Names of participants will not be revealed in any work resulting from this study. You will be assigned an identification number that will be used when data is stored, so that your name is not attached to the information you provide.

All email addresses, phone numbers, and other contact details will be kept confidential.

All data and storage will be handled in line with the Data Protection Act (1998). All data will be stored in a locked cupboard or on a password-protected computer system. Only researchers directly involved in the study will have access to any of this information. The data will be kept until the study outcomes have been disseminated via conferences, academic/popular publications and/or Leah Henrickson's PhD thesis.

I have some more questions; who should I contact?

Leah Henrickson	l.r.henrickson@lboro.ac.uk	
Dr Wim Van Mierlo	w.van-mierlo@lboro.ac.uk	+44 (0)1509 223061
Dr Clare Hutton	c.l.hutton@lboro.ac.uk	+44 (0)1509 222925

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results will be submitted to Loughborough University as part of a PhD thesis and disseminated via relevant academic/popular publications and/or conferences. The data will be kept until the study outcomes have been disseminated.

What if I am not happy with how the research was conducted?

If you are not happy with how the research was conducted, please contact Ms Jackie Green, the Secretary for the University's Ethics Approvals (Human Participants) Sub-Committee:

Ms Jackie Green
Research Office, Hazlerigg Building, Loughborough University
Epinal Way, Loughborough
LE11 3TU
J.A.Green@lboro.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)1509 222423

The University also has a policy relating to Research Misconduct and Whistle Blowing, which is available online at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/committees/ethics-approvals-human-participants/additionalinformation/codesofpractice/>.

Section B:

Is there anything I need to do before the sessions?

If the session is occurring via phone or online video/audio software, please ensure that you are connected to a line that will ensure a steady connection throughout the duration of the call.

Is there anything I need to bring with me?

You will not be required to bring anything with you to any sessions.

What do I get for participating?

Participation in this study is voluntary, and there will be no reimbursement for participation.

Page 2: Informed Consent

Please read all of the stipulations below, and then click 'I consent to all of the above stipulations.' If you do not consent to any of these stipulations, please close this window, as you will not qualify for focus group participation.

You will be required to sign a physical version of this consent form at your focus group session.

Taking Part

- The purpose and details of this study have been explained to me. I understand that this study is designed to further scientific knowledge and that all procedures have been approved by the Loughborough University Ethics Approvals (Human Participants) Sub-Committee.
- I have read and understood the information sheet and this consent form.
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions about my participation.
- I understand that I am under no obligation to take part in the study, have the right to withdraw from this study at any stage for any reason, and will not be required to explain my reasons for withdrawing.
- I agree to take part in this study. Taking part in the project will include being interviewed and recorded (audio or video). Emails shall be securely archived until the end of the project.

Use of Information

- I understand that all the personal information I provide will be treated in strict confidence and will be kept anonymous and confidential to all except the researchers unless (under the statutory obligations of the agencies which the researchers are working with), it is judged that confidentiality will have to be breached for the safety of the participant or others or for audit by regulatory authorities.
- I understand that anonymised quotes may be used in publications, reports, web pages, and other research outputs.
- I agree for the data I provide to be securely archived at the end of the project.

1. Do you consent to all of the above stipulations? * *Required*

☐ I consent to all of the above stipulations.

Page 3: Contact Information

2. What is your full name? This is so we know how to address you - any information you provide to this study will be kept confidential. * *Required*

3. What is your email address? This is the address we will contact you at regarding focus group participation. * *Required*

Please enter a valid email address.

Page 4: Who are you?

4. What is your gender? * *Required*

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-Binary
- ☐ Other

5. How old are you? * *Required*

- ☐ 18-29
- ☐ 30-39
- ☐ 40-49
- ☐ 50-59
- ☐ 60-69
- ☐ 70+

6. Where do you currently live? * *Required*

7. Is English your native language? * *Required*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

8. What is the highest level of education you have completed? * *Required*

- ☐ Secondary School
- ☐ Trade/Technical/Vocational Training
- ☐ Undergraduate Programme
- ☐ Master's Programme
- ☐ Doctoral Programme

9. What is your occupational status? If you fit into multiple categories, pick the option that you feel best represents you. * *Required*

- ☐ Student
- ☐ Employed
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Not Employed/Unpaid Worker

10. What is your occupational field? Pick the option that you feel best represents you. If you are a full-time student, pick the option that best represents what you are studying. * *Required*

11. How comfortable do you feel using computers/the Internet/digital technologies? * *Required*

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

Please select at least 1 answer(s).

	Not at all comfortable	Fairly comfortable	Comfortable	Very comfortable
Only one selection is permitted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Page 5: Accessibility

12. Do you have any accessibility requirements (physical, learning, or otherwise) that may impact your ability to participate in a focus group session? We will try our best to accommodate.

 [More info](#)



Page 6: Availability

13. Which focus group sessions would you be available to attend? You will be assigned one focus group session based on your and other participants' availability. All sessions will be held at Loughborough University. The precise location will be revealed in your formal invitation. * *Required*

☐ Wednesday, 30 May 2018

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Page 7: Thank you!

Thank you for your interest in this study. You will be contacted at the email address you have provided with a formal focus group invitation.

Key for selection options

6 - Where do you currently live?

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Aruba
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas, The
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burma
Burundi

Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cabo Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Congo, Democratic Republic of the
Congo, Republic of the
Costa Rica
Cote d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Curacao
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
East Timor (see Timor-Leste)
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia, The
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece

Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hong Kong
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Korea, North
Korea, South
Kosovo
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Laos
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macau
Macedonia
Madagascar

Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia
Moldova
Monaco
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
North Korea
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Palau
Palestinian Territories
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russia

Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Sint Maarten
Slovakia
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
South Korea
South Sudan
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syria
Taiwan
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan

Tuvalu
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Vietnam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

10 - What is your occupational field? Pick the option that you feel best represents you. If you are a full-time student, pick the option that best represents what you are studying.

Architecture
Arts, Design, and Entertainment
Building/Grounds Maintenance
Business and Financial Operations
Community/Social Services
Construction and Extraction
Education, Training, and Library
Engineering
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry
Healthcare
Hospitality
Information Technology
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair
Journalism
Legal
Life, Physical, and Social Science
Management
Media and Communications
Military
Office and Administrative Support
Personal Care and Service
Production

Public Sector
Retail and Sales
Security
Sport
Transportation and Material Moving
Not Employed
