

Participant Information Sheet

Spotting 'fake news': an intervention looking at adult's media literacy skills

It is important to be aware of the information that is provided by the Department of Psychology about the general terms and conditions that apply with respect to the processing of personal data.

Please consult:

<https://wiki.york.ac.uk/display/PsySharedDocs/Key+information+about+GDPR>

1) Background

Dr Alexander Reid from the University of York would like to invite you to take part in the following research project.

Before agreeing to take part, please read this information sheet carefully and let us know if anything is unclear or you would like further information.

If you have any questions or want to discuss any aspect of the study please contact Dr Reid via email: alex.reid@york.ac.uk or by telephone: 01904 322878 before completing the consent form.

2) What is the purpose of the study?

The study is designed to look at how well a 'media literacy' intervention can help adults spot fake news. The term 'media literacy' refers to how you engage with and make sense of the news that you consume online.

The study will look at your media literacy skills as well as your thoughts on popular theories and beliefs spread online.

You will be shown a series of headlines and images from news articles, some of which are real, some of which are fake news. You will be asked to rate the accuracy of these articles and the likelihood of you choosing to share them with other people.

Then, you will be presented with a video intervention that will give you some tips to spot **fake news**; afterwards, you will be asked to rate some more news stories in the same way you did earlier by indicating your agreement on a sliding scale.

This study will ask you to judge a series of **'real'** (genuine) and **'fake'** (untrue) news articles. You will also be asked to complete a questionnaire relating to your own perceived media literacy skills and your opinions on popular beliefs and theories spread online. If you think these articles and questions might negatively affect you, please do not take part in this study. You are also free to stop the study at any time before completion without providing a reason.

3) Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part because you are between the ages of 57-75 (born between 1946-64). We are interested in your generation as the technological changes that have taken place over your lifetime have been enormous, and we are interested in how online media literacy (i.e. recent technology) influences people's judgement of news sources.

4) Do I have to take part?

No, participation is completely optional. You will be asked to complete a participant consent form. If you change your mind at any point during the study, you will be able to withdraw your participation without having to provide a reason.

You can withdraw at any time. If you would like to remove your data at a later date, please contact Dr Reid (alex.reid@york.ac.uk) with your unique code and this will be done.

5) Will you share my data with 3rd parties?

No. Data will be accessible to the project team at the University of York only.

6) Will you transfer my data internationally?

No.

7) Will I be identified in any research outputs?

No

8) Questions or concerns

If you have any questions about this participant information sheet or concerns about how your data is being processed, please contact Dr Alexander Reid in the first instance. If you are still dissatisfied, please contact the University's Acting Data Protection Officer at dataprotection@york.ac.uk.

Contact Details:

Dr Alexander Reid Department of Psychology,

The University of York, York, YO10 5DD

Phone: 01904 322878 E-mail: alex.reid@york.ac.uk