

## **Letter of Information and Consent**

### **Fake News or Truth? Using Satirical Cues to Detect Potentially Misleading News**

#### **Letter of Information**

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#### **1. Invitation to Participate**

You are being invited to help contribute to a study on satirical news.

#### **2. Why is this study being done?**

Satirical news stories are routinely read, republished, and shared online as if they were truthful. The spread of misinformation over the internet can occur very quickly and can have serious political and economic consequences. This study aims to investigate how satirical news stories can be differentiated from truthful news articles.

#### **3. How long will you be in this study?**

Participation in this study should not take longer than 5 minutes.

#### **4. What are the study procedures?**

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to submit the text of one real or satirical news article to our online satire detection system. The system will judge the article to be either truthful or satirical and we will ask you to confirm whether the result is accurate or not.

#### **5. What are the risks and harms of participating in this study?**

There are no foreseeable risks or harms in participating in this study.

**6. What are the benefits of participating in this study?**

Information gathered from this study may provide benefits to society as a whole in better understanding how satirical news might be identified. This information will be used to develop an automated system to detect and mark satirical news articles to help prevent the spread of fake news.

**7. Can participants choose to leave the study?**

Participants are free to leave the study at any time.

**8. How will participants' information be kept confidential?**

Not identifying information will be collected and if the results of the study are published, your name will not be used. Representatives of The University of Western Ontario Non-Medical Research Ethics Board may require access to your study-related records to monitor the conduct of the research.

**9. Are participants compensated to be in this study?**

Participants will not be compensated for their involvement in this study.

**10. What are the rights of participants?**

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may decide to withdraw from this study at any time. If you choose not to participate or to leave the study at any time, it will have no effect on your academic or professional standing. You do not waive any legal right by consenting to participate in this study.

**11. Whom do participants contact for questions?**

If you have questions about this research study, please contact Victoria Rubin at (519) 661-2111 x 88479 or at [vrubin@uwo.ca](mailto:vrubin@uwo.ca). If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or the conduct of this study, you may contact The Office of Human Research Ethics (519) 661-3036, email: [ethics@uwo.ca](mailto:ethics@uwo.ca).

**By clicking on "I Agree" below you confirm that you have read the letter of information, understand the study and that you agree to participate**