

Informed Consent Form for Participating in LAN Studies

Date:

Study Name: LAN (Latitudinal Actor-Network) Studies

Researchers:

Suzanne de Castell, Professor, Faculty of Education, Simon Fraser University
Jennifer Jenson, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, York University

Purpose of the Research: The purpose of this study is to examine the dynamics between virtual environments (networked, multi-user spaces like *Club Penguin*, *Aion*, and *World of Warcraft*) and real users in their local contexts and lived realities.

What You Will Be Asked to Do in the Research: For your participation in the LAN Studies project, you will be asked to fill out an online survey about your background and your virtual world activity. You will also be asked to carry out a 'travelogue' where you show us key aspects of your virtual world activity (such as where you like to go, and what you like to do). You may be asked to have this 'travelogue' recorded.

Risks and Discomforts: We do not foresee any risks or discomfort from your participation in the research.

Benefits of the Research and Benefits to You: We will pay your internet/LAN café fees for the duration of your session.

Voluntary Participation: Your participation in the study is completely voluntary and you may choose to stop participating at any time, for any reason, should you so decide.

Withdrawal from the Study: If you choose to withdraw from this study, your decision will not affect your relationship with the researchers, Simon Fraser University, SRI International, or any other group associated with this project. In the event you withdraw from the study, all associated data collected will be immediately destroyed wherever possible. If you choose to withdraw from the study, we will still pay for your time in the internet/LAN café.

Confidentiality: All information you supply during this study will be held in confidence. Your name will not appear in any report or publication of the research. Photographs of your in-game activity, as well as written observations and questionnaires, will be collected by trained and professional research assistants, and all data will be safely stored on a secure server, hosted by SRI International. Data will only be accessed by researchers associated with this study. Confidentiality will be provided to the fullest extent possible by law.

Questions About the Research? If you have questions about the research in general or about your role in the study, please feel free to contact Dr. de Castell either by telephone at 1-778-782-3627 or by e-mail (decaste@sfu.ca). This research has been reviewed and approved by the Office of Research Ethics at Simon Fraser University and conforms to the standards of the Canadian Tri-Council Research Ethics guidelines. If you have any complaints about this study, or questions about this process, or about your rights as a participant in the study, please contact Hal Weinberg, Director of the Office of Research Ethics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, V5A 1S6 (or by telephone: 1-778-782-6593 or email: hal_weinberg@sfu.ca).

Legal Rights and Signatures:

I _____, consent to participate in the LAN Studies project, conducted by Dr. Jennifer Jenson. I have understood the nature of this project and wish to participate. I am not waiving any of my legal rights by signing this form. My signature below indicates my consent.

For research purposes only, I consent to:

Signature _____

Date _____

☐

Having my in-game activity recorded

☐

Being interviewed

☐

Answering a questionnaire

Signature _____
Principal investigator

Date _____