

## **Informed Consent Form**

**Title:** Investigating virtual communication model of distance separated grand-children and grand-parents

**Ethics Application Number:**

### **Principle Investigators:**

- Azadeh Forghani, SIAT, Simon Fraser University  
604-354-4097, azadehf@sfu.ca
- Dr. Carman Neustaedter, SIAT, Simon Fraser University  
778-782-9034, carman\_neustaedter@sfu.ca,

The Simon Fraser University Research Ethics Board has approved this research study.

This consent form, a copy of which is made available to you, is part of the process of informed consent. It should give you the basic idea of what the research is about and what your participation will involve. If you would like more details about something mentioned here, or information not included here, you should feel free to ask the investigator(s). Please take the time to read this carefully and to understand the information.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this research is to investigate the communication patterns of distance-separated grandchildren and grandparents. We aim to figure out the current content of communication in such relationships as well as each side's daily activities that the other side would like to be aware of. Our goal is to investigate the daily routines and needs of distance separated grandchildren and grandparents to understand how they currently communicate with each other over distance, what challenges they face in doing so, and what are the expectations that don't fulfill with the current systems.

Our ultimate goal is to design a game-like system to provide both sides with an interactive environment that they can use for communication in a fun and engaging way.

### **Participant Recruitment and Selection:**

If you are a grandparent and want to be recruited for this study, you should be living remotely from your grandkid(s) who is over three years of age.

If you are a parent and interested to participate in this study you should have at least one child over three years of age and be living remotely from your parents or your spouse's parents. You should also be comfortable describing details regarding how you, your grand child or your child communicate and share activities with the other side, who is living away.

## **What Will I Be Asked To Do?**

Through an interview that will take approximately 1-2 hours of your time, we will ask you questions about your daily routine, relationships and emotional mutual connection. In case that we interview parents, we will ask similar questions about the children. We will also ask questions relating to their needs and attitudes about communication.

If you are a grandparent participating in the study, you will be more asked about your preferred methods of communication, the content of communication, and the awareness information you like to know about your grandchildren.

If you are a parent participating in the study, we will ask similar questions focused on the parents' perspective. We will also ask you about any kind of joyful experience, conversation or interaction that you had with your own grandparents or wish to have when you were a child.

We will also ask you to participate in a diary study where you will record and summarize you or your child emotional needs, thoughts and preferred interaction and communication methods in a distance-separated grandparent-grandchildren relationship over a period of several weeks.

## **Your Participation**

You will be paid **\$20** for participating in the interview and/or **\$20** for completing a diary. The interview will take approximately 1-2 hours of your time; the diary will be logged for 3-5 weeks. If you agree to participate, you will be free to withdraw at any time for any reason. However, data collected up to that withdrawal point may still be retained and used by the researchers. Should you decide to withdraw before completion, the payment will be reduced by pro-rating it to the time actually spent.

## **What Type of Personal Information will Be Collected?**

Your anonymity will be strictly maintained. The only personally identifying information collected will be your name, which will be used for administration of payment. Any collected data will be labeled with an anonymous participant ID. Because we will either take pictures, audio/video record your interview, this recording will be electronically manipulated afterwards to mask the speaker's voice, and/or transcribed after which the recording will be erased. If you participate in the diary study, your diary will also be kept confidential; we will also ask you to use pseudonyms rather than your real names. However, the confidentiality of identities over the phone cannot be 100% guaranteed, as the telephone is not considered to be a confidential medium.

## **Are There Risks or Benefits if I Participate?**

The risks of participation are intended to be none or minimal. However, because we will be asking you personal questions, there is a risk of feelings of emotional discomfort

such as embarrassment, and/or concerns about privacy. To mitigate this, you can choose what information you are comfortable revealing. Research results, such as published papers, can be obtained by contacting the investigators:

Azadeh Forghani, 604-354-4097. [azadehf@sfu.ca](mailto:azadehf@sfu.ca)

Dr. Carman Neustaedter, 778-782-9034, [carman\\_neustaedter@sfu.ca](mailto:carman_neustaedter@sfu.ca)

### **What Happens to the Information I Provide?**

No one except the researchers and their assistants will be allowed to see or hear any of the answers to the questionnaire or the interview tapes. We expect to publish reports and presentations describing this research.

Public presentations of the results will primarily present the results in an aggregate form or as caricatures that are composites of one or more participants. Where individual participant data is disclosed, such as exemplar comments via quotes, we will ensure that the selected data does not suggest participant identities.

All data obtained, as part of the study will be kept securely both in the research servers of Simon Fraser's School of Interactive Technology (SFU-SIAT) or in a secured cabinet until August 31st 2015 when the study will be completed. At this point, the data will be permanently destroyed. As stated above, we will also be using video, audio, and photographs to record portions of your interview to aid our data analysis.

These may be used within publications or presentations of our research. To protect your identity, we will mask out or obscure any information within this data so your identity is not revealed.

### **Acceptance of this Form:**

Your signature on this form indicates that you 1) understand to your satisfaction the information provided to you about your participation in this research project, and 2) agree to participate as a research subject.

In no way does this waive your legal rights nor release the investigators, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. You are free to withdraw from this research project at any time. You should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation.

To accept this form, please check the box below, and type your name and today's date in the following boxes as a form of digital signature.

[ ☐ ] By checking this box, I am consenting to participate in the research.

Participant's Name:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions/Concerns:**

If you have any concerns about the way you've been treated as a participant or concerns with the research project, please contact Dr. Carman Neustaedter, Assistant Professor, School of Interactive Arts and Technology at: [carman\\_neustaedter@sfu.ca](mailto:carman_neustaedter@sfu.ca) or 778-782-9034 or (secondary) Dr. Hal Weinberg, Director, Office of Research at: [hal\\_weinberg@sfu.ca](mailto:hal_weinberg@sfu.ca) or 778-782-6593.

[SUBMIT]

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