

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
CONSENT TO BE PART OF A RESEARCH STUDY**

1. KEY INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESEARCHERS AND THIS STUDY

Study title: Digital Mutual Aid: Activism in the COVID-19 pandemic

Principal Investigator: Dr. Elisabetta Ferrari, Postdoctoral Fellow, Digital Studies Institute, University of Michigan

Study eResearch ID: HUM00200858

You are invited to take part in a research study. This form contains information that will help you decide whether to join the study.

Taking part in this research project is voluntary. You do not have to participate and you can stop at any time. Please take time to read this entire form and ask questions before deciding whether to take part in this research project.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

The purpose of this study is to understand how mutual aid projects are being organized in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and how they utilize internet technologies to communicate with people and coordinate volunteers and donations.

3. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY

3.1 Who can take part in this study?

You can participate in this study if you have been involved, in any way, with a mutual aid project that was active in 2020 and/or 2021 in the United States.

4. INFORMATION ABOUT STUDY PARTICIPATION

4.1 What will happen to me in this study?

In the study, you will take part in one (1) individual interview, where you will be asked to answer questions that will focus on your experience with mutual aid, your activist background (if any) and your use of digital technologies.

The interviews will take place virtually, through Zoom, Skype or other equivalent videoconferencing software. The interview will be audio-recorded and transcribed either by the Principal Investigator or by a specialized (confidential) transcription service. The questions are not meant to ask about sensitive information. You should feel free to not answer any question that might make you feel uncomfortable or upset.

4.2 How much of my time will be needed to take part in this study?

You are being asked to participate in one (1) individual interview, lasting approximately 60 to 90 minutes.

4.3 If I decide not to take part in this study, what other options do I have?

You may choose to join the study, or you may choose not to join the study. Your participation is voluntary. There is no penalty if you choose not to join the research study.

5. INFORMATION ABOUT STUDY RISKS AND BENEFITS

5.1 What risks will I face by taking part in the study? What will the researchers do to protect me against these risks?

As in all research projects, there are some risks with your participation. In this project, the following minimal risks apply:

- There might be a breach of confidentiality and your name might become public and associated with the results of this study. Depending on your position, this might embarrass you or put you in other kinds of danger. We minimize that risk by not using your real name when talking/writing about this project in public. See Section 8 of this document for more information on how the study team will protect your confidentiality and privacy.
- You might become upset or uncomfortable due to some questions asked in the study. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to answer.

5.2 How could I benefit if I take part in this study? How could others benefit?

There is no direct benefit to you. However, your participation could help us understand how activists approach mutual aid, which can indirectly benefit you and other people involved in mutual aid.

6. ENDING THE STUDY

6.1 If I want to stop participating in the study, what should I do?

You are free to leave the study at any time. If you leave the study before it is finished, there will be no penalty to you. If you decide to leave the study before it is finished, please tell one of the persons listed in Section 9. "Contact Information". If you choose to tell the researchers why you are leaving the study, your reasons may be kept as part of the study record. The researchers will keep the information collected about you for the research unless you ask us to delete it from our records. If the researchers have already used your information in a research analysis it will not be possible to remove your information.

7. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

7.1 Will I be paid or given anything for taking part in this study?

You will receive \$25 for completing the interview. You will be able to choose whether to receive the money by check (mailed directly to you) or by prepaid Visa credit card (mailed directly to you). You will need to provide your name and address to the University of Michigan in order to receive the payment, but that information will not be used in the study.

8. PROTECTING AND SHARING RESEARCH INFORMATION

8.1 How will the researchers protect my information?

We will do our best to make sure that the personal information obtained during the course of this research study will be kept private. However, total privacy cannot be guaranteed. If information from this study is published or presented at scientific meetings, your name and other personal information will not be used. Instead, pseudonyms will be used.

Audio recordings:

- The interviews will be audio recorded. By giving your consent to participate in the study, you are also agreeing to be recorded.
- The audio files will be transcribed by the Principal Investigator or a professional transcription service. If a transcription service is used, it will be chosen among those that work with academic materials and respect the confidentiality of the data.
- Both the audio and the transcript files will be stored on the Principal Investigator's computer and encrypted.
- Since the interviews will be conducted through Zoom or Skype, please be aware that the data transmitted via Zoom or Skype is subject to the Terms of Service and the Privacy Policies set by the software employed.
- The audio recordings will be destroyed after the completion of the research project.

8.2 Who will have access to my research records?

There are reasons why information about you may be used or seen by the researchers or others during or after this study. Examples include:

- University, government officials, study sponsors or funders, auditors, and/or the Institutional Review Board (IRB) may need the information to make sure that the study is done in a safe and proper manner.

8.3 What will happen to the information collected in this study?

We will keep the information we collect about you during the research for future research projects. Your name and other information that can directly identify you will be stored securely and separately from the research information we collected from you. Your name and other identifiable information will not be linked to the research information we collect from you.

The results of this study could be published in an article or presentation, but will not include any information that would let others know who you are.

8.4 Will my information be used for future research or shared with others?

We may use or share your research information for future research studies. If we share your information with other researchers it will be de-identified, which means that it will not contain your name or other information that can directly identify you. This research may be similar to this study or completely different. We will not ask for your additional informed consent for these studies.

9. CONTACT INFORMATION

Who can I contact about this study?

Please contact the researchers listed below to:

- Obtain more information about the study
- Ask a question about the study procedures
- Report a problem
- Leave the study before it is finished
- Express a concern about the study

Principal Investigator: Dr. Elisabetta Ferrari

Email: mutualaidresearch2021@gmail.com or ferrarie@protonmail.com
(encrypted)

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or wish to obtain information, ask questions or discuss any concerns about this study with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact the following:

University of Michigan
Health Sciences and Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board (IRB-
HSBS)
2800 Plymouth Road
Building 520, Room 1169 Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2800
Telephone: 734-936-0933 or toll free (866) 936-0933
Fax: 734-936-1852
E-mail: irbhsbs@umich.edu

You can also contact the University of Michigan Compliance Hotline at 1-866-990-0111.

10. YOUR CONSENT

Consent/Assent to Participate in the Research Study

By saying that you consent, you are agreeing to be in this study. Make sure you understand what the study is about before you consent. We will give you an electronic copy of this document for your records and we will keep a copy with the study records. If you have any questions about the study after you consent, you can contact the study team using the information in Section 9 provided above.

Principal Investigator will ask subject:

If you agree to take part in this study, please say "I consent". If you do not consent to taking part in the study, please say "I do not consent".