



Informed Consent to Participate in Research Information to Consider Before Taking Part in this Research Study

IRB Study # Pro00006718

You are being asked to take part in a research study. Research studies include only people who choose to take part. This document is called an informed consent form. Please read this information carefully and take your time making your decision. Ask the researcher or study staff to discuss this consent form with you, please ask him/her to explain any words or information you do not clearly understand. We encourage you to talk with your family and friends before you decide to take part in this research study. The nature of the study, risks, inconveniences, discomforts, and other important information about the study are listed below.

We are asking you to take part in a research study called:

“The Impacts of Network Structure, Conversational Churn, and Perceived Characteristics of Individuals on Innovation Output”

The person who is in charge of this research study is Oguz Cimenler. This person is called the Principal Investigator. However, other research staff may be involved and can act on behalf of the person in charge. Oguz Cimenler is being guided in this research by Kingsley A. Reeves, Jr., Ph.D.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to investigate into the impact of an individual’s conversational network on the same individual’s productivity network. Most co-authorship and collaboration network studies use bibliometric data from different databases such as Thomson ISI Web of Science. However, relying solely on bibliometric data leaves unobserved the many cases of collaboration between researchers that have an indirect impact on coauthored publications (e.g. research conversations/consultations and joint research proposal submissions). Using self-reported concept of collaboration, an individual’s conversational network is assessed using three factors: 1) the participation in complete graphs, 2) the conversational churn rate, and 3) the perception of individual by other actors within the network in terms of homophily, personal innovativeness, and trust. An individual’s productivity network is assessed using the number of co-authored publications. The study is being conducted as a part of Oguz Cimenler’s dissertation research.

Study Procedures

If you take part in this study, you will be asked to complete two online surveys:

- The first survey is a web-based survey designed by the study team (<http://orisurvey.eng.usf.edu/>). It includes questions concerning a researcher's relationship such as patent application, grant proposal, and co-authored or joint publication with his/her collaborators and conversational partners at certain frequency that is determined by researchers.
- After you submit the first survey, you will be notified via e-mail to participate in the second survey. If you do not complete the first survey, you will not be considered as participant and therefore will not receive the second survey. The second survey will also be available online, and will consist of four different questionnaires related to finding the conversational churn rate, and individual factors: perceived homophily (similarity), perceived trustworthiness, and perceived innovativeness.
- Both surveys can be completed in 10-15 minutes. The research focuses on the population of research faculty within the University of South Florida's College of Engineering.

Total Number of Participants

About 106 individuals, who hold the tenure-track faculty position (both new and seasoned), will take part in this study within the University of South Florida's College of Engineering. Research associates, visiting professors, graduate students will be excluded.

Alternatives

You do not have to participate in this research study.

Benefits

We are unsure if you will receive any benefits by taking part in this research study.

Risks or Discomfort

This research is considered to be minimal risk. That means that the risks associated with this study are the same as what you face every day.

Compensation & Cost

There will be an appreciation for participating in this survey, but no compensation will be provided. There will be no additional costs to you as a result of being in this study.

Privacy and Confidentiality

By proceeding with the online survey, you are considered to have given their consent to participate in this research. You can again go the website (<http://orisurvey.eng.usf.edu/>) any time, and update your information if needed. We will keep your information private and confidential. Participant information will only be shared with those stated below. Per USF Policy, all study data must be retained for a minimum of five years after the close of the study with the USF IRB. All the data files will be stored in

the researcher's password-protected personal computer, and be completely deleted from the computer within the allowed timespan. Certain people may need to see your study records. By law, anyone who looks at your records must keep them completely confidential. The only people who will be allowed to see these records are:

- The research team, including the Principal Investigator, and his faculty advisor.
- Certain government and university people who need to know more about the study. For example, individuals who provide oversight on this study may need to look at your records. This is done to make sure that we are doing the study in the right way. They also need to make sure that we are protecting your rights and your safety.
- Any agency of the federal, state, or local government that regulates this research. This includes the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Office for Human Research Protection (OHRP).
- The USF Institutional Review Board (IRB) and its related staff, who have oversight responsibilities for this study, staff in the USF Office of Research and Innovation, USF Division of Research Integrity and Compliance, and other USF offices who oversee this research.

We may publish what we learn from this study. If we do, we will not include your name. We will not publish anything that would let people know who you are.

Voluntary Participation / Withdrawal

You should only take part in this study if you want to volunteer. You should not feel that there is any pressure to take part in the study. You are free to participate in this research or withdraw at any time. There will be no penalty or loss of benefits you are entitled to receive if you stop taking part in this study. Decision to participate or not to participate will not affect your job status.

You can get the answers to your questions, concerns, or complaints

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about this study, or experience an adverse event or unanticipated problem, call Oguz Cimenler at (813) 389-2776.

If you have questions about your rights as a participant in this study, general questions, or have complaints, concerns or issues you want to discuss with someone outside the research, call the USF IRB at (813) 974-5638.

Consent to Take Part in this Research Study

It is up to you to decide whether you want to take part in this study. Please understand that by proceeding with the procedures described above you are agreeing to take part in this research.