

# **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET /SCREEN**

## **Investigating dynamics of symmetric voting games**

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Name of Supervisor: Dr Christian Yates

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You are invited to take part in a study on how people form consensus.

This information sheet forms part of the process of informed consent. It should tell you what the research is about and what taking part will involve. Please read this information sheet carefully. You can contact one of the researchers named above if you have any questions.

### **Why are we doing this study?**

The aim of this study is to better understand how groups form a consensus opinion. In this experiment, you will play a game with X other persons. In each round, you will be asked to take an action (vote for one of two options or abstain) based on information available to you.

### **What would taking part involve?**

You will be asked to confirm agreement with an Informed Consent form.

Afterwards, you will be grouped to take part in a voting game consisting of many rounds. At the end, you might be asked to give optional feedback.

The study will take 30 minutes to complete. You will receive more detailed information about the rules of the game involved in this study before the game begins.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send an email to the principal investigator, Andrei Sontag ([ams284@bath.ac.uk](mailto:ams284@bath.ac.uk)) or Dr Christian Yates ([c.yates@bath.ac.uk](mailto:c.yates@bath.ac.uk)).

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

Participating in the research is not anticipated to cause you any disadvantages or discomfort. The potential physical and/or psychological harm or distress will be the same as any experienced in everyday life.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Whilst there are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, it is hoped that this work will allow us to understand opinion formation and voting strategies.

You will be paid £5.25 for taking part in the study (£10.50 per hour).

You will have the opportunity to receive an additional monetary bonus depending upon your performance in the task. Specifically, the 50% participants with the most points at the end of the task will be paid a bonus of £5.25.

Payments will be handled through Prolific. Upon completion, you will be redirected back to Prolific to confirm you have successfully participated in the study. Bonus payments will be linked to your Prolific ID. You do not need to take any further action.

**REWARD CRITERIA:** To be eligible for the rewards, you must be **actively** playing the game by clicking the buttons to vote or abstain. You may be flagged as inactive if you fail to take an action for several consecutive rounds.

No reward for participation will be granted for incomplete games.

**Who should NOT participate in this study?**

You cannot participate in this study, if you are under 18 years of age, or English is not your native language.

**What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?**

You may choose to withdraw from the study before completing it by closing the web browser or informing the experimenter without giving a reason.

Any potentially identifying information, such as your Prolific ID, will be deleted. The data corresponding to the participants' choices to vote or abstain are used in the following round of the experiment to inform participants about the choices of the group, and hence cannot be withdrawn or deleted once submitted.

**Who is funding and organising this study?**

This research is funded by the University of Bath and organized by researchers from the University of Bath (United Kingdom).

**What will happen with my data?**

Your participation is anonymous, that is, your data will be labelled with a code and any record linking the data to potentially identifying information, such as your Prolific ID, will be stored separate to the data in a password-protected file.

We will treat all information that you provide as confidential and store it securely at the University of Bath in a locked room or on a password-protected file on the University's secure server. Storage of data will be done in accordance with current UK data protection legislation. Recorded data will be stored securely and confidentially in the University archives for a minimum of 10 years. Your Prolific ID or any other identifying information will not be disclosed in any presentation or publication of the research.

**What will happen to the results of this study?**

We aim to publish the results in a scientific journal. We may also present the results on our website, at scientific conferences, or in lectures for the purposes of teaching and public engagement in science.

**Who has reviewed this study?**

This project has been given a favourable ethics opinion by the University of Bath, Social Science Research Ethics Committee (reference: 0164-499 and 4996-5145).

**University of Bath privacy notice**

The University of Bath privacy notice can be found here: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/university-of-bath-privacy-notice-for-research-participants/>.

**What if something goes wrong?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of the project, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer any questions. If they are unable to resolve your concern or you wish to make a complaint regarding the project, please contact the Research Governance and Compliance Team at [research-ethics@bath.ac.uk](mailto:research-ethics@bath.ac.uk).

The University of Bath has arrangements in place to provide for harm arising from participation in the study for which the University is the Research Sponsor.

**Who can I contact for further information?**

Thank you for your interest in this project. If you have any questions or concerns you can contact the researchers, Andrei Sontag ([ams284@bath.ac.uk](mailto:ams284@bath.ac.uk)) or Dr Christian Yates ([c.yates@bath.ac.uk](mailto:c.yates@bath.ac.uk)).

You may wish to print out this participant information for your own records.