



TITLE OF RESEARCH: **Understanding user preference in curating social media feeds**

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: **Andrés Monroy-Hernández**

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR'S DEPARTMENT: **Computer Science**

Key information about the study:

Your informed consent is being sought for research. Participation in the research is voluntary.

The purpose of the research: Understanding users' preferences in curating social media feeds

The expected duration of the subject's participation: 10 minutes

The procedures that the subject will be asked to follow in the research:

We expect you to browse your Mastodon feed and then reflect on your browsing experience and answer two questions regarding each post. We'll use the data we collect to build a feed curation tool, during which we will experiment with large language models including Claude and GPT.

The reasonably foreseeable risks or discomforts to the subject as a result of participation:

No foreseeable risk. We respect your filters and block lists. No content beyond your home feed will be shown. Data will be de-identified before being sent to any large language model API service in order to protect your privacy.

The benefits to the subject or to others, e.g., society:

The data collected in the study will be used to create a feed curation algorithm that prioritizes what users actually want to see (rather than optimizing for engagement).

The alternative procedures, if any, that might be advantageous to the subject:

Participants can exit the study at any time if they so choose.

Additional information about the study:

Confidentiality:

All records from this study will be kept confidential. Your responses will be de-identified before being input into large language models. We will also not include any information that will make it possible to identify you in any report we might publish.

Research records will be stored securely in a locked cabinet and/or on password-protected computers. The research team will be the only party that will have direct access to your unmasked data.

Compensation:

Participants will be compensated \$5 for completing the entire study.

Who to contact with questions:

Principal investigator: Andrés Monroy-Hernández, andresmh@princeton.edu

If you have questions regarding your rights as a research subject, or if problems arise which you do not feel you can discuss with the Investigator, please contact the Institutional Review Board at:

Phone: (609) 258-8543

Email: irb@princeton.edu

Summary:

I understand the information that was presented and that:

My participation is voluntary.

Refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which I am otherwise entitled.

I may discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits.

I do not waive any legal rights or release Princeton University or its agents from liability for negligence.

I hereby give my consent to be the subject of the research.