

## Participation Information Statement

### THE AUDIENCE OF ONLINE JOURNALISM

**Investigator:** Renee Barnes La Trobe University PhD student

**Supervisors:** Susan Turnbull and Lawrie Zion La Trobe University

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#### **The project**

I am interested in how and why people use on-line journalism sources. You have volunteered to take part in a questionnaire. In order to participate in this study you must aged 18 years or older. Any questions regarding this project may be directed to the investigator via the email address above.

#### **The questionnaire**

The questionnaire should only take about 15 minutes to complete. It involves answering a series of multiple choice and short answer questions on your use of the site. It will ask you to answer a few demographic questions about yourself.

#### **The project data**

The information you provide will be kept secure and confidential. The survey is anonymous and confidentiality will be maintained ensuring no individual can be identified in any reports or publication arising from the research. All data collected via the questionnaire will be kept in a password protected computer file. The results from the questionnaire will be used in the analysis of the final PhD thesis. The researcher will also endeavour to have the results of the study published in relevant discipline academic journals and presented at relevant academic conferences. You may request a copy of your personal data at any stage by emailing the investigator via the address above. The data collected in the questionnaire will be disposed of by deleting relevant files after five years.

#### **Benefits of the project**

By participating in the project you will benefit by having the ability to articulate why and how you use online journalism and contribute to the discussion and development of online journalism in the future.

Journalism has a core role in democracy, and as such, it is vital that we understand how and why it is used. Currently journalism is undergoing the greatest change of its history, with many questioning whether it will survive

the new paradigm created by online technologies. As such it is vital that we understand how and why audiences are using particular news sites so that we can have a greater understanding of the implications for the broader field of journalism.

**Withdrawal from the project**

There are no disadvantages, penalties or adverse consequences for not participating or for withdrawing prematurely from the research. You have the right to withdraw from active participation in this project and, further, to demand that data arising from your participation are not used in the research project. If you choose to withdraw your data it must be within four weeks of the end of your participation.

**Further information**

If you have any complaints or queries that the investigator has not been able to answer to your satisfaction, you may contact the Secretary, Human Ethics Committee, Research Services, La Trobe University, Victoria, 3086, (ph: 03 9479 1443, e-mail: [humanethics@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@latrobe.edu.au)).