

SOCIAL NAVIGATION DATASET: SCORES

Participant Information Sheet

Invitation

We would like to invite you to take part in a research data collection initiative that will allow researchers worldwide to work towards making robots safer and more comfortable to have around.

Before you decide if you would like to participate, take time to read the following information carefully and, if you wish, discuss it with others such as your family, friends or colleagues.

Please ask a member of the research team, whose contact details can be found at the end of this information sheet, if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information before you make your decision.

What is the purpose of the study?

Although robots are continuously improving, especially in terms of safety, current robots still struggle to “understand” the intentions of the people around them and how their presence influences people’s feelings.

The aim of this activity is to compile an anonymous dataset containing ratings for robot trajectories.

The ratings will be publicly shared to be used for robot navigation and human-robot interaction purposes in general, but more specifically, to create algorithms that estimate the robot-induced discomfort.

Why have I been invited?

You are being invited to take part in this study because you showed interest in participating in the activity either verbally or in writing.

Anyone willing to taking part in the activity is welcome to join. The only exclusion criterion is being unable to give consent (for instance, if you are under 18 years old).

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to participate, you will be first asked to provide some demographic information (age, country of residence and sex). The form is completely anonymous.

After that, you will be shown several videos of a robot moving in an environment -real or simulated- and you will be asked to rate the robots’ behaviour. The rating may include the discomfort caused, the legibility of the robots’ intentions or the simplicity of the trajectory, etc. We will ask you to rate a minimum of 50 videos, but you will be able to rate as many as you wish, up to a maximum of 500. You are free to stop the survey at any point if you feel uncomfortable with any of the questions.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not you wish to take part. If you do decide to participate, you will be asked to provide informed consent.

You can halt your participation in the research at any time by closing the browser, and any data collected up to that point will not be used. Once you have completed the rating task your data will be submitted anonymously and it will not be possible to withdraw it because it cannot be traced back to you.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Yes. The data we will store will be completely anonymous.

The data we collect will be stored on Aston Box cloud storage, password protected, during the first two weeks after it is collected. After that point, your answers will be made publicly available.

To ensure the quality of the research Aston University may need to access your data to check that the data has been recorded accurately e.g., for the purposes of audit. If this is required, your personal data will be treated as confidential by the individuals accessing your data.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

While there will be no direct benefits to you, the data will help research robots that are better at interacting with people.

What are the possible risks and burdens of taking part?

Some of the simulated scenarios may contain collisions between robots and humans. If that could upset you, please refrain from participating in this data collection activity.

The entire data collection should not take more than 30 minutes.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of this study may be published in scientific journals and presented at conferences. If the results of the study are published, your identity will remain anonymous. Since the dataset will be publicly available, you can get in touch with the research team if you want to have access to the data collected.

Expenses and payments

There will be no expenses or payments.

Who is funding the research?

The study is being funded by Aston University.

Who is organising this study and how is my data being used?

Aston University is organising this study and acting as data controller for the study. Research data will be used only for the purposes of the study or related uses identified in this Information Sheet or Appendix A.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study was given a favourable ethical opinion by the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Ethics Committee.

What if I have a concern about my participation in the study?

If you have any concerns about your participation in this study, please speak to the research team and they will do their best to answer your questions. Contact details can be found at the end of this information sheet.

If the research team are unable to address your concerns or you wish to make a complaint about how the study is being conducted you should contact the Aston University Research Integrity Office at research_governance@aston.ac.uk or via the University switchboard on +44 (0)121 204 3000.

Research Team

Dr Luis J. Manso (l.manso@aston.ac.uk).

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Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet. If you have any questions regarding the study please don't hesitate to ask one of the research team.



Aston University takes its obligations under data and privacy law seriously and complies with the Data Protection Act 2018 (“DPA”) and the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 as retained in UK law by the Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (“the UK GDPR”).

Aston University is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study. Aston University will process your personal data in order to register you as a participant and to manage your participation in the study. It will process your personal data on the grounds that it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest (GDPR Article 6(1)(e)). Aston University may process special categories of data about you which includes details about your health. Aston University will process this data on the grounds that it is necessary for statistical or research purposes (GDPR Article 9(2)(j)). Aston University will keep identifiable information about you for 6 years after the study has finished.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally identifiable information possible.

You can find out more about how we use your information at <https://www.aston.ac.uk/about/statutes-ordinances-regulations/publication-scheme/policies-regulations/data-protection> or by contacting our Data Protection Officer at dp_officer@aston.ac.uk.

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO).

When you agree to take part in a research study, the information about you may be provided to researchers running other research studies in this organisation and in other organisations. These organisations may be universities, NHS organisations or companies involved in health and care research in this country or abroad. This information will not identify you and will not be combined with other information in a way that could identify you. The information will only be used for the purpose of research, and cannot be used to contact you.