



Consent to Participate in a Research Study

Title of the Project: And we are live! Streamer Career Panel

Principal Investigator: Anne-Kathrin Kronberg, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Important Information You Need to Know

- The purpose of this study is to understand how digital platform features affect content creators.
- This interview will take about an hour and take place via Zoom.
- I will audio-record the conversation to help with later analysis. I will NOT record video.
- My questions will focus on your work as a content creator and how technological changes on the Twitch platform affected you. I will ask about what features are important for you and then show you examples of features to get your insight on them.
- I will use a pseudonym in all records and will never publish your name (legal or Twitch name) or other identifying factual information.
- You will not personally benefit from taking part in this research, but the results may help us understand how platform features affect content creators.
- Following the completion of the interview, you will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card (delivered via email or SMS).

If you want to learn more about this study, please continue reading below.

Why are we doing this study?

This study aims to understand how technological changes and the introduction of technological features affect the work of content creators on Twitch.tv. We are particularly interested in weather and how features affect the relationships between different users on the platform.

Why are you being asked to be in this research study?

You are being asked to participate in this study because you have been actively streaming on Twitch since at least 2020. You are 18 years or older and currently reside in the U.S.

What will happen if I take part in this study?

If you choose to participate, you will have a one-on-one interview with a trained researcher via Zoom. I will schedule the interview for a time that is convenient for you. With your permission, I will record the audio using Zoom. The interview will take approximately one hour. I may also ask if you can pass along my contact information to other creators on my behalf.

What are the risks and benefits of this study?

You will not benefit directly from this study. There are no known risks to participation in this study. However, if you feel any discomfort or stress, you may stop the interview at any time without consequences. You may choose to skip questions for any reason without consequence.

How will my information be stored and protected?

I will do my best to keep study data confidential, but I cannot make any absolute promises.

I will use a new pseudonym rather than your Twitch name on all records. When I publish and present this study, I will omit or generalize any identifying facts (for example, a specific video game or activity, specific slogans or phrases, etc.) you mention in your responses.

Who can access my information and how will it be shared? Will my information be used in the future?

Only I (the PI) can access the linking list with your contact information, which will be individually password-protected. Other members of my research team will have access to the de-identified interview transcript. These team members are undergraduate or graduate students who have completed ethics training, have been instructed on the importance of confidentiality, and are assisting me with data analysis.

Other people may need to see the information we collect about you to ensure that we are conducting this study safely and appropriately, including people who work for UNC Charlotte (e.g., auditors, Office of Research Protections and Integrity staff), and other agencies with appropriate permission.

If this study is reviewed, your records may be reviewed. Your privacy will be protected should this study be reviewed.

I will delete all audio files and contact information once the study is fully published.

Will I receive an incentive/compensation for taking part in this study?

You will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card. I will send you this gift card via email or SMS (whichever you prefer).

What are the costs of participating in this study?

The cost of the study includes one hour of your time and an internet or phone connection during that time. Otherwise, participating in this study has no costs.

Who is sponsoring this study?

The PI is receiving no financial assistance for these interviews.

What are my rights if I take part in this study?

It is up to you to decide to be part of this research study. Participating in this study is voluntary. Even if you decide to be part of the study now, you may change your mind and stop at any time.

Who can answer my questions about this study and my rights as a participant?

For questions about this research, you may contact Anne-Kathrin Kronberg at akronber@charlotte.edu.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant or wish to obtain information, ask questions, or discuss any concerns about this study with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact the Office of Research Protections and Integrity at uncc-irb@charlotte.edu.

Consent to Participates

I have read the information in this consent form. I have had the chance to ask questions about this study, which have been answered satisfactorily. I am at least 18 years of age, reside in the U.S., and agree to participate in this research project.