

**Northeastern University, Network Science Institute and Department of Communication Studies**

**Names of Investigators:** Brooke Foucault Welles and Ryan Gallagher

**Title of Project:** Measuring Emotion Expressed in Political Tweets

**Sponsor:** (if applicable)

**Request to Participate in Research**

We/I would like to invite you to participate in a web-based online study. The study is part of a research whose purpose is to understand how emotion is expressed in online political conversations. The results of this study will be used to inform further research on polarization and computationally measuring expressed emotions.

**Key Information**

- Your consent is being sought for participation in a research project and your participation is voluntary.
- The purpose of the research is to measure how emotion is expressed in political tweets from Twitter.
- The anticipated amount of time that your participation will take will be 12-15 minutes.
- The procedures that you will be asked to complete will be a tutorial of the task, the task itself (reading sets of tweets and judging emotions that are expressed), and an optional demographic survey.
- The tweets in the study are drawn from Twitter. Some may be offensive, harmful, or derogatory or associated with offensive, harmful, or derogatory topics.
- You will be paid for your participation in this study.

This study should take about 12-15 minutes to complete.

We/I are asking you to participate in this study because you were recruited through Mechanical Turk. **You must be at least 18 years old to take this survey.**

**The decision to participate in this research project is voluntary.** You do not have to participate and you can refuse to answer any question. Even if you begin the web-based online survey, you can stop at any time.

**The possible risks or discomforts of the study are minimal.** You may feel a little uncomfortable or offended reading some of the tweets in the study, which are drawn from political Twitter conversations.

**There are no direct benefits to you from participating in this study.** However, your responses may help us learn more about how emotions are expressed online and how we may better resolve political polarization.

**As a token of our appreciation for completing the survey,** you will be paid for your time in the study. You will be paid a baseline of \$0.80 for participation in the study. If you do not pass any of the gold standard questions we have during the study, you will not be able to earn more than \$0.80. If you complete the entire study, you will earn an additional \$1.60 (up to \$2.40 total).

**Your part in this study is anonymous to the researcher(s).** However, because of the nature of web based surveys, it is possible that respondents could be identified by the IP address or other electronic record associated with the response. Neither the researcher nor anyone involved with this survey will be capturing those data. Any reports or publications based on this research will use only group data and will not identify you or any individual as being affiliated with this project.

**Future Use of Data**

Your de-identified information could be used for future research **without additional informed consent.**

**If you have any questions regarding electronic privacy,** please feel free to contact Mark Nardone, NU's Director of Information Security via phone at 617-373-7901, or via email at [privacy@neu.edu](mailto:privacy@neu.edu).

**If you have any questions about this study**, please feel free to contact Ryan Gallagher at [gallagher.r@northeastern.edu](mailto:gallagher.r@northeastern.edu), the person mainly responsible for the research. You can also contact Brooke Foucault Welles at [b.welles@northeastern.edu](mailto:b.welles@northeastern.edu), the Principal Investigator.

**If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant**, please contact Nan C. Regina, Director, Human Subject Research Protection, Mail Stop: 560-177, 360 Huntington Avenue, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115. Tel: 617.373.4588, Email: [n.regina@northeastern.edu](mailto:n.regina@northeastern.edu). You may call anonymously if you wish.

**This study has been reviewed and approved by the Northeastern University Institutional Review Board (# xx-xx-xx).**

**By clicking on the “accept” button below you are indicating that you consent to participate in this study. Please print out a copy of this consent screen or download a copy of the consent form for your records.**

Thank you for your time.  
Brooke Foucault Welles  
Ryan Gallagher