

Information Sheet for Participants in Research Studies

Project title: Multimodal Linguistic Crowdsourcing: Tracing Swiss Heritage Speakers in North America

This study has been approved by the EPFL Research Ethics Committee (HREC No: HREC 016-2017/03.07.2017)

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We would like to invite you to participate in this research project.

Details of the study:

This project aims to capture the language use and cultural practices of Swiss migrants in North America by way of a multimodal crowdsourcing app. The reflections of Swiss identities abroad - from the nineteenth century to the present day - can be found in different modes such as emigrant letters, early printed newspapers, diaries, recordings of mid-20th-century interviews as well as interviews carried out today, and the surroundings/landscape, e.g. Swiss German signs, Swiss architecture, etc.

With the help of a purpose-built app that you can install on your mobile phone (Android or iPhone), you can capture different aspects of your Swiss heritage, for example by filling in a questionnaire, by taking photos, and by collecting audio recordings of your voice or the voice of other people who have agreed to take part in this study. The researchers will, with your help, label the data collected so that your view and interpretation is directly represented (rather than the researchers' interpretation of the data).

The study has been funded by the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and the Université de Lausanne (UNIL) as part of the CROSS (Cross-Disciplinary Research on Science and Society) collaboration scheme.

Who can take part in this study?

Every person of Swiss ancestry living in North America can participate in the challenge, except people below 21 years old or over 95 years old, and people with health problems that could result in a negative health impact due to their participation in the study.

What will my participation in the research involve?

We will ask you to download the app to your mobile phone (with the help of instructions). Once the app is successfully installed on your phone, the app can be used so you can answer general questions about your background, to take pictures that represent your Swiss identity, and to briefly audio record yourself and/or others (maximum one minute per audio recording).

You will be able to take as many photos and to record as many voice snippets as you want.

Please note that we are only interested in collecting anonymous data. In view of this, we will ask you to avoid stating your name when you audio-record your own voice. We will also ask

you to avoid stating the name of any other participant who has authorized you to record his/her voice.

All of these rather brief tasks should be carried out over the period of 32 days (August/September 2017), as part of which the research team will be in Wisconsin (27 August to 2 September 2017).

The data will be automatically transferred from your phone to our data servers in Switzerland. The data will be stored in Switzerland indefinitely for research purposes. The research team will label and annotate the data, which will allow them to analyse the results. The researchers will describe the findings regarding the construction of cultural identity of Swiss heritage speakers in North America and will publish the findings (on paper as well as online) in peer-reviewed journals and open access reports. Furthermore, excerpts of data and the corresponding findings might be presented at conferences and meetings involving professional organisations, peer researchers, policy makers, the study participants (thus you), as well as other interested parties.

Importantly, the collected dataset is meant to be made available to other qualified researchers in the spirit of open science. Any data distributed to other researchers (outside our research team) will be treated in an anonymous manner.

Will there be any benefits in taking part?

We will share our research results with you if you like and will thus tell you about our observations regarding the Swiss identity in North America.

Will there be any risks in taking part?

There are no risks at all in taking part. However, researchers may be required to report if any abuse or neglect is suspected or witnessed in the recorded data.

What happens if I decide I don't want to take part during the actual research study, or decide that I do not want the information I have given to be used?

You will be able to withdraw from the study at any time. In this case, please inform Prof. Daniel Gatica-Perez via the address and contact details given above.

How will you ensure that my contribution is anonymous?

As stated earlier, the data challenge is anonymous, which means that you do not need to provide a name. In case you use names when describing your pictures taken, recordings made, we will replace the names with codes to ensure anonymity.

Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like to receive more information.

It is up to you to decide whether you will take part or not; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. As a participant you have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason or facing negative consequences.

All data will be collected and stored safely and reported in an anonymous form, in accordance with the CH Federal law on data protection (“Loi fédérale sur la protection des données” – RS 235.1). Only the principal investigators and the student assistants have access to the original data under strict confidentiality. Any injury or damage occurring during or following the participation in the above-mentioned research project and for which the responsibility of the

EPFL can be established, is covered by the general liability insurance of EPFL (insurance policy no. 501 402430.002 of *La Mobilière Assurances*, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the insurance.

To complement the above-mentioned insurance, it is your responsibility to have adequate health insurance and accident insurance coverage. In case of doubt, just like in case of discomfort/undesirable effects related to your participation in this study, please contact the researcher directly.

We appreciate your help in our efforts to achieve a better understanding of Swiss identities in the diaspora and to create a record for future generations.