



## **INFORMATION FOR DELPHI PANEL SURVEY PARTICIPANTS – PLEASE READ BEFORE CONDUCTING THE SURVEY**

### **DIGITAL WILDFIRE: (MIS)INFORMATION FLOWS, PROPAGATION AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE**

CUREC reference SSD/CUREC1A/15-002

This survey is part of the 'Digital Wildfire' project, which is led by the University of Oxford and is being conducted in collaboration with the Universities of Cardiff, Warwick and de Montfort. Our project is interested in the use and governance of social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook etc. Since interactions on social media have the capacity to cause significant offline harm through cyber-bullying, hate speech, rumour and so on, our project seeks to identify ways to improve the effective regulation of these platforms. This will include external forms of regulation as well as steps users themselves can adopt to prevent and protect themselves from harm. As part of this, we are asking experts from a range of fields to take part in a survey to solicit views on social media use and governance. The survey is being conducted in 3 rounds. Once we have analysed responses to this survey, we will send out 2 further surveys to seek responses to the issues that have been raised. This process enables us to identify areas of agreement and disagreement amongst social media stakeholders.

- You do not have to take part if you do not want to. If you choose to complete the questionnaire, you will be asked to provide comments on a series of questions/issues. You can write as much or as little as you choose in your responses.
- Your participation in the survey will be kept anonymous. We will not tell anyone outside the project team that you have taken part and we will not use your real name or the name of your organisation on the report of our findings or any other dissemination documents. However we might use direct quotations from your answers when writing up and reporting our results; if we do so, we will take care to ensure that any potentially identifying details are removed. The study results will be reported in printed and on-line journals, books, conference presentations, a project Showcase event and some smaller meetings.
- This questionnaire is being sent to other experts working in the same field as you. As this is an anonymous survey, we will not tell you the names of anyone else taking part or pass on your name to other participants. We may use direct quotations from your responses in subsequent rounds of the survey, but we will take care to ensure that any potentially identifying details are removed.

- By submitting your responses to the survey, you indicate your consent to participate in this study. If you change your mind whilst writing your answers, you can simply close the survey without submitting it. You can also change your mind between rounds and decide not to respond to subsequent surveys. However once you have submitted your survey responses they cannot be withdrawn.
- Once collected data from the surveys will be stored securely for at least 3 years after project publication – in keeping with the requirements of the University of Oxford.
- The funders of this project – the Economic and Social Research Council – are committed to the responsible sharing of anonymised research data amongst university research professionals. For this reason anonymised data from these surveys may be placed within a data repository that can be accessed by other researchers. Access is only possible under strict conditions that ensure good ethical practice. No personal details will be placed within the repository.

**Please take your time before deciding whether to take part in the survey.**

The Digital Wildfire project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). You can find more information about the project here: <http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/projects/Digiw/index.html> or by contacting project researcher Helena Webb at [helena.webb@cs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:helena.webb@cs.ox.ac.uk).

This project has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee.

If you have a concern about any aspect of this project, please contact Dr Helena Webb at [helena.webb@cs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:helena.webb@cs.ox.ac.uk) or 01865 270550 and she will do her best to answer your query. She will aim to acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how she intends to deal with it. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford (using the contact details below) who will seek to resolve the matter in a reasonably expeditious manner:

**Chair, Social Sciences & Humanities Inter-Divisional Research Ethics Committee;** Email: [ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk); Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD).