

Participant Information Sheet

Study: Robot swarms in our cities

Thank you for taking the time to consider participating in this research project. As a participant, your contribution will be key to advance in our research. That is why we have prepared this information sheet to tell you more about the nature of the project and explain how the data you supply to me will be used and the protections of your privacy and confidentiality that are in place. Please, ask about any part of the study if something is unclear to you.

Who is doing the work?

Daniel Carrillo-Zapata, PhD student based at the Bristol Robotics Laboratory, supervised by Dr. Sabine Hauert, lecturer at the University of Bristol.

What is the study for?

This study is an EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account award aiming to understand people's attitudes towards swarm robotics, where a large number of robots collaborate to perform a task. During this event, we will ask participants about their current understanding, perceptions and ideas of robot swarms to better adapt this technology to societal needs in the future. To achieve that, we will work together with participants from different societal perspectives to consider benefits and risks of this technology in our future city.

Am I eligible to take part?

Any person can take part in the study. However, if you are younger than 16 years old, you will require parental/guardian consent in order to participate in the study, and your parent/guardian will have to stay with you during the session. Consent from your parent/guardian will be given by signing the Consent Form on your behalf, in person on the day of the session, before the session starts. This is to make sure your parent/guardian fully understands what the study is about before giving consent.

If you come to the session accompanied by people aged less than 16 years old who are not willing to participate in the study, they can still be present at the session as long as their parent/guardian is with them during the session. Their contributions to the discussions (if any) will not be taken into account for the study.

What will happen if I agree to take part?

You will be invited to take part in a public event organised by researchers from the University of Bristol in collaboration with the Festival of the Future City 2019. The event will consist of a safe conversational space to discuss about potential uses of robot swarms in our future cities as well as their possible benefits and risks with researchers in swarm robotics from the Hauert Lab research group.

The event will start with an explanation of what swarm robotics is. We will then give our own personal answers to the questions that participants have left us after the 'Swarm escape!' escape room experience, from a researcher's but also

a citizens' perspective. Participation in the 'Swarm Escape!' escape room is not required to take part in this study.

By the middle of the session, you will be divided in small discussion groups with a researcher each to have the opportunity to ask any question you might have about swarm robotics in particular. There is no right or wrong question or topic.

Finally, you will be invited to answer a series of questions in the form of completely anonymous collective charts. You will also be able to write down the applications you would/would not like to see robot swarm applied, as well as actions for researchers to promote/avoid those applications. You will have the opportunity to leave questions for the researchers and provide feedback about your experience in the event.

The event will last 90 minutes. If you decide to take part in the study, you (or your parent/guardian if aged less than 16) will be asked to sign a consent form before the start of the escape room to formally confirm your participation in the study. If you are unable to read and/or sign written forms, you are eligible for a verbal explanation from the researcher and you can confirm your consent verbally in the presence of a third-party witness.

What data will be collected?

The university researchers present at the session will collect your responses to the questions, as well as the ideas discussed during the group discussions. For all data collected, names and identities will be anonymised. Researchers will analyse the data and produce a research article which may be published in an academic conference or journal. All data collected for research purposes will remain fully anonymised.

The researchers may also take pictures for marketing purposes on social media and on the study website. Finally, anonymised participant quotes might also be collected for marketing purposes.

How will I be informed about the updates of the study?

All public updates will be made available on the website of the study and social media:

URL: www.swarmescape.org

Twitter: @SwarmEscape

Your rights

Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary. You (or your parent/guardian on your behalf if aged less than 16) are free to withdraw from the study at any point up to one week from the date of your participation in the study without giving any reason. In case of withdrawal during this period, any form that you filled in will be destroyed, as well as your data. Please note however that any other contribution (e.g., post-it notes, answer to collective chart) will not be able to be isolated and destroyed. In case of any, these will be completely anonymous and individual identification will not be possible.

To withdraw from the study, please contact any of the researchers listed at the end of this document.

Protecting your confidentiality

Your data will be stored, analysed and presented anonymously as per university data protection regulations and the EPSRC research data policy:

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/secretary/data-protection/>

<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/about/standards/researchdata/>

Specifically, data will be stored on an encrypted, password protected University PC hard drive during the duration of the study. During this period, only the researcher, the Project Supervisor and the event organisers of FUTURES and the Festival of the Future City 2019, shall have access to the raw data collected during the study. Anonymised data collected during the study will be used in academic outputs (e.g. publications and conferences) from the project. On completion of the project or in conjunction with any publications during, all data will be made open access long-term through the University of Bristol Research Data Repository in line with EPSRC data sharing regulations.

If you have any questions about the ethical conduct of this research or are uncertain about any aspect of your participation please contact the University of Bristol Research Governance Team (research-governance@bristol.ac.uk), or any of the people listed below.

Contact details

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