

Are you participating in the Civic Tech Toronto hacknight on April 25th, 2017?

Letter of Invitation for research involving a participatory design workshop

Date: April 25th, 2017

Project Title: Learning to Code and Engage with Open Data

Principal Investigator (PI):

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INVITATION

You are invited to participate in a study that involves research. The purpose of this study is to better understand the experiences of participants and organizers at hackathons, civic technology and open data related events.

WHAT'S INVOLVED

As a participant, you will go about your regular activities at the event. You will also be asked to participate in a paper prototyping and reflection activity to share your experiences from hackathons, civic technology or open data events. The activity will involve sharing your thoughts out loud, writing them down and placing them on a paper prototype of a participation ladder.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND RISKS

Possible benefits of participation include contributing to knowledge concerning effective community programs related to open data, data analysis and civic technology.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The researcher will not use your name when reporting results, unless you give your permission.

Although names will not be shared without permission, participation in this research is not expected to be fully confidential. Hackathons, civic technology and open data events occur in a group setting.

Data collected during this study will be stored on a password protected computer and/or a locked filing cabinet. Karen her research assistants or transcriptionists may access the materials for necessary tasks and they will sign third party confidentiality agreements. Data will be kept for 5 years after the final publication after which it will be securely shredded or deleted.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Participation in this study is voluntary. You can opt-out of being observed or skip any questions you are uncomfortable with. For example, you can opt-out of having a photo used in the project or recording with an audio recorder.

WITHDRAWING FROM THE RESEARCH

You can contact Karen Smith at the hackathon, civic technology (or associated event) if you do not wish to participate. You can contact Karen Smith within 2 weeks if you shared a story that was audio recorded if you would like it withdrawn from the project record (e.g., contact Karen by email or phone).

If your materials can be identified from the project record, they will be removed upon request.

Beyond 2 weeks, please also contact Karen if you'd like to withdraw. You will be withdrawn if results for the project have not already been shared.

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

Results of this study may be published in professional journals, books, blog posts and presented at conferences. Feedback about this study will be available on www.karenlouisesmith.net and hackathon or civic technology-based organizations may share results through their websites or communication channels.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND ETHICS CLEARANCE

If you have any questions about this study or require further information, please contact **Dr. Karen Smith** using the contact information provided above. This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the Research Ethics Board at Brock University 15-089. If you have any comments or concerns about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Research Ethics Office at (905) 688-5550 Ext. 3035, reb@brocku.ca.

Thank you for your assistance in this project. Please keep a copy of this form for your records.