



University of California, San Diego  
Consent to Act as a Research Subject

Cognitive Science Courses: 102A Distributed Cognition, 102B Cognitive Ethnography, 102C Cognitive Engineering, 120 Human-Computer Interaction, 198 and 199 Independent Study

\_\_\_\_\_ is conducting a research study to find out more about the nature of everyday cognitive activity and/or interactions with technological systems. You have been asked to participate in this study because you are engaged in an everyday cognitive activity or interaction with technology. Students in these courses work with hundreds of participants like you every quarter.

The purpose of this study is two-fold. First, it gives the student named above an opportunity to practice the skills of cognitive ethnography and contextual design. Second, it contributes to the scientific understanding of the nature of cognitive activity in real-world settings.

If you agree to be in this study, the following will happen to you:

The researcher will observe your everyday activities. The observation may last from a few minutes to several hours. The researcher may ask you questions and take written notes about your activity while observing. As part of the grading process, the observation notes may be read by instructors in the course, or by other students in the course.

Participation in this study may involve some risks or discomforts. These include the following:

1. A potential for the loss of confidentiality. Your name will not appear in the observation notes nor will it appear in the analysis. If the observation notes and analysis are read by other students in the class, neither your name nor the name of the student researcher will be available to the readers. Research records may be reviewed by the UCSD Institutional Review Board.
2. The student researcher has been instructed to NOT observe illegal or dangerous activities. If the presence of the observer makes uncomfortable you may terminate the observation at any time at no risk. Simply tell the researcher that you do not wish to continue.

Because this is a research study, there may also be some unknown risks that are currently unforeseeable. You will be informed of any significant new findings.

The alternative to participation in this study is to choose not to participate.

There will not be any direct benefit to you from participating this study and you will receive no compensation for participating. The investigator, however, may learn more about the nature of everyday cognition, and society may benefit from this knowledge.

Participation in research is entirely voluntary. You may refuse to participate or withdraw or refuse to answer specific questions in an interview at any time without penalty. There will be no cost to you for participating in this study.

The student researcher named above has explained this study to you and answered your questions. If you have other questions or research-related problems, you may contact the course instructor. For Cogs102A and 102B contact Professor Hutchins, ehutchins@ucsd.edu, 858.534.1134. For Cogs102C and 120 contact Professor Hollan, hollan@cogsci.ucsd.edu, 858.534.8156.

If you are injured as a direct result of participation in this research, the University of California will provide any medical care you need to treat those injuries. The University will not provide any other form of compensation to you if you are injured. You may call the Human Research Protections Program Office at (858) 657-5100 for more information about this, to inquire about your rights as a research subject or to report research-related problems.

You have received a copy of this consent document.

You agree to participate.

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Participant's signature

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Date

