

Understanding Roblox Play

Interviews Plain Language Statement for parents/guardians.

We are Hugh Davies and Larissa Hjorth from RMIT University. Our research aims to explore how young people participate with Roblox and how the game is used in their everyday lives.

Introduction

The purpose of the research is academic. Results will not be used for commercial purpose. Young people (9 to 18) who play Roblox are invited to participate. The study can take place either in person at your house, or online using Microsoft Teams. It depends on what you prefer, and on COVID lockdowns. The study will be one hour in length and will involve two ways of ways of collecting data: Observation and Interview. Your child can do both, or just the interview. It's up to them and you.

1. Observation

If your child agrees to participate in this study, and you consent for them to do so, we will observe as your child plays Roblox. We may ask brief questions about how they play with the game: alone, with friends, with people online, etc. We may take photos of them playing and/or their screen, checking that you and they are ok with this beforehand and afterwards (upon seeing the photos). The Roblox observation will take approximately half an hour.

2. Interview

For the second part of the study, we will interview your child, either in person or online. The interview will take approximately half an hour, and the conversation will be recorded for later analysis. Topics covered in the interview may include the following:

- Do you play, or have you played other games in the past?
- Do you use Roblox as a social tool? If so, then how?
- Do you play Roblox with friend and/or family members?
- If you were to explain why Roblox matters to a non-player, what would you say?

Ceasing Participation

Participation is entirely voluntary. Your child may choose not to participate in all or part of the study, and they may withdraw their participation at any time, whereupon any unprocessed data previously supplied will be returned to them.

Privacy

All information provided will remain confidential. Information gathered in the interview will be kept in locked cabinets and password protected computers and will only be viewed by the researchers and their assistants. All published work that uses the research will use pseudonyms to disguise the identity of the participants, however it is possible that people who know your child well may be able to identify them from contextual information. No personal information will be collected so none will be stored as data. All the information gathered will be stored securely for a period of five (5) years. Then the data will then be deleted.

Who are the Researchers?

The study is conducted by researchers at RMIT University (Larissa Hjorth and Hugh Davies). Larissa Hjorth may be contacted at this email address: larissa.hjorth@rmit.edu.au
Hugh Davies may be contacted at this email address: hugh.davies@rmit.edu.au

If you have any concerns about your participation in this project, which you do not wish to discuss with the researchers, then you can contact the Executive Officer, RMIT Human Research Ethics Committee, Research & Innovation, RMIT, GPO Box 2476, Melbourne 3001. Details of RMIT's ethics and integrity are available at: <https://www.rmit.edu.au/research/our-research/ethics-and-integrity>