



Participant Information And Consent Form (Parent)

Title	Understanding Roblox Play
Principal Investigator/Senior Supervisor	Dist. Prof. Larissa Hjorth
Associate Investigator(s)/Associate Supervisor(s)	Dr Hugh Davies

What does participation involve?

If you agree to participate in this study, we will observe your child as they play Roblox. We may ask them brief questions about how they play with the game such as alone, with friends, with people online, etc. We may take photos of them playing and/or your screen if you and they give us permission by signing this form. The Roblox observation will take approximately half an hour. We would also like to interview your child about Roblox play. This too will take approximately half an hour. In total, theirs and your involvement in the research will take one hour.

1 Introduction

We are Hugh Davies and Larissa Hjorth. We are staff members at RMIT University. Our research aims to explore how young people participate with Roblox and how the game is used in their everyday lives. You invite your child to take part in this research project called *Understanding Roblox Play* because they play Roblox and are between the ages of 10 to 18.

This Participant Information And Consent Form tells you about the research project and explains what is involved with taking part. This will help you decide if you permit your child to take part in the research.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether to take part, you might want to talk about it with a relative or friend. Participation in this research is completely voluntary. If you or they don't wish to take part, you don't have to.

If you and your child decide to take part in the research project, you will be asked to sign the consent section. By signing it you are telling us that you:

- Understand what you have read
- Consent to take part in the research project

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information and Consent Form to keep.

2 What is the purpose of this research?

Roblox is a popular video game that attracts millions of young players each year. This is the first study to examine the social uses of Roblox play gaming in Australia. We want to understand Roblox as a new model of social play within the contemporary games industry.

3 What does participation in this research involve?

The study will involve two different ways of collecting data: Observation and Interview.

1. Observation

If you agree to participate in this study, we will watch as your child plays Roblox at home. As they play, we may ask you brief questions about how they play the game: alone, with friends, with people online, etc. We may take photos of them playing and/or their screen, checking that they and you are ok with this beforehand. The Roblox observation will take approximately half an hour.

These images show players we have interviewed before to show you the kind of photos we might take. You and your child can choose which photos to include or delete at the end of the play session.



2. Interview

If they are willing, we will organize a time and place that is convenient to conduct an interview with your child. This could either be in a physical location 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?
- How do you use Roblox as a social tool?
- 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?

4 Other relevant information about the research project

In total, we aim to speak to 40 participants between the ages of 10 to 18 who play Roblox. There is no pay or other remunerations for participating.

5 Do I have to take part in this research project?

Participation in any research project is voluntary. If you or your child do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you or they decide to take part and later change your/their mind, you/they are free to withdraw from the project at any stage.

If you/they do decide to take part, you will be given this Participant Information and Consent Form to sign and you/they will each be given a copy to keep.

Your joint decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect either of your relationships with the researchers or with RMIT University.

If they do not wish to answer a question, they may skip it and go to the next question, or they can stop immediately.

Your child can stop the interview at any time and any recordings will be erased and information they have provided will not be included in the study results. They may also refuse to answer any questions that you do not wish to answer during the interview.

6 What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We cannot guarantee or promise that your child will receive any benefits from this research; however, in our experience, many children appreciate contributing their game knowledge and expertise to us.

8 What if my child withdraws from this research project?

If you or your child do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. If you decide to withdraw from the project, please notify a member of the research team. You have the right to have any unprocessed data withdrawn and destroyed, providing it can be reliably identified.

9 What happens when the research project ends?

We will most likely publish the results of the research into an academic journal that will be linked at the project site here: <https://dcp-ecp.com/projects/understanding-roblox-play>
This may take over one year.

How is the research project being conducted?

10 What will happen to information collected?

All the information we collect will be kept confidential in locked cabinets and password protected computers and can only be viewed by the researchers. All published work that uses this research will use pseudonyms to disguise the identities of participants. But it is possible that people who know your child well *might* be able to identify them from the answers they provide. Once we have completed our project, the information will be stored securely for a period of five (5) years before being deleted

11 Who is organising and funding the research?

This research has been initiated by Distinguished Professor Larissa Hjorth. It has been funded by the Design and Creative Practice Enabling Capability Platform at RMIT University.

12 Who has reviewed the research project?

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). This research project has been approved by the RMIT University HREC.

This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2007). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

13 Further information and who to contact

If you want any further information concerning this project, you can contact the researcher on 0430311063 or any of the following people:

Research contact person

Name	Larissa Hjorth
Position	Principal investigator / Senior supervisor
Telephone	0430311063
Email	larissa.hjorth@rmit.edu.au

14 Complaints

Should you have any concerns or questions about this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the researchers listed in this document, then you may contact:

Reviewing HREC name	RMIT University
HREC Secretary	Vivienne Moyle
Telephone	03 9925 5037
Email	humanethics@rmit.edu.au
Mailing address	Manager, Research Governance and Ethics RMIT University GPO Box 2476 MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Consent Form

Title Understanding Roblox Play
Principal Investigator/Senior Supervisor Dist. Prof. Larissa Hjorth
Associate Investigator(s)/Associate Supervisor(s) Dr Hugh Davies

Acknowledgement by Participant

I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet.

I understand the purposes, procedures and risks of the research described in the project.

I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received.

I freely agree to participate in this research project as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the project without affecting my relationship with RMIT.

I give my permission to be audio taped and/or photographed Yes No

I give my permission for recorded images to be used in academic publications such as journal articles and book chapters Yes No

I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.

Name of Participant (please print) _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

Declaration by Researcher*

I have given a verbal explanation of the research project; its procedures and risks and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

Name of Researcher* (please print) _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

* An appropriately qualified member of the research team must provide the explanation of, and information concerning, the research project.

Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature.