

Plain Language Statement

School of Computing and Information Systems,
Faculty of Engineering & Information Technology



Project: Playing the Pandemic: Designing Novel Interactions for a COVID-Normal Society

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in this research project. The following few pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research.

Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

Your participation is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

What is this research about?

Learning from experiences playing games during the Pandemic, we want to explore how we can design boardgames or artefacts that can be played by people who aren't in the same place, or used by people who aren't in the same place to maintain their connection to boardgames. We're particularly interested in what games and artefacts can tell us about improving the experience of boardgaming and other hobbies for people who can't be in the same place.

What will I be asked to do?

Should you agree to participate, you will be asked to comment on the artefact which we have provided to your friend. You can comment on what you would (or would not) use it for, what you think it could do, how it might add value to your gaming experiences, or simply be in a photo with the artefact. You are welcome to add your comments to the back page of your friend's provided diary or to write them on a separate page which they will include with their diary. Note that your friend will be able to see what you write, unless you put it in an envelope.

What are the possible benefits?

Your comments or photos will help us to understand how people might use physical artefacts to augment their participation in boardgaming. If you are a University of Melbourne student, participating will not affect your grades.

What are the possible risks?

We have not identified any serious risks associated with your participation in the study. You're already spending time with your friend.

It is possible that you might be identifiable in a photo or in your comments. We will anonymise all participant names in our research, but we might use photos in conference presentations or in published research papers.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You are able to withdraw at any time. We will avoid using any direct quotes from you or pictures of your diary and will delete interview records. We are not able to remove photos or text after material has been published.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

We will publish the results of the project in academic venues, which can be found through the researchers' "Find an Expert" pages at The University of Melbourne. We will also share information through the researchers' social media channels, which we will share with you if you are interested. If you would like to be kept informed about outcomes of the project, please email Sophie Freeman Sophie.freeman@unimelb.edu.au

What will happen to information about me?

Your data will be stored by us at the University on a secure server for at least five years after the final publication from this project. Although we are collecting it for this specific project, we might re-use it in the future for other work. We use codes or pseudonyms in place of your real name, with the caveat that in small communities, 'insiders' can often recognise their friends and peers.

Is there any potential conflict of interest?

We don't identify any conflict of interest for this project.

Who is funding this project?

This research is funded through an internal University of Melbourne research grant of \$28,000 awarded to Dr Melissa Rogerson.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the researchers; Dr Melissa Rogerson Melissa.Rogerson@unimelb.edu.au or Ms Sophie Freeman Sophie.freeman@unimelb.edu.au

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne, ID 22108. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 8344 1376 or Email: research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team and/or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.