**INFORMED CONSENT FORM**

NOTE: Consent forms should be written in lay language at no higher than an 8th grade reading level to ensure participants’ ability to make an informed decision. It should also speak directly to the participants throughout the form (i.e., using you vs. the participant).

**Study title:** [Insert study title here]

**Principal Investigator:** [Insert Principal Investigator (PI) name and contact information here]

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study is [insert clear description here in lay terms]

**Description of procedures:** [Describe what the participants will do and how long it will take. Participants should have a clear picture of what they will be asked to do. Write in a conversational tone as if speaking directly to the participants. Avoid using technical language or jargon and use lay language. Ex: You will be asked to complete a survey about your attitudes on XYZ. This should take about 30 minutes.]

**Risks and benefits:** [Describe any risks and/or benefits to the participants. See more detailed information below.]

RISKS: For studies posing no specific risks, you may use this statement: "I do not anticipate any risks to you as a result of participating in this study other than those normally encountered in day-to-day life." For online studies, a statement should be included to describe how you are minimizing the risk of data being hacked. Here is a suggested statement: “Any information collected online has the risk of being intercepted or hacked by a third party. I am [insert strategies you are using such as using a secure system to collect the data] to help reduce this risk, but I can’t completely eliminate this risk.”

BENEFITS: If there are no direct benefits to the participant this statement can be used: “Although I do not expect that you will benefit directly from participating in this study, I hope that the information I learn will [help others, help better understand XYZ, etc.].”

**Compensation**: You will not receive any compensation for your participation in this study. [If the participants will receive any compensation for participating, describe it. If the study has multiple parts and there is a separate payment for each part, describe both the total amount of payment if someone completes the entire study and also the payment for each part of the study completed.]
**Amazon MTurk** studies: You must be clear about how workers will be paid and how long it will take for the HIT to be approved. If you are using attention checks, this must also be clear to participants. Please use this statement: “This study contains attention checks to make sure that participants are finishing the tasks honestly and completely. As long as you read the instructions and complete the tasks, your HIT will be approved. If you fail these checks, your HIT will be rejected.”

**Confidentiality:** [Describe how confidentiality will be maintained. See more information below.]

Here are some ways in which breach of confidentiality risks can be minimized: data is anonymous, removing identifying information and replacing it with codes, keeping identifying information separate from the research data, storing information on a password-protected computer that only you (or your research team) has access to, encrypting data files, any published reports of the data will appear in group format with no identifying information, destruction of audio/video recordings after transcription, etc. Be clear to the participants how you are minimizing the breach of confidentiality risks.

Please use the following statements for **Amazon MTurk** studies:

Your worker ID will be used to distribute payment to you but will not be stored with the research data I collect from you. Please be aware that your MTurk Worker ID can potentially be linked to information about you on your Amazon public profile page, depending on the settings you have for your Amazon profile. I will not be accessing any personally identifying information about you that you may have put on your Amazon public profile page. Additionally, Amazon could link your worker ID (and associated personal information) with your survey responses. Make sure you have read Amazon’s MTurk participant and privacy agreements to understand how your personal information may be used or disclosed. [Include any other information applicable to your study. For example: I will not share your MTurk worker ID with anyone else, it will be removed from the data set, it will not be linked to survey/study responses, it will be deleted after use, etc.]

**Participation is voluntary**: Your participation in this study is voluntary. You can decline to answer any questions and are free to stop taking part in the study at any time. There are no penalties or consequences if you decide that you do not want to answer questions or want to stop participating at any time.

**Information about this study:** If you have questions about your participation in this study, or if you would like to receive a summary of the study results, please contact me, [insert PI name], at [insert PI contact information]. [NOTE: student PIs must also include their faculty mentor’s contact information. You may use the following wording: You may also contact my faculty mentor [insert name] at [insert contact information.]

**Your rights as a research participant:** If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact Dr. Melanie Evans Keyes, Chair of the Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research at Eastern Connecticut State University (Ph: 860-465-0070; Email: CUHSR@easternct.edu).

**Consent Statement: Please initial the following statements and sign to indicate that you:**

\_\_\_\_\_ are at least 18 years of age;

\_\_\_\_\_ have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the research;

\_\_\_\_\_ have received answers concerning areas you did not understand;

\_\_\_\_\_ willingly consent to participate in this research;

\_\_\_\_\_ understand that you will receive a copy of this consent form.

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Signature of Participant Date

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Printed Name of Participant