

INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESEARCH STUDY

SignON recordings

Introduction

We would like to invite you to participate in a research study. Participation is voluntary. If you want to participate, we will ask you to indicate your consent. Before you decide whether or not to take part, we will give you information about the study in this form. If something is not clear, or you would like more information, please contact signon-rec@adaptcentre.ie.

These recordings are part of the project SignON which is managed by the Adapt Centre in Dublin City University, Ireland, and funded by the European Union. See <https://signon-project.eu/>. This project has the aim to improve automatic sign language recognition and automatic speech recognition for the deaf, hard of hearing and hearing communities.

Outline, aim and benefits of the research study

In this research study we want to improve automatic sign language or speech recognition. Automatic sign language recognition is used in some applications nowadays, but these devices currently are far from optimal. With this project we want to improve this situation.

While automatic speech recognition is more commonly found, these devices are currently less suited for the speech of deaf or hard of hearing people. We also want to improve this. For that, we need lots of sign language and speech recordings in order to train and fine tune existing recognisers.

What is going to happen to you?

In this research study you will make video recordings of your sign language AND/OR audio recordings of your speech through the SignON recording app on your smartphone. The recordings will follow a story in which you imagine you are making a trip to a hotel, booking a room in a hotel and visiting a restaurant using sign language AND/OR speech.

You will receive a clear description of your tasks. The recordings will take around 30 minutes of your time. You will need to have access to a smartphone in order to download, install and use the SignON recording app. You will receive instructions for this. If you like, you may also write down what you signed AND/OR said after each recording, but this is not needed.

We will also ask for some personal data: your language, hearing status, age group, and gender, since this is relevant for the way you sign or speak. We will also need your telephone number. It will immediately be replaced by a unique other number, so we do not retain your phone number. In this way, we will be able to erase your recordings, should you request this. Before starting the recordings on the app we will ask your consent via the app to make and use these recordings.

Voluntary participation

Your participation in this research is voluntary. This means that you can withdraw your participation and consent at any time during the recording, without giving a reason. Even up to two weeks after participating you can have your recordings and personal data removed, by sending a request to signon-rec@adaptcentre.ie.

What will happen to my data?

Video recordings of your sign language AND/OR audio recordings of your speech will be made during this study. These recordings are used for linguistic research and improving sign language and speech recognisers.

Please be aware that video recordings and voice recordings cannot be made fully anonymous. This is because your face is visible or your voice might be recognized by others. However, we will not collect your name.

The recordings will be transcribed into text. Recordings, transcriptions and the personal data mentioned above (age group, gender, hearing status) will be shared with partners in the SignON project. This data will also be made available in an academic database for other speech and sign language researchers after the end of the SignON project.

Privacy Notice

The data controller for this project is the SignOn Consortium¹ which includes several non-DCU parties. The data is being shared across the consortium to allow all project partners to work on research together on this data set. Since most of these partners are outside Ireland, your data will move across countries on the basis of your consent. The DCU Data Protection Officer is Mr. Martin Ward (data.protection@dcu.ie Ph.: 7005118 / 7008257). Your video and/or voice data is being requested to help improve machine translation software. Your data will also be sent to an academic database for sign language researchers called CLARIN when this project is completed so it can be used for later projects. A license will protect the types of research your data can be used for in future e.g. it will not be used for health-related research or for biometric research.

Data on your hearing status, your age and gender will be collected, along with video and/or audio of your sign language and/or speech. For the purposes of the SignON project, your data will be held for seven years. However, it will be transferred after that date to an academic database where it will be held indefinitely.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the [Irish Data Protection Commission](#). You also have the right to access your personal data; you can do so by contacting the research team at signon-rec@adaptcentre.ie, or alternatively by contacting the Data Protection Unit. You have the right to withdraw consent to use your information.

More information?

If you have any questions or would like more information about the research study, please contact us at signon-rec@adaptcentre.ie.

Ethical assessment and complaints

¹ DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY, FINCONS GROUP AG, STICHTING INSTITUUT VOOR DE NEDERLANDSE TAAL ("INT"); UNIVERSIDAD DEL PAIS VASCO/ EUSKAL HERRIKO UNIBERTSITATEA, THE NATIONAL MICROELECTRONICS APPLICATIONS CENTRE ("MAC"); UNIVERSIDAD POMPEU FABRA; TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY DUBLIN; TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN; DE VLAAMSE RADIO EN TELEVISIEOMROEPORGANISATIE NV ("VRT"); UNIVERSITEIT GENT; VLAAMS GEBARENTAALCENTRUM VZW ("VGTC"); UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN; STICHTING RADBOD UNIVERSITEIT, NEDERLANDSE TAALUNIE; KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN; EUROPEAN UNION OF THE DEAF AISBL; STICHTING KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT BRABANT

This research study has been approved by the Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee (file number DCUREC/2023/008).

If participants have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact:

The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Research and Innovation Support, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel 01-7008000, e-mail rec@dcu.ie

Consent form

If you want to participate in this research study, we ask you to indicate your consent in the SignON recording app. With this consent, you declare that you have understood the information we have provided and consent to participate in this research study.

Kind regards,

The SignON Research Consortium Team
signon-rec@adaptcentre.ie