

**University of California, Irvine**  
**Study Information Sheet: Comprehensive**

**Scaling Berlin: Digital Media, Scalemaking, and Shifting Identities in Contemporary Germany**

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- You are being asked to participate in a research study about digital media, identity, and social networks in contemporary Germany.
- You are eligible to participate in this study if you at least 18 years of age or older, speak English or German, and use digital media regularly (including mobile phones, email, text messaging, MySpace, Facebook, digital photos, Twitter, blogging, etc.).
- The research procedures involve (please check the procedures in which you consent to participate):
  - Observation of your social interactions and how you use digital media, such as how you use mobile phones, text messaging (SMS), the Internet, digital cameras, and other media and technology.
  - Observation of your social interactions and digital media practices online, such as viewing your Facebook, MySpace, or other social network profile, reading your comments on other people's profiles, following your blog or Twitter feed, viewing your online photo galleries or videos, or communicating with you through instant messenger or other electronic communications systems.
  - One audio-taped interview that will take approximately 45-60 minutes at a location convenient to you, and optional 1-2 open-ended interviews that will take 1-2 hours each.
  - Photographs of your social interactions and digital media practices.
- Possible discomfort(s) associated with the study are: a potential for a breach of confidentiality and invasion of privacy.
- There are no direct benefits from participation in the study. However, this study may explain the role of the Internet and other digital media in creating new kinds of identity and communities in Germany.
- Participation in this study is voluntary. There is no cost to you for participating. You may refuse to

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participate or discontinue your involvement at any time without penalty. You may choose to skip a question or a study procedure.

- You will not be paid for your participation in this research.
- All research data collected will be stored securely and confidentially on a password-protected laptop computer. The audio recordings will be stored in a secure location, then transcribed and retained indefinitely for further publication. The photographs will be also stored in a secure location and retained indefinitely for further publication. Your name and other identifiers (include online username, Web URL/address, or other online identity) will not be published except at your request.
- The research team and authorized UCI personnel may have access to your study records to protect your safety and welfare. Any information derived from this research project that personally identifies you will not be voluntarily released or disclosed by these entities without your separate consent, except as specifically required by law.
- If you have any comments, concerns, or questions regarding the conduct of this research please contact the researchers listed at the top of this form.
- If you are unable to reach the researchers listed at the top of the form and have general questions, or you have concerns or complaints about the research, or questions about your rights as a research subject, please contact UCI's Office of Research Administration by phone, (949) 824-6662, by e-mail at [IRB@rgs.uci.edu](mailto:IRB@rgs.uci.edu) or at University Tower - 4199 Campus Drive, Suite 300, Irvine, CA 92697-7600.

