

University of California, Irvine
Study Information Sheet: In-person Participant Observation

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

Lead Researcher

Jordan Kraemer, Graduate Student Researcher

Department: Anthropology

US: +1 (415) 640-6373 | [local German number will be provided] | jkraemer@uci.edu

Faculty Sponsor

Tom Boellstorff, Professor

Department: Anthropology

+1 (949) 824-9944 | tboellst@uci.edu

- 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 consist of observing your social interactions and digital media practices, such as how you use mobile phones, text messaging (SMS), the Internet, digital cameras, and other media and technology. You may also be photographed. These participant observations will last approximately ½ hour to 2 hours at a time and you may participate in as many participant observation sessions as you wish.
- 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 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 photographs will be also stored in a secure location, and all data will be retained indefinitely for further publication. Your name and other identifiers will not be published except at your request.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.

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Approved by IRB on: 10/02/09

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- 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 or at University Tower - 4199 Campus Drive, Suite 300, Irvine, CA 92697-7600.

