#43803 - Parental knowledge and perceptions of children's video game play and microtransactions: An international cross-sectional survey study

Protocol Information

Review Type	Status	Approval Date	Renewal Date
Expedited	**Approved**	**Apr 24, 2023**	**Apr 03, 2024**

Expiration Date	Initial Approval Date	Initial Review Type
Apr 25, 2024	**Apr 24, 2023**	**Expedited**

Approval Comment

The study has received ethics clearance. Please see Admin Notes & Files for the ethics clearance certificate.

Feedback

General Information

Only the Principal Investigator/Faculty Supervisor can submit the application. This acts as a signature indicating approval of the application.

Principal Investigator / Faculty Supervisor

Dillon Browne

Department

Psychology

Study title

Parental knowledge and perceptions of children’s video game play and microtransactions: An international cross-sectional survey study

General Questionnaire

Indicate the type of application you would like to complete

Standard application *

* The Standard application is for faculty level research and thesis level research.

** The course project application is for single-term (non-thesis) course based research and can be completed by students or the course instructor

Please confirm:

I understand that the type of applications listed above determine the form I am about to complete. If I have chosen the incorrect form I acknowledge that I may need to complete a new application.

People

University of Waterloo research team

Ensure **all** information in this table is completed.

Person

Dillon Browne

Waterloo Department

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Phone

Researcher Role

Principal Investigator

Permissions

Full Access

Mandatory Training

All University of Waterloo undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff must complete the TCPS 2 CORE tutorial prior to submitting an application for review. See instructions or email researchethics@uwaterloo.ca if you have questions.

REQUIRED: Upload a copy of the TCPS 2 certificate or a screen shot showing module completion. Applications where the certificate/screen shot is not uploaded will be sent back to the researcher and not reviewed.

DILLON BROWNE TCPS2_CORE_CERTIFICATE.PDF

As per the Waterloo policy on mandatory research ethics training, if you completed the TCPS2 tutorial more than 5 years ago, you may be asked to update your training within the next 6 months. You will be notified by email if this is the case.

Ensure all information in this table is completed.

Person

Yuxin Zhang

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Researcher Role

Student investigator

Permissions

Full Access

Mandatory Training

All University of Waterloo undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff must complete the TCPS 2 CORE tutorial prior to submitting an application for review. See instructions or email researchethics@uwaterloo.ca if you have questions.

REQUIRED: Upload a copy of the TCPS 2 certificate or a screen shot showing module completion. Applications where the certificate/screen shot is not uploaded will be sent back to the researcher and not reviewed.

TCPS2_CORE_CERTIFICATE[2035].PDF

As per the Waterloo policy on mandatory research ethics training, if you completed the TCPS2 tutorial more than 5 years ago, you may be asked to update your training within the next 6 months. You will be notified by email if this is the case.

Do you have any investigators external to the University of Waterloo?

Yes

People external to the University of Waterloo

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Researcher role

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Researcher role

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Researcher role

Collaborator

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Researcher role

Collaborator

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Researcher role

Collaborator

General details

Is this new study related to any previous application?

No

What is the estimated start and end date for the study?

Start Date (Date you anticipate beginning the recruitment of participants)

June 1, 2023

End Date (Date you expect the study will end, for example, the date when there will be no further contact with participants or when the data analysis will be completed for US funded research)

June 1, 2024

Does this research require approval from a UWaterloo departmental committee?

Not a department requirement

What is the level of the research to be conducted? Choose one.

Faculty, tenured, tenure track

Will this study involve Wilfrid Laurier University, Western University, Conestoga College or Local hospitals covered by the Tri-Hospital Research Ethics Board (Cambridge Memorial Hospital, Grand River Hospital and St. Mary's General Hospital)?

Grand River Hospital and St. Mary's General Hospital)?

No

Has a version of this study been disapproved or rejected by any Research Ethics Board/Committee?

No

Special Instructions RE: Research During COVID-19 Pandemic
Are you proposing in this application a study that involves in-person (face-to-face) research activities either on-campus or off-campus?
No

Study description

State your research question(s)

This project will examine the following research questions: 1) How much knowledge do parents have of their own and their children's video game play in general? 2) How much knowledge do parents have of their own and their children's interactions with digital purchasing mechanisms (e.g., microtransactions and loot boxes) in video game play? 3) What are parents' perceptions of microtransactions and loot box mechanisms in video games, and do they have any needs related to managing spending in this area? 4) Are children's engagement in video game play and microtransactions associated with outcomes related to family functioning?

Provide a clear, detailed description of the purpose, hypothesis, aim, and objectives of this study

The purpose of this study is to bolster the current understanding of parents' and children's video gaming and in-game spending behaviours. Our primary goal is to determine if and how video gaming and in-game purchasing mechanisms(i.e., microtransactions and loot boxes) are associated with functioning in children and families. Hence, the specific objectives of this study are to (1) examine parents' knowledge of their own and their children's general video gaming behaviours; (2) assess parents' general understanding of in-game monetization mechanisms such as

general understanding of in-game monetization mechanisms such as microtransactions and loot boxes; (3) examine parents' knowledge of their own and their children's interactions with in-game monetization mechanisms; (4) understand parents' perspectives and needs regarding in-game spending mechanisms; and (5) explore if and how children and parents' in-game relate with family functioning. We hypothesize that (1) most parents who do not play video games themselves will have less knowledge regarding their children's video game behaviours and interactions with in-game monetization mechanisms compared to those who play video games; (2) most parents will report that their children have spent money on in-game purchasing mechanisms; (3) the majority of parents will report a need for supports and regulations regarding monetization mechanisms in video games; and (4) families in which parents struggle to manage their children's video game play and spending behaviours will report worse functioning.

Provide background information, a rationale, and justification for conducting this study. Describe why the research is being done and what research has already been done in this area. Be sure to explain why this research is important.

Video games are an important pastime for children and youth in the 21st century, particularly as they present opportunities for social, cognitive, and emotional growth (Granic et al., 2014). Despite these benefits, the uptake of video games in recent decades has prompted significant concerns regarding potentially harmful psychological consequences, such as the behavioural correlates of violent content (Coyne & Stockdale, 2021) and the development of excessive or addictive use (M. D. Griffiths et al., 2012). In addition to these issues, recent structural changes in video games have introduced challenges for young players and their families. Most contemporary video games include digital purchase options, namely microtransactions—mechanisms through which players can pay to obtain virtual goods within games(King & Delfabbro, 2018). Microtransactions often include gambling-like features such as "loot boxes", which are consumable virtual items that can be purchased with real money or obtained in games as a reward. Loot boxes comprise a random selection of

items with a low probability for desired ones, which hold no real-world monetary value but provide players with competitive advantages or higher social status (King & Delfabbro, 2018). The enticing design of these in-

social status (King & Delfabbro, 2019). The enticing design of these in-game purchasing mechanisms, alongside a lack of adequate regulation and policy surrounding their marketing (King et al., 2010) has led to increased instances of children incurring excessive costs in video games without parental knowledge or permission (Lewak, 2020). As clinicians continue to field parental complaints surrounding the appropriate management of children's video gaming, including the issue of unwanted spending via microtransactions, there is an urgent need to better understand the nature of these challenges and their implications for family functioning (Browne et al., 2020; Király et al., 2021). Despite the high potential for negative consequences, research has yet to thoroughly examine the prevalence of children's unwanted in-game spending. This issue has often been dismissed based on a few studies which prematurely suggest that most children do not spend large amounts of money on microtransactions and loot boxes (Dreier et al., 2017). When children incur unwanted expenses in video games, tangible financial burdens are probable, leading to negative impacts on family well-being (Masarik & Conger, 2017). Conflicts surrounding children's excessive in-game spending may also result in significant disruptions to family relationships and cohesion (Király et al., 2021). Hence, understanding these issues represents an important area of inquiry. Given the current paucity of work that investigates how microtransactions and loot boxes impact families, this study will focus on understanding parental knowledge of children's video game play and interactions with microtransactions and loot boxes. Parents are key mediators of children's gaming activities (Griffiths et al., 2016), and the extent to which they are informed about microtransactions and loot boxes may constitute an important protective or risk factor. Moreover, children often model the media habits of adults (Jago et al., 2012); a better understanding of parental video gaming and microtransactions behaviours in association with their children's activities will further provide insight into potential areas of risk or prevention. Findings from this research will therefore inform support for caregivers in promoting positive video game activities in their children and families. This, in effect, will foster the well-being of individual children and adolescents

whose lives are deeply entrenched in digital media. Moreover, this research will assist pediatric mental health clinicians in recognizing and managing the potential harms associated with exposure to in-game purchasing

the potential harms associated with exposure to in-game purchasing mechanisms for children and families. References Browne, D. T., Thompson, D. A., & Madigan, S. (2020). Digital media use in children: Clinical vs scientific responsibilities. JAMA Pediatrics, 174(2), 111. https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2019.4559 Coyne, S. M., & Stockdale, L. (2021). Growing up with Grand Theft Auto: A 10-year study of longitudinal growth of violent video game play in adolescents. Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking, 24(1), 11–16. https://doi.org/10.1089/cyber.2020.0049 Dreier, M., Wölfling, K., Duven, E., Giralt, S., Beutel, M. E., & Müller, K. W. (2017). Free-to-play: About addicted Whales, at risk Dolphins and healthy Minnows. Monetarization design and Internet Gaming Disorder. Addictive Behaviors, 64, 328–333. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2016.03.008 Granic, I., Lobel, A., & Engels, R. C. M. E. (2014). The benefits of playing video games. American Psychologist, 69(1), 66–78. https://doi.org/10.1037/a0034857 Griffiths, M. D., Benrazavi, R., & Teimouri, M. (2016). Parental mediation and adolescent screen time: A brief overview. 4. Griffiths, M. D., Kuss, D., & King, D. L. (2012). Video game addiction: Past, present and future. Current Psychiatry Reviews, 8(4), 308–318. https://doi.org/10.2174/157340012803520414 King, D. L., Delfabbro, P., & Griffiths, M. (2010). The Convergence of gambling and digital media: Implications for gambling in young people. Journal of Gambling Studies, 26(2), 175–187. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-009-9153-9 King, D. L., & Delfabbro, P. H. (2018). Predatory monetization schemes in video games (e.g. 'Loot boxes') and internet gaming disorder. Addiction, 113(11), 1967–1969. https://doi.org/10.1111/add.14286 Király, O., Zhang, J., Demetrovics, Z., & Browne, D. (2021). Gambling features and monetization in video games create challenges for young people, families, and clinicians. Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 61. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2021.12.003 Lewak, D. (2020, December 12). This 6-year-old racked up $16K on mom's credit card playing video games. New York Post. https://nypost.com/2020/12/12/this-6-year-old-racked-up-over-16k-on-his-moms-credit-card/ Masarik, A. S., & Conger, R. D. (2017). Stress and child development: A review of the Family Stress Model. Current

Opinion in Psychology, 13, 85–90. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2016.05.008

In a maximum of 250 words, provide a non-scientific lay language description that summarizes the project outlining the purpose, anticipated benefits, and basic procedures. Write this summary as if it would be read by members of the general public who are not familiar with academic terms or acronyms. Use language suitable for a media release.

Most children in today's society play video games, which are a popular pastime with many social and educational benefits. However, researchers, clinicians, and policymakers have recently raised concerns regarding the addition of loot boxes and microtransactions. These are gambling-like mechanisms that allow players to spend money on virtual items within games. Although these in-game items do not hold monetary value in the real world, they are often enticing for players, particularly children and youth, as they increase social status or provide competitive advantages. Recently, there have been numerous news reports of children spending large amounts of money on loot boxes and microtransactions without their parent's knowledge or permission. However, research on the severity of this issue and how it impacts families is limited. Using an online survey, this study will explore the relations between video gaming behaviours of parents and children, their interactions with microtransactions, and family functioning. Findings from this research may be used to inform attempts to spread awareness about loot boxes and microtransactions, and inform services provided to families who experience challenges with managing their children's video game spending.

What is the study design?

Cross-sectional, quantitative, online survey study

Is this a pilot study?

No

Sample Size

What is the expected sample size? Outline the number of participants anticipated to take part in the study.

This study will aim to recruit n = 1000 participants per country. There will be a total of 23 countries involved in this collaboration, the final overall target sample will be n = 23 000 participants.

Was a formal sample size calculation completed?

No

Provide a rationale for the number of participants specified

Since this is one of the first studies of video gaming and microtransactions in children and families across multiple countries, we will aim to recruit a convenience sample from each country included in the project (Canada, Hungary, Italy, USA, Czech Republic, Finland, China, Australia, India, Turkey, Spain, Brazil, Lithuania, Macedonia, Germany, Switzerland, and France). Based on the researchers' previous experience with online recruitment, a sample of 1000 participants per country is feasible to attain. This will allow for data collection to occur in a timely manner, while also adequately representing participants from various locations and backgrounds.

Study sites

Where is this study taking place?

Remote (online survey, virtual/telephone interview, etc.)

A country other than Canada

Please note that different guidelines/policies may apply when participants are recruited from certain locations.

Please add locations outside of Canada for this study

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A

departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International Office.

country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

Visit the Waterloo International website for important information including resources, support, and other details about travelling abroad.

Country

United Kingdom

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

University of Hertfordshire; Ethics coverage will be through the current UW application.

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Ornella Corazza (University of Hertfordshire)

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

Ornella Corazza is a collaborator, who is assisting with data collection in the UK.

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

The collaborator will be responsible for recruitment in the UK, and will have access to UK-specific data for conducting analyses upon the completion of the study.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

No

No

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

Visit the Waterloo International website for important information including resources, support, and other details about travelling abroad.

Country

Hungary

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

ELTE Eötvös Loránd University

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Zsolt Demetrovics (University of Gibraltar, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University)
Andrea Czakó (University of Gibraltar, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University)
Orsolya Király (ELTE Eötvös Loránd University)

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

Zsolt Demetrovics, Orsolya Király, and Andrea Czakó are co-investigators

Zsolt Demetrovics, Orsolya Kiraly, and Andrea Szabo are co-investigators of this study who helped design the survey and methods.

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

These collaborators will help with translating the survey into Hungarian and assisting with recruitment in Hungary. They will be involved in analyses for the full sample (upon recruitment completion), and will have access to Hungary-specific data for additional analyses.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

Yes

Name of ethics board/committee, organization, or institution conducting the review

University of Gibraltar Research Ethics Committee

Has this approval been granted?

No

***** The ethics clearance may be required before beginning the study**

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

Visit the Waterloo International website for important information including resources, support, and other details about travelling abroad.

Country

Italy

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

University of Trento; However, ethics coverage will be through the current UW application.

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Gianluca Esposito (University of Trento) Ornella Corazza (Affiliated with the University of Hertfordshire in the UK, but will be assisting with the Italian study site)

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

The collaborators are colleagues who are assisting with recruitment.

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

The collaborators will be responsible for translating study materials into Italian, and for the recruitment of participants in Italy. They will also have access to Italy-specific data for conducting analyses upon the completion of the study.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

No

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

Visit the Waterloo International website for important information including resources, support, and other details about travelling abroad.

Country

United States

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Shane Kraus (University of Nevada)

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

The collaborator is a colleague who will be assisting with recruitment.

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

The collaborator will be responsible for the recruitment of participants in

the USA. They will also have access to USA-specific data for conducting analyses upon the completion of the study.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

Yes

Name of ethics board/committee, organization, or institution conducting the review

University of Nevada Las Vegas Office of Research Integrity

Has this approval been granted?

No

***** The ethics clearance may be required before beginning the study**

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

Visit the Waterloo International website for important information including resources, support, and other details about travelling abroad.

Country

Czech Republic

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

Charles University

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Katerina Lukavska, Department of Psychology, Department of Addictology, Charles University Roman Gabrielik, Department of Addictology, Charles University Martin Beness, Department of Addictology, Charles University

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

The collaborators are colleagues who will be assisting with recruitment.

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

The collaborator will be responsible for the recruitment of participants in the Czech Republic. They will also have access to Czech-specific data for conducting analyses upon the completion of the study.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

Yes

Name of ethics board/committee, organization, or institution conducting the review

Charles University Research Ethics Commission

Has this approval been granted?

No

***** The ethics clearance may be required before beginning the study**

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

Finland

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare Oulu University of Applied Sciences University of Turku

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Joseph Macey (Centre of Excellence in Game Culture Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Turku) Niko Abraham Männikkö (School of Health and Social Care, Oulu University of Applied Sciences) Sari Castrén (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Health and Well-Being Promotion Unit)

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

The collaborators are assisting with the study

The collaborators are assisting with the study.

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

The collaborators will be responsible for translating the survey into Finnish, and they will recruit participants in Finland. However, these collaborators will not have access to the specific dataset of Finnish participants (based on their request). Any analyses of Finland-specific data will be carried out by researchers at UW or the University of Gibraltar listed on this application.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

Yes

Name of ethics board/committee, organization, or institution conducting the review

Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare Ethics Committee

Has this approval been granted?

No

***** The ethics clearance may be required before beginning the study**

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A

departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office.

country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

China

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

There are no local collaborators at this site. Rather, Mogu Shu (listed on this ethics application) will be facilitating data collection. Ethics coverage will be through the current UW application.

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

No

Explain why a local collaborator or affiliation with another institution is not needed

One of the individuals listed on this application as a collaborator, Mogo Shu Yu, will be responsible for translating the survey into Chinese and recruiting participants in China.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

No

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A

country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

Visit the Waterloo International website for important information including resources, support, and other details about travelling abroad.

Country

Australia

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

There are no local collaborators at this site. Rather, Tyrone Burleigh (listed on this ethics application) will be facilitating data collection. Ethics coverage will be through the current UW application.

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

No

Explain why a local collaborator or affiliation with another institution is not needed

One of the individuals listed on this application as a collaborator, Tyrone Burleigh, will be responsible for recruiting in Australia.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

No

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A

departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

India

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

There are no local collaborators at this site. Rather, Harshdeep Mangat (listed on this ethics application) will be facilitating data collection. Ethics coverage will be through the current UW application.

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

No

Explain why a local collaborator or affiliation with another institution is not needed

One of the individuals listed on this application as a collaborator, Harshdeep Mangat, will be responsible for recruiting in India.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

No

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A

departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International Office.

country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

Visit the Waterloo International website for important information including resources, support, and other details about travelling abroad.

Country

Spain

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

There are no local collaborators at this site. Rather, Laura Maldonado-Murciano and Cristina Villalba Garcia (listed on this ethics application) will be facilitating data collection. Ethics coverage will be through the current UW application.

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

No

Explain why a local collaborator or affiliation with another institution is not needed

Two of the individuals listed on this application as a collaborator, Laura Maldonado-Murciano and Cristina Villalba Garcia, will be responsible for translating the survey into Spanish and recruiting in Spain.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

No

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

Brazil

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Daniel Spritzer (Department of Psychiatry, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul) Thiago Roza (Department of Psychiatry, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul)

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

These local collaborators are assisting with recruitment.

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

The collaborators will be responsible for translating the survey into

Brazilian Portuguese, and they will recruit participants in Brazil. The authors will also have access to the specific dataset of participants in Brazil.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

Yes

Name of ethics board/committee, organization, or institution conducting the review

Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul Research Ethics Committee

Has this approval been granted?

No

***** The ethics clearance may be required before beginning the study**

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

Lithuania

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

Lithuanian University of Health Sciences; ethics coverage will be through

the current UW application.

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Julius Burkauskas (Lithuanian University of Health Sciences) Vesta Steibliene (Lithuanian University of Health Sciences)

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

These collaborators are assisting in the study

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

Julius Burkauskas and Vesta Steibliene will be responsible for translating the survey into Lithuanian and recruiting participants from Lithuania. They will have access to data from this subgroup of participants.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

No

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A

departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International Office.

country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

Macedonia

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Biljana Gjoneska (Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts) Nada Pop-Jordanova (Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts)

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

These collaborators are assisting in the study

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

These collaborators will be responsible for translating the survey into languages spoken in Macedonia, and for recruiting participants in Macedonia. They will have access to the data for this country.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

Yes

Yes

Name of ethics board/committee, organization, or institution conducting the review

Ethics Subcommittee for Human and Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacology and Stomatology, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Has this approval been granted?

No

*** The ethics clearance may be required before beginning the study

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

Switzerland

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

There are no local collaborators at this site. Rather, Yanisha Soborun (listed on this ethics application) will be facilitating data collection. Ethics coverage will be through the current UW application.

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

No

Explain why a local collaborator or affiliation with another institution is not needed

One of the individuals listed on this application as a collaborator, Yanisha Soborun, will be responsible for recruiting in Switzerland.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

No

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

France

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

Nantes University Hospital; Ethics coverage will be through the current UW application.

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Marie Grall-Bronnec (Nantes University) Gaëlle Challet-Bouju (Nantes University)

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

The collaborators are assisting in the study.

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

The collaborators will be responsible for translating the survey into French, and for recruiting participants in France. They will have access to this specific dataset.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

No

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A

departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International Office.

country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

Israel

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

Tel Aviv University

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Belle Gavriel-Fried, Tel Aviv University

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

The collaborators are assisting in the study.

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

The collaborators will be responsible for translating the survey into Hebrew, and for recruiting participants in Israel. They will have access to this specific dataset.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

Yes

Yes

Name of ethics board/committee, organization, or institution conducting the review

Tel Aviv University Institutional Review Board

Has this approval been granted?

No

*** The ethics clearance may be required before beginning the study

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

Japan

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

Kyoto University

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Hironobu Fujiwara, Department of Neuropsychiatry, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

This collaborator is assisting in the study.

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

The collaborator will be responsible for translating the survey into Japanese, and they will recruit participants in Japan. The collaborator will also have access to the specific dataset of participants in Japan.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

Yes

Name of ethics board/committee, organization, or institution conducting the review

Institutional Review Board of Kyoto University

Has this approval been granted?

No

***** The ethics clearance may be required before beginning the study**

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A

departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International Office.

country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

United Kingdom

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

Note: This site refers to Gibraltar, which is not listed above, but is considered a British Overseas Territory.

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Zsolt Demetrovics (Centre of Excellence in Responsible Gaming, University of Gibraltar, Institute of Psychology, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University) Andrea Czakó (Centre of Excellence in Responsible Gaming, University of Gibraltar, Institute of Psychology, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University)

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

Zsolt Demetrovics and Andrea Czakó are co-investigators of this study who helped design the survey and methods.

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

The collaborators will be responsible for recruiting participants in

Gibraltar

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

Yes

Name of ethics board/committee, organization, or institution conducting the review

University of Gibraltar Research Degrees Committee

Has this approval been granted?

No

***** The ethics clearance may be required before beginning the study**

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

Turkey

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

There are no local collaborators at this site. Rather, Can Zoraloğlu (listed on this ethics application) will be facilitating data collection. Ethics

on this ethics application) will be facilitating data collection. Ethics coverage will be through the current UW application.

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

No

Explain why a local collaborator or affiliation with another institution is not needed

One of the individuals listed on this application as a collaborator, Can Zoraloğlu, will be responsible for recruiting in Turkey.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

No

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

Singapore

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

There are no local collaborators at this site. Rather, Gianluca Esposito (listed on this ethics application) will be facilitating data collection. Ethics

(listed on this ethics application) will be facilitating data collection. Ethics coverage will be through the current UW application.

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

No

Explain why a local collaborator or affiliation with another institution is not needed

One of the individuals listed on this application as a collaborator, Gianluca Esposito, will be responsible for recruitment in Singapore.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

No

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

Peru

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

Universidad Privada del Norte

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Jano Ramos Diaz, Investigación de la Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud, Universidad Privada del Norte Percy Mayta-Tristán, Desarrollo e Innovación, Universidad Científica del Sur

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

The collaborator is a colleague who will be assisting with recruitment.

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

The collaborator will be responsible for the recruitment of participants in Peru. They will also have access to Peru-specific data for conducting analyses upon the completion of the study.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

No

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

No

There are several requirements for conducting international research. Fieldwork, travel and risk management forms are to be completed and submitted to the Safety Office. Pre-departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International office. A

departure briefings are to be completed through the Waterloo International Office.

country, outside of North America, may have regulations for conducting research by foreign researchers. Refer to the guidelines on human participant protections, regulations, guidelines, and laws by country.

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Country

Germany

List the institutions (or organizations) you are working with in this country

University of Lübeck; Ethics coverage will be through the current UW application.

Are there requirements to obtain a research Visa, license, or certificate to conduct the study in this country?

No

Is a local collaborator needed or an affiliation with a community organization, local university, or other institution?

Yes

Name your local collaborator(s) and their affiliation(s)

Hans-Jürgen Rumpf, University of Lübeck

What is your relationship with the local collaborator(s)? For example, are you doing research for them or are they just helping you out?

Describe the role of the local collaborators in the study

The collaborator will be responsible for the recruitment of participants in Germany. They will also have access to Germany-specific data for conducting analyses upon the completion of the study.

Is there a Research Ethics Board/Committee or other responsible body/ies for the country (or at the research site) that also will review this application?

Will any research team members named on this application be travelling to this country(s) to conduct the research?

Funding

Is the study funded/will it be funded?

Yes

Funding
List all funding sources that are new or ongoing

Funding status

Ongoing funding

Funding source is

Tri-agency / Canadian Government sponsor

Canadian Government agency

SSHRC - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Program name if applicable

Canada Research Chair Program

Work-order or award number, if known

950-232347

What is the expected period of funding

Funding from

January 1, 2023

Funding to

June 1, 2024

Conflict of interest

Are there any potential, perceived, or actual financial or non-financial conflicts of interest of the research team in undertaking the proposed research?

No

Benefits

Are there direct benefits of the proposed research to the study participants?

No

What are the scientific and/or scholarly benefits of the proposed research?

The findings of this study will help advance the current understanding of parents' knowledge of video games and microtransactions, and their relevance to family functioning. This information will be used to form guidelines for parents on managing their own and their children's in-game spending behaviours. Additionally, this study will further promote research in supporting families in navigating challenges associated with video games.

Participants

Participant general categories

Adults (age 18-64 years)

Describe the sample in detail and list any specific inclusion/exclusion criteria for the study

The inclusion criteria for this study involve parents with at least one child aged 5-17 years who has played video games. Caregivers must be able to read the survey in one of the languages that are included in the study (English, Hungarian, Italian, Czechia, Finland, Chinese simplified, Chinese traditional, Turkish, Spanish, Portuguese, Lithuanian, Macedonian, German, French)

If you are excluding people on certain characteristics provide a justification for the exclusion.

Given the study's focus on video gaming and microtransactions in children and families, individuals who are not caregivers to a child aged 5-17 will not be eligible for the study. Additionally, individuals who cannot read the survey in one of the languages available for their country will not be able to complete the study, as they will likely not be able to interpret the questions being asked.

Will a screening process be used to determine eligibility in the study based on the inclusion and/or exclusion criteria identified above?

No

Recruitment

Identify from where/what sources potential participants will be recruited.

Through email/internet (e.g., social media networks)
Elementary or Secondary Schools
Businesses, NGOs or Government Offices
Another institution other than Waterloo (e.g., University of Guelph)

Indicate what email listing, internet site or network you intend to recruit from

The researchers at the University of Waterloo listed on this application will only be responsible for collecting data in Canada. Information about the

study will be posted on the Whole Family Lab website. We will also disseminate information about the study via Twitter, Facebook, and Reddit. Finally, we will advertise the study on https://childrenhelpingscience.com

Identify the school boards and their location you will be recruiting from

We will apply for approval to advertise the study at the Waterloo Regional District School Board and the Waterloo Catholic District School Board.

Identify the business, NGO or government offices that you will be recruiting from

The poster for the study will be printed and posted around the Kitchener-Waterloo community, including boards on businesses and community centres. This will only be done with the permission of the businesses and organizations.

Provide details on this other institution

The specific recruitment strategies for each country will vary, but collaborators from all countries will rely on a convenience sample. Most countries will recruit participants by advertising online and via social media, and through partnerships with local media companies who can help spread the word about the study. All recruitment materials will be standardized. The same posters will be used, and text will be translated into the languages for each site. In cases where there are specific changes in ethics approvals and/or incentives for a study site, this will replace information about the Canadian site's ethics and incentives.

What recruitment materials will be used? See sample recruitment materials.

Posters
Website
Social media

Describe how the website will be used for recruitment

For the Canadian sample, the poster about the study will be placed on the Whole Family Lab's website. The same poster and a brief description will be added as a listing on https://childrenhelpingscience.com (pre-approval by the website is required)

Describe how social media will be used

Describe how social media will be used

The study poster and a brief description will be disseminated via Twitter posts, posts on relevant Reddit communities, and Facebook groups.

Upload your recruitment materials

Upload your recruitment materials

MICROTRANSACTIONS _RECRUITMENTPOSTER_CAN_V3_04242023.PDF

Study group

This poster will be added to all recruitment efforts in the study. Translated versions will be available for collaborators in non-English-speaking countries.

Will potential participants be recruited through pre-existing relationships with members of the research team (e.g., employees, students, or patients of research team, acquaintances, own children or family members, colleagues, etc.)?

No

Are potential participants in this study members of an organization that is taking part in this study (e.g., employees of a company, etc.)?

No

Methods and procedures

Which of the following will be conducted for this study?

Surveys/questionnaires

How will the survey(s) or questionnaire(s) be administered?

Online or web

Provide the URL of the survey, if available

https://uwaterloo.yul1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/previewId/8d5c694a-b1a9-4e6f-a5de-b4e343537473/SV_daIu3wN3fLQTKXI?Q_CHL=preview&Q_SurveyVersionID=current

Will quotations be used in the write-up of the study

No

For each of the procedures indicated above, provided a detailed, sequential description of how they will be used in the study. Provide one or more paragraphs describing how you are recruiting participants, obtaining consent, what participants are asked to do, and how the research team will be using the collected data.

This study involves a one-time survey, which takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The survey will be completed online via Qualtrics. Caregivers will be invited to participate through one of the following methods on the poster: 1) Scanning a QR code, which leads to the consent form and questionnaire 2) Entering the Qualtrics URL to the consent form and questionnaire; this can be done by entering the information into their web browser, or by clicking on the live link in the poster if viewing it on a device 3) Interested individuals can email the wholefamilylab@uwaterloo.ca to express their interest. In this case, Jasmine Zhang (graduate student) will respond to the email with the link to the study. Note: this applies to the Canadian Sample; participants in other countries will be shown a poster that includes the contact information for one of the collaborators in that country. Upon reaching the consent form, caregivers will be asked to select their country and language. This will ensure that they are seeing the consent form and survey in the correct language. If participants do not provide informed consent, they will be redirected to the end of the survey. If they choose to provide informed

consent to participate, they will continue to the survey items. Upon the completion of data collection, the research team will export the dataset from Qualtrics as an SPSS file for data analysis. This will be password encrypted and stored on a secure UW server. Only the individuals affiliated with the University of Waterloo listed in this application will have access to the file through the secure server. Given that the data will be analyzed with

the help of collaborators, the dataset will be sent through SendIt when necessary. Only the core study collaborators (those at UW and Drs. Zsolt Demetrovics and Orsaly Kiraly) will have access to the full dataset. Other collaborators will only have access to country-specific data (e.g., collaborators in the USA will only be sent USA data).

Please upload any study materials related to the procedure(s)

Study material

MICROTRANSACTIONS_SURVEY_CA_V2_04142023.DOCX

Does the study involve the administration or use of an approved drug or natural health product?

No

Will you be collecting any biological specimens?

No

Will you be creating or contributing to a bio-bank, bio-repository, registry, as part of the study?

No

Will you be doing any genetic testing or analysis?

No

Incidental and secondary findings

See Guideline for reporting incidental and secondary findings to study participants

Are any of the methods or procedures used likely (i.e., a real possibility and probability) to reveal an incidental finding (i.e., discoveries made in the course of research but that are outside the scope of the research and/or results that are outside the original purpose for which a test or procedure was conducted)?

No

Are any of the methods or procedures used likely to reveal a secondary finding (i.e., findings that are not the primary target of the test or procedure; rather, it is an additional result that is actively sought)?

No

Equipment use

Will there be any equipment used as part of this study?

No

Deception

Does the study involve deception or partial disclosure?

No

Risks and safeguards

Considering each method or procedure to be used in this study, indicate if participants might experience any of the following risks or harms

Psychological or emotional risks or harms (e.g., feeling demeaned, distressed, embarrassed, worried, upset, loss of self confidence, regret over the revelation of personal information, disruption of family routine)

Risk details

For each risk identified above, please add additional details describing that risk

Describe the risks or harm

Some questions in the survey are of a sensitive nature, and therefore may

Some questions in the survey are of a sensitive nature, and therefore may be difficult to answer. Participants are reminded at the beginning of the survey that they can skip questions that give them discomfort. A list of relevant resources is also included at the beginning of the survey.

Are any of the risks or harms identified above greater than those the participants might encounter in their everyday life?

No

A determination will be made, upon receipt of the application, if the research can be reviewed by delegated review or must be reviewed by one of the two Research Ethics Boards.

Describe the safeguards (or procedures) to be put in place to mitigate each of the risks or harms identified above.

Participants are allowed to exit the survey and not submit their responses at any time.

For the risks or harms identified above, is there any monitoring that will need to be undertaken during the study?

No

For the risks or harms identified above, is there any monitoring that will need to be undertaken following the study conclusion?

No

Outline the criteria for stopping the study early due to safety concerns/other issues.

None

Privacy

Will demographic and/or background information be asked of participants? If so, ensure that the demographic questions have been uploaded in the methods section.

Yes

What demographic/background information will be collected?

Age
Gender
Ethnicity
Education
Household income

Will demographic/background information be collected separately from names and other identifying information?

Yes

Participant identification - If applicable, include how participants will be referenced in study results.

Participants in this study will be effectively anonymous. Participants' data will be organized by a unique Response ID number that is randomly and automatically assigned by Qualtrics at the time of survey initiation. We will not have access to participants' (and their family members') names, emails, phone numbers, full addresses, or exact birth dates. Our research will not ask for any information that would allow the identity of the participant or their family members to be compromised. Maintaining anonymity is highly important to the research team since research of this nature relies on participant anonymity to ensure reliable information related to potentially sensitive information such as financial strain and in-game spending behaviours. Some demographic information (e.g., age, ethnicity, race, etc.) will be obtained. This demographic data is anonymous and will only be linked to participants through the randomly assigned Response ID number.

If applicable how will the key/list that links participants' codes with their actual name and/or consent forms be stored and protected? Also, outline how long the key/list will be stored.

This study does not include a key/list that participants' Response IDs with identifying information.

Are there any limitations to the promise of confidentiality?

No

Will any study data be leaving the University of Waterloo, the province, or country (e.g., member of research team is located in another institution, province, or country, etc.)?

Yes

Will any identifiable participant information be leaving the University of Waterloo, the province, or country (e.g., member of research team is located in another institution, province, or country, etc.)?

No identifiable information being collected

Where will the study data be sent? Why is it necessary for it to leave the University of Waterloo?

The study includes three primary collaborators (Drs. Zsolt Demetrovics, Orsaly Kíraly, and Andrea Czako) located in institutions outside the University of Waterloo. As they are primary collaborators who are contributing to all stages of the study (design, data analysis, knowledge mobilization) they will receive access to all available data upon the completion of data collection. For all other collaborators, they will be sent dataset specific to the country that they are involved in collecting data for. This is necessary as they are assisting in data collection and will be conducting country-specific analyses.

Explain what data will be leaving the University of Waterloo, who will receive it, why they need access, and what safeguards will be used to protect the identity of participants and the privacy of their data.

Data will only be accessible to the individuals listed in this application. Of these individuals, those who are affiliated with the Whole Family Lab at the University of the Waterloo will be able to access the dataset through a Microsoft Teams folder which contains the study's information. This will not contain any identifying information. The encrypted data files for all countries will also be shared securely with Drs. Zsolt Demetrovics, Orsaly Kiraly, and Andrea Czako through MoveIt. Country-specific encrypted data

files will also be accessible to collaborators upon request, and will be sent via MoveIt.

Describe the measures in place to ensure secure transfer of study data outside of the University.

The data will also be shared with external collaborators through MoveIt, the University's secure file transfer service. An email containing the download link will be sent when data is required to be shared. All data files will also be encrypted.

Has a research data agreement or data transfer agreement been created?

In process (A finalized agreement is to be in place before the data collection begins).

Will any collected data or information be entered into a database for future use?

No

Are there other members of the research team who are not named on this application (e.g., co-op students, research assistants, or other temporary personnel) who may carry out specific tasks involved in your study?

No

Will individual participant identities be confidential in the publication or release of the study findings?

Yes

Data storage

What type(s) of data will be collected for this study?

Electronic files

For each type of information collected, identify where the data will be stored

Data will be stored on the University of Waterloo secure servers within the Whole Family's lab's assigned folders. The folder will only be accessible to lab members who are listed on this application. Data will be temporarily stored on the highly secured Qualtrics servers prior to being downloaded. Data will be downloaded and stored on a secure University of Waterloo server, in a MS Teams folder. The folder will only be accessible to UW

members who are listed on this application. In the situation that data must be downloaded directly to a device, the device will be password protected.

For each type of data collected, identify the minimum retention period

Digital records will be retained for 10 years after the study has ended.

Data Management

Are there plans to link the data collected with other data sets, databases, or registries?

No

The Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications and some journals are requesting that research data be provided to an open access repository to promote the availability of findings, to enhance transparency and share with the widest possible audience.

Do researchers plan to make the data-set available in an online repository/archive?

No

Do you have a data management plan?

No

Data management planning is necessary at all stages of the research project lifecycle, from design and inception to completion. Data management plans are key elements of the data management planning process. They describe how data is collected, formatted, preserved and shared, as well as how existing datasets will be used and what new data will be created. They also assist researchers in determining the costs, benefits and challenges of managing data.

Consent and Withdrawal

What member(s) of the research team will be responsible for obtaining informed consent?

Informed consent will be collected online at the beginning of each survey in Qualtrics. All members of the research team, primarily Jasmine Zhang, will be responsible for ensuring that informed consent has been collected

successfully during each survey. If participants do not provide consent, they will be automatically directed to an end survey block that explains that they will not be enrolled in the study. Therefore, consent should be collected automatically, while the research team will also ensure that this is done so correctly.

Is there a relationship between the potential participant(s) and the person obtaining consent?

No

How will consent be obtained

Online consent (e.g., click one of two radio buttons)

Upload Information and Consent Materials - See resources and samples for creating information consent letters. Refer to the guide for creating an information consent letter on this webpage.

Upload Information and Consent Materials

MICROTRANSACTIONS_LONGCONSENT_V2_04242023.DOCX

Study group

This consent form will be shown to participants who are located in Canada. Participants from other countries will receive the same form, but translated into relevant languages and with the contact information for local collaborators, information about ethics approval (UW information retained if no local ethics was required), and incentives if applicable

Upload Information and Consent Materials

MICROTRANSACTIONS_OPENING_V2_04242023.DOCX

Study group

This abbreviated consent form will be included for some collaborators

This abbreviated consent form will be included for some collaborators based on local ethics requirements (instead of the other longer consent form). However, Canadian participants and those in all countries that are covered solely by UW ethics will only see the full-length version. Participants from other countries will receive the same form, but translated into relevant languages and with the contact information for local collaborators, information about ethics approval (UW information retained if no local ethics was required), and incentives if applicable.

Do you anticipate that you will need to make special accommodations for your participant group?

No

Do you anticipate needing to put in place any special procedures when obtaining informed consent?

No

Will consent need to be re-documented throughout the life of this study?

No

Describe the participants rights and processes for withdrawing consent.

Participants will be informed in the information letter and the recruitment invitation that participation is voluntary. As we are not collecting any information that would link a specific individual to their survey responses, participants are informed that they will not be able to withdraw upon submitting their answers.

Outline what will be done with the participant's information (data, samples, etc.) if they withdraw from the study.

As noted above, it will not be possible for participants to withdraw from the study as we will not be able to identify their survey.

Will any individuals taking part in this study be unable to provide their own informed consent?

No

Remuneration

Will there be remuneration provided to show appreciation for a participant's time, effort, skills, etc. to take part in the study?

Yes

Type of remuneration

Draw
Other

Describe the prizes to be won

Participants at the Canadian site will be eligible to enter a draw for one of 25 Amazon eGift cards, valued at $15 each. These gift cards will be purchased via existing funds in the Whole Family Lab, through Dr. Dillon Browne. The only other study site that will include incentives will be the U.S. (Dr. Shane Kraus is the local collaborator), which will seek ethics approval from the institution of the local collaborator. No other sites will be including incentives. If this changes before survey launch, we will submit an amendment prior to beginning data collection at those sites.

Outline the number of prizes to be won

25

Outline the dollar amount/value of each of the prizes identified above

15

Outline the odds of winning one of the prizes

We will aim to recruit 1000 participants for the Canadian site. As such, the odds of winnings one of the prizes is 2.5% (25/1000*100)

Outline the details of how the draw will be managed

Once participants submit their responses, they will be redirected to a

Once participants submit their responses, they will be redirected to a separate, optional Qualtrics survey that requires them to enter an email address that they would like the Canadian researchers for the draw. The link is: https://uwaterloo.yul1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/previewId/45529ef0-4c6b-445e-86a3-3524f4dc6781/SV_4GgJqElnahcPk3Q?Q_CHL=preview&Q_SurveyVersionID=current (Preview version) Only the Canadian researchers listed on this application will have access to this information. Once 25 participants are selected at random, we will send the gift cards and then destroy the data containing email addresses. If participants withdraw their response partway but still would like to enter the draw, they are instructed to skip to the end and click submit.

Explain the other remuneration

We will also provide the following resource to participants: https://www.internetandme.eu/download-learning-to-deal-with-problematic-usage-of-the-internet/. This eBook is free of charge and may be informative to participants who were interested in participating in the survey. This resource is available in multiple languages, and will be included across study sites.

If a participant withdraws from the study will remuneration be pro-rated?

No, participants will receive maximum remuneration

Will participants incur any expenses by participating in the study?

No

Feedback and Appreciation

How will you show appreciation to participants for taking part in the study?

A letter of appreciation will be provided at the end of the survey. Canadian participants who would like to receive a report on the findings of the study are encouraged to contact the investigators (wholefamilylab@uwaterloo.ca for Canada, contact information of local collaborators at other sites). Once

the study is complete, this report will be separately emailed to each participant who indicated interest

When will feedback/appreciation be provided to participants (e.g., immediately after the session, at the end of a survey, mail results at time X.)?

The appreciation letter will be provided immediately following survey completion. This will automatically appear on Qualtrics. The report of the study's results will be emailed to interested participants upon study completion.

Upload Feedback/Appreciation materials

Upload Feedback/Appreciation materials

MICROTRANSACTIONS_ENDAPPRECIATION_V2_04112023.DOCX

Study group

This letter of appreciation will be shown to all Canadian participants who complete the survey, available in English and French. For other study sites, the same letter will be translated (as needed), with the following adjustments based on the site: 1) the contact information of the local collaborators will replace the researchers' information on this letter. 2) Information about incentives will also be updated based on what is being offered for that specific study site 3) In cases where the collaborators sought local ethics approval, this information will be added accordingly (i.e., replace information about UW ethics approval). For sites without local ethics approval, information about UW ethics will remain on the letter.

How can participants learn about the study results/obtain a summary of the findings if interested?

At the end of the survey, participants will also be invited to contact the researchers should they wish to receive a report on the findings of the study. Once the study is complete, this report will be emailed to all participants separately.

Other Details

Provide any other information relevant to this study you wish to explain to the Research Ethics Board reviewers or to the staff in the Office of Research Ethics.

As this is an international study, we have organized a group of collaborators from various countries (all listed on this application). Each collaborator will be responsible for recruiting the sample for the country they are responsible for. As such, the UW researchers listed on this application helped create the survey used in the study and helped create promotional materials, but they will not be directly involved in recruitment for any sample other than the Canadian one.

Other Attachments

Upload any additional study documents

Attachments

Attestation

As the Principal Investigator/Faculty Supervisor/Local Investigator, I attest to the following:

- **I will ensure all co-investigators, collaborators, and student investigators listed on this application have reviewed the application contents and will conduct the study according to the application/protocol.**
- **I am aware that any changes made to the research must be reviewed and provided clearance before the changes are implemented. Change requests (i.e., an amendment) are to be submitted through the system. I am also aware ethics clearance for this study is valid for only 12 months unless I renew the study prior to the ethics clearance expiry date. If an annual renewal report is NOT submitted through the system prior to the expiry date, the study will be suspended, all work on the study must stop, and Research Finance will be notified which will result in a hold being put on the funds associated with this study.**

- I agree to comply with the Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS2) for conducting research with human participants and with University of Waterloo policies and guidelines when conducting this study (e.g., statement on human participant research, IST policies, etc.).

- I confirm I have read the University of Waterloo Research Integrity guidelines and I agree to comply with the policies and guidelines of my profession or discipline regarding the ethical conduct of research involving humans.

By submitting this application I agree to the above attestations and will ensure the research is conducted accordingly

Only the Principal Investigator/Faculty Supervisor can submit the application. This acts as a signature indicating approval of the application.

This is the end of the application form. Click submit in the right menu if you are ready to send it to the Research Ethics Office.