

100/100

this looks good.

restrict your target population to  
jrs and srs at cmu.

you can get a sample from this  
population using cbook since  
cbook gives the class (fr/so/jr/sr)  
of each student

# TeamD\_FinalProposal

*by* Moses Musaelian

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## Final Project Proposal

## Political Attitudes and Academic Major of Carnegie Mellon Students

## I. Interest

✓ It's always been interesting to me the relationship between the major that students pursue in college and their political philosophy. It would be interesting to know if certain areas in academia draw people with certain political leanings or if such a differentiation doesn't exist. For example, will the stereotype hold that students studying art or music are more left wing when it comes to political and social issues? Breaking or reinforcing long thought stereotypes can be a very interesting task. Which major has the most relatively right wing students and what can be said about that subject and its relationship to such politics? The information that will be obtained from such a survey won't necessarily be the most applicable; however, it will be an interesting expose of Carnegie Mellon students from which all of us can learn a bit more about the community in which we study and live in. Possibly the results from such a survey could be published in the school newspaper. In all, we view this survey as a diagnostic of our community, similar to how several polls are conducted on the US population regarding certain issues that in all serve as a diagnostic of how people think and the relationships that exist.

## II. Questions

✓ The most important question that we will want to study is if there is a distinguishable relationship between one's primary major and political philosophy. The questions that we pose to students will try to gauge their political philosophy, but also social views. For example, questions regarding size of government, views on abortion, traditional marriage, etc. Hence, another question may arise from this regarding social views and political philosophy and how well they run parallel, which we assume will be rather often. Given the fact that many students have double majors and minors in different fields, we will focus on the given student's primary major. While we will only test our school community, the bigger question at hand is if students with certain views both politically and socially are more probable to choose certain majors and what can be said about those areas of study in relationship

with the prevalent political/social view. In addition to noting the primary major, it will be important to also take heed of other variables that may exist in influencing one's views for example, where one is from, religion, sex, and age. All of this will have to be recorded as well.

### III. Research

While many stereotypes regarding this question exist, not much tangible research has been done. However, there was this notable research done at University of Minnesota regarding this exact question. The results from this survey concluded that there wasn't a significant relationship between one's university major and social views, however a tangible relationship existed between one's chosen university major and economic views. It will be very interesting to compare the results from the CMU community to this university's community and see if similar relationships exist. The paper also references some other papers that researched this question, which will add nicely to background with which our results can be compared.

"Choice of Major and Political Attitudes: A Study of University of Minnesota Students", Spring 2010, (Rachel Gage, Jennifer Zick, Kaylie Tully, and Elaina Simon), Department of Psychology, University of Minnesota. Published in University of Minnesota Undergraduate Journal of Psychology (Sentience).  
[http://www.psych.umn.edu/sentience/files/Gage\\_2010.pdf](http://www.psych.umn.edu/sentience/files/Gage_2010.pdf)

Another source found was a university article which investigates the liberalisation of students' socio-political orientations. The article however does not employ a survey, but provides an extensive history and analysis regarding this trend which is crucial to this topic.

"Higher education and sociopolitical orientation: The role of social influence in the liberalisation of students" Brianne Hastie, University of South Australia, European Journal of Psychology of Education 2007

This third article examines the argument that political orientation is significant in affecting academic success in university. The sample size utilised in the paper are

undergraduate students at an American university and their respective grades. The statistical analysis includes multilevel regression modelling.

"What's in a Grade? Academic Success and Political Orientation" Kimmelmeier, Danielson, Basten, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 2005

The fourth paper is regarding voting behaviour of parents and their children at university. The paper includes some useful data regarding political attitudes of students and since this research was done via survey, the questionnaire is shown in the paper.

<http://www.manchester.edu/oaa/Programs/MISC/files/documents/KnightBriannaandLupkinAlycaandMcFaddenKaty-Paper.pdf>

#### IV. Sampling Frame

The sampling frame for this topic would include the undergraduate students at Carnegie Mellon. However, this sampling frame would have to be narrowed down to students who have a declared primary major; hence, many first year students will become illegible units. Most likely it will be 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students that are included the most in this sampling frame because most if not all have a declared primary major. Given this, the units will be sampled from email addresses in C-book, rather than exclude all the first year students, we plan on having our first question "filter" students who do not have declared majors.

actually cbook gives the class of each student, so you can build a sample of just jrs and srs if you wish.

#### V. Target Population

Rather than have the target population be general US undergraduate students, we will have it confined to just Carnegie Mellon undergraduates. A target population of US undergraduate students would yield substantial coverage errors and given our resources - it will be best to make our inference regarding the sphere of Carnegie Mellon. Obviously, our sample selection will be a small part of this population and coverage error could come from over representation in a certain school or major. Another source of error could come from the fact that most freshmen will be excluded and hence the input of the younger students will be minimal.

just restrict your target population to jrs and srs at cmu pittsburgh campus

## VI. Mode of Data Collection

- ✓ The mode of collecting the data will be via short questionnaire which will be hosted on one of the online surveying hosts (SurveyMonkey). The questionnaires will be sent via email to the sample population. For this topic, this method seems the easiest as one can choose the people of his sample size carefully, representing a variety of majors, and doesn't require much physical involvement. Of course one downside is the lower response rate that will come with this method, thus we will probably have to utilise an incentive scheme.

please be sure you can get individual responses of each person to each question, with whatever service you choose (this may cost \$20 or so for a 1-month subscription)

## VII. Variables to Measure

- ✓ The questionnaire will be relatively short, but still longer and more detailed than the Univ. of Minn. study's. The first things we will have to ask are demographical. For example, we will want to know if they have a declared major or not and possibly a question regarding their background (such as religion or homeland). The variables of the content core will have to gauge the individual's attitude towards big/debated questions of political and economic philosophy such as the size of government and government welfare. The other variables will have to gauge the person's views towards the most controversial social issues such as abortion. A combination of these variables will give us a pretty informative picture of individual in our sample.

## VIII. Confidentiality

- ✓ Since our survey will not be collecting names, there will be no identifiers of our survey results to the actual participants. In addition, the data that is collected will be of a benign nature, concerning simple demographics (major/hometown) and personal views on some issues.

Written by Movses



## REQUEST FOR IRB REVIEW OF EXEMPT RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

### FOR PROTOCOLS INVOLVING TESTS, SURVEYS, INTERVIEWS, OR OBSERVATION OF PUBLIC BEHAVIOR

45 CFR 46.101(b)(2)

Please complete this application as thoroughly as possible. Your application should include the following:

1. A copy of any questionnaires, interviews, surveys, scripts, etc. that will be used.
2. A copy of any recruitment documents (including advertisements, flyers, letters, invitations, email) to be used;  
A copy of the training certificates for all individuals working on the research unless it is on file with the CMU IRB. Training is available at <http://www.citiprogram.org>. See the [IRB website](#) for details.
3. If the PI is a student, the faculty advisor must submit a Faculty Advisor Assurance Form.

Please email all documents to [irb-review@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:irb-review@andrew.cmu.edu). For assistance call CMU Research Compliance @ 412-268-5460 or email [irb-review@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:irb-review@andrew.cmu.edu). Additional information and templates are available at <http://www.cmu.edu/osp/regulatory-compliance/human-subjects.html>

<b>1. Protocol</b>			
Title: Political Attitudes and Major of CMU Students			
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a previously approved study that has lapsed.		Previous IRB No: HS	
<b>2. Principal Investigator (PI)</b>			
Name: Movses Musaelian		Department: Statistics	
Telephone: 201-562-9975	E-mail: <a href="mailto:mmusaeli@andrew.cmu.edu">mmusaeli@andrew.cmu.edu</a>	Training Cert. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached <input type="checkbox"/> On File	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am a student. If so, please provide information about your faculty advisor below.			
Faculty Advisor Name:	E-mail:	Training Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input type="checkbox"/> On File	
<i>If a student is the PI, the faculty advisor must complete and submit a Faculty Advisor Assurance Form.</i>			

If there is someone other than PI to correspond with regarding this protocol, please list below.		
Contact Person Name:	Telephone:	E-mail:
Business Manager for your department:		E-mail:
<b>3. Co-investigators</b>		
Name: Matt Vela	E-mail: mtv@andrew.cmu.edu	Training Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input type="checkbox"/> On File
Name: Abhi Jain	E-mail: abhij@andrew.cmu.edu	Training Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input type="checkbox"/> On File
Name: Yeungjun Lee	E-mail: yeungjun@andrew.cmu.edu	Training Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input type="checkbox"/> On File
Name:	E-mail:	Training Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input type="checkbox"/> On File
Name:	E-mail:	Training Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input type="checkbox"/> On File
<b>4. Funding</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unfunded research	Sponsor/Source:	
<input type="checkbox"/> External Funding	SPEX Proposal #:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Internal Funding	Oracle String:	
Grant Title:		
<i>If you don't know the funding/grant information, please get it from your department's business manager.</i>		
<b>5. Eligibility for Exempt Determination per 45 CFR 46.101(b)(2)</b>		
<p>a. What type(s) of instruments/activities will be used (<i>check all that apply</i>)? <input type="checkbox"/> Educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews <input type="checkbox"/> Observation of public behavior</p> <p><i>If the research involves other activities, it is not eligible for this exemption. Do not proceed.</i></p> <p><i>Use the standard CMU IRB Application.</i></p>		
b. Will information be recorded in a manner that participants can be identified <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
<p>c. Would disclosure of information obtained put participants at risk for civil or criminal liability or damage to their financial standing, employability or reputation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><i>If the answer to b and c is Yes, the research is not eligible for this exemption. Do not proceed.</i></p>		

Use the standard CMU IRB Application.

## 6. Protocol Description

Provide, in lay terms, a summary of your proposed study as outlined below. You may attach the protocol to this form if you like.

Purpose of the study. Gauge political views of students

Describe the research procedures (include the activity, location and time required of the participant). Internet Survey

Who will be asked to participate? Undergraduate Students

Will tasks be done on a computer? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, how will the tasks be accessed? ☒ Remotely via the internet? ☐ In the research lab? ☐ Other, please explain:

Will the research be conducted on the CMU campus? ☒ Yes ☐ No If no, please indicate the location(s).

## 7. Participants

*Research including prisoners is not eligible for exempt status. Research with minors is only eligible if it's an education test, is done in an educational setting or it is only observation of public behavior.*

How many participants are needed for the study? N/A

What is the age range of participants in the proposed study? No age range - just undergraduates

What will the ratio of males to females be? N/A

What percentage will be from minority groups? N/A

Please provide inclusion and exclusion criteria: Participant must have a declared major

## 8. Participant Recruitment

Describe how participant recruitment will be performed. Include how and by whom potential participants are introduced to the study (*check all boxes below that apply*). Email

*Check all boxes below that apply.*

☒ CMU directory ☐ Postings, Flyers ☐ Radio, TV

☒ E-mail solicitation Indicate how the email addresses are obtained: C-book

☐ Web-based solicitation. Specify sites:

☐ Participant Pool. Specify what pool:

☐ Other, please specify:



*Please attach any recruiting materials you plan to use, including an introductory script and the text of e-mail or web-based solicitations you will use. Note: the introductory script is used in lieu of a consent form.*

#### 9. Participant Compensation and Costs

Are participants to be compensated for the study? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, what is the amount, type and source of funds?

Amount:

Source:

Type:

Will participants who are students be offered class credit?

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ NA

How will you facilitate payment to participants without linking them to study data?

Are other inducements planned to recruit participants? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, please describe.  
Possible incentive (raffle)

Are there any costs to participants? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please explain.

#### 10. Risks and Benefits

Will participants receive intangible benefit from the study? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the direct and indirect benefits to participants. None

Discuss the risks to participants. None

Discuss how any risks will be managed and/or minimized.

If deception is involved, please explain.

#### 11. Confidentiality and Data Security

Will personal identifiers be collected? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Will identifiers be translated to a code? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Will recordings be made (audio, video)? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please describe.

Who will have access to data (surveys, questionnaires, interview records, etc.)?

Describe how you will protect participant confidentiality and secure research records (Will they be stored on a secure computer, locked cabinet, etc?).

Describe your process for monitoring data to ensure that study goals are met. (Review of lab notebooks, meetings to review data, etc.)

#### 12. Conflict of Interest

Do you or any individual who is associated with or responsible for the design, the conduct of or the

reporting of this research have an economic or financial interest in, or act as an officer or director for any outside entity whose interests could reasonably appear to be affected by this research project: ☐

Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide detailed information to permit the IRB to determine if such involvement should be disclosed to potential research subjects.

### 13. Cooperating Institutions

Is this research being done in cooperation with any institutions, individuals or organizations not affiliated with CMU?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please list.

Have you received IRB approval from another IRB for this study? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Pending

If yes, please attach a copy of the IRB approval.

If applicable, please provide the name(s) and address(es) of all officials authorizing to access human subjects in cooperating institutions not affiliated with CMU.

*Please attach documentation of approval.*

### Principal Investigator's Assurance Statement for Using Human Subjects in Research

I certify that the information provided in this IRB application is complete and accurate.

I understand that as Principal Investigator, I have ultimate responsibility for the conduct of IRB approved studies, the ethical performance of protocols, the protection of the rights and welfare of human participants, and strict adherence to the studies protocol and any stipulations imposed by Carnegie Mellon University Institutional Review Board.

I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that the human participants' involvement as described in the funding proposal(s) is consistent in principle, to that contained in the IRB application. I will submit modifications and/or changes to the IRB as necessary.

I agree to comply with all Carnegie Mellon University policies and procedures, as well as with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regarding the protection of human participants in research, including, but not limited to:

- Ensuring all investigators and key study personnel have completed human subjects training program;
- Ensuring protocols are conducted by qualified personnel following the approved IRB application;
- Implementing no changes in approved IRB applications without prior IRB approval in accordance with CMU IRB policy (except in an emergency, if necessary to safeguard the well-being of a human participant, and will report to the IRB within 1 day of such change);

- Informing participants of any relevant new information regarding their participation in the research that becomes available.
- Promptly reporting to the IRB any new information involving risks to research participants, including reporting to the IRB, Data Safety and Monitoring Boards, sponsors and appropriate federal agencies any adverse experiences and all unanticipated problems involving risks to human subjects or others that occur in the course of the research.
- If unavailable to conduct research personally, as when on sabbatical leave or vacation, arrangements for another investigator to assume direct responsibility for studies will be made through modification requests to the IRB;
- Promptly providing the IRB with any information requested relative to protocols;
- Promptly and completely complying with IRB decisions to suspend or withdraw approval for projects;
- Obtaining Continuing Review approval prior to the date the approval for a study expires (approval for the study will automatically expire);
- Maintaining accurate and complete research records, including, but not limited to, all informed consent documents for 3 years from the date of study completion;
- Informing the CMU IRB of all locations in which human participants will be recruited for protocols and being responsible for obtaining and maintaining current IRB approvals/letters of cooperation when applicable;
- Complying with federal, state and local laws and regulations and sponsor terms and conditions; and
- Complying with CMU policies on the responsible conduct of research.

Movses Musaelian

15-02-2012\_\_\_\_\_

Principal Investigator Name and Signature

Date

*Note: If e-mailed from the PI's CMU e-mail account a hand written signature is not needed. Please type in name and date.*

*If the PI is a student, the faculty advisor must submit a Faculty Advisor Assurance Form.*

**Please email all documents to [irb-review@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:irb-review@andrew.cmu.edu).**

Note: Links to the policies and Federal regulations for the protection of human research subjects (including the Code of Federal Regulations [.CF.R.] Title 45 CFR Part 46, and Title 21 C.F.R. parts 50 and 56) are available on the IRB web page (<http://www.cmu.edu/provost/spon-res/compliance/hs.htm>).

Comments:

07/02/2012

Completion Report

## CITI Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative

### Social & Behavioral Research - Basic/Refresher Curriculum Completion Report Printed on 2/7/2012

**Learner:** Movses Musaelian (username: Movses)

**Institution:** Carnegie Mellon University

**Contact Information** Department: Statistics

Email: movsesmus@gmail.com

**Social & Behavioral Research - Basic/Refresher:** Choose this group to satisfy CITI training requirements for Investigators and staff involved primarily in Social/Behavioral Research with human subjects.

#### Stage 1. Basic Course Passed on 02/07/12 (Ref # 7443879)

Required Modules	Date Completed	Score
Belmont Report and CITI Course Introduction	02/07/12	3/3 (100%)
Students in Research	02/07/12	8/10 (80%)
History and Ethical Principles - SBR	02/07/12	3/4 (75%)
Defining Research with Human Subjects - SBR	02/07/12	3/5 (60%)
The Regulations and The Social and Behavioral Sciences - SBR	02/07/12	4/5 (80%)
Assessing Risk in Social and Behavioral Sciences - SBR	02/07/12	3/5 (60%)
Informed Consent - SBR	02/07/12	5/5 (100%)
Privacy and Confidentiality - SBR	02/07/12	5/5 (100%)
Research with Prisoners - SBR	02/07/12	4/4 (100%)
Research with Children - SBR	02/07/12	3/4 (75%)
Research in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools - SBR	02/07/12	4/4 (100%)
International Research - SBR	02/07/12	3/3 (100%)
Internet Research - SBR	02/07/12	4/4 (100%)
Carnegie Mellon University	02/07/12	no quiz