

Human Subjects Research in the News:

People with tinnitus process emotions differently from their peers, researchers report
Science Daily, June 25, 2014

What the science says about willpower
RN, June 30, 2014

Doctors' Role in Stopping Gun Violence
The Atlantic, June 30, 2014

'Bad' video game behavior increases players' moral sensitivity: May lead to pro-social behavior in real world
Science Daily, June 27, 2014

How Music May Make Babies Team Players
Nicholas Bakalar
June 30, 2014

HAWKIRB

Upcoming Training Sessions

Fall HawkIRB Training Sessions and Presentations are currently being scheduled. Check the [HSO website](#) for the schedule

HSO Office Hours Summer 2014

Continue through August 27th

Wednesdays 2-4PM
101 Hardin Library

No appointment necessary

Facebook's Controversial Sociological Study

The Study

In January 2012, Facebook controlled the type of posts that almost 700,000 users saw in their News Feeds and thereby, manipulated the extent to which the users were exposed to emotional expressions. The News Feed is the primary manner by which users see content that friends share. Users can exert some control over their feeds by adjusting the news feed controls under Facebook's settings. During the study and without prior knowledge, users either saw positive or negative content, and their mood was measured through status updates. Investigators concluded that emotional states can be transferred to another via [emotional contagion](#).

What are the controversies?

- Does this study meet the definition of [Human Subjects Research](#) ?
- Should researchers have obtained IRB approval per [45 CFR 46](#)?
- Should researchers have obtained [informed consent](#) from Facebook users?
- Did the study present greater than [minimal risk](#) to the subjects?

- Did the benefit outweigh the risk?
- Are there other issues?

Is this study ethical?

A review of the literature reveals there are numerous differing views on the matter. While some believe that studies such as these are ethical, others find issue with various aspects of the study.



In the ensuing list, links are provided to a variety of articles that offer insight into some of the concerns raised in response to the [controversial study](#) conducted by Facebook.

1. [How an IRB Could Have Legitimately Approved the Facebook Experiment- and Why that May Be a Good Thing](#)
The Bioethics Program, June 30, 2014
2. [Facebook Doesn't Understand The Fuss About Its Emotion Manipulation Study](#)
Forbes, June 29, 2014

3. [Why Facebook Should Follow Ethical Standards -- Like Everybody Else](#)

The Huffington Post, July 7, 2014

4. [On the ethics of Facebook experiments](#)

The Washington Post, July 3, 2014

5. [You Consented to Facebook's Social Experiment](#)

ABC News, June 30, 2014

6. [A Bright Side to Facebook's Experiments on Its Users](#)

The New York Times, July 2, 2014

7. [Misjudgements will drive social trials underground](#)

Nature, July 16, 2014

8. [Everything We Know About Facebook's Secret Mood Manipulation Experiment](#)

The Atlantic, June 28, 2014

As you can see, the reactions to the Facebook experiment run the gamut—some people are disturbed at what transpired, while others are pretty blasé about it. With everything you've read, what are your thoughts?

A Personal Note from the HSO Director

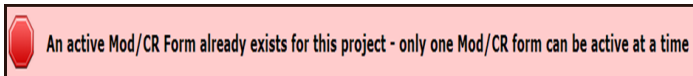
Facebook does not receive US federal research dollars, probably does not have an FWA (federawide assurance) and is surely not under FDA oversight. Therefore, Facebook is not subject to any regulations regarding research involving human subjects. While many have been troubled by the Facebook "experiment", my personal reaction has been tempered by several facts. First, we have all undoubtedly been the subject of similar attempts to influence our emotions in the context of manipulating our buying decisions. This has been going on long before the advent of the internet. Second, what rights do Facebook users really have to complain, given that Facebook use is free, the conditions of use are clear, and no one is compelled to use Facebook? Every time I open Facebook, I note the statement: "It's free and always will be". Mentally I add, "You get what you pay for" (or don't pay for, as the case may be). ~ Andy Bertolatus

Oops, I Made This Draft...Now What?



One of the benefits of the HawkIRB smart application is that it limits the number of active forms that may be generated for an approved project; e.g., only one new modification (MOD), continuing review (CR), combination MOD/CR, or project closure form can be drafted at a time. This is a great feature—it keeps your HawkIRB inbox from sprouting a field of modification drafts. Just imagine six aspects of a modification scattered throughout six separate forms, which the HawkIRB system will not combine into a single submission.

Prior to CR deadlines, HawkIRB automatically sends PIs, delegates, and contact persons email notifications that include links to the PI's HawkIRB inbox. When the link is clicked it automatically creates a draft form of the content HawkIRB is requesting. This is great, if you are ready to create the draft modification (MOD/CR, etc.). However, if you or any of your delegates have previously followed the helpful link in the reminder email and created the draft, you will see this:



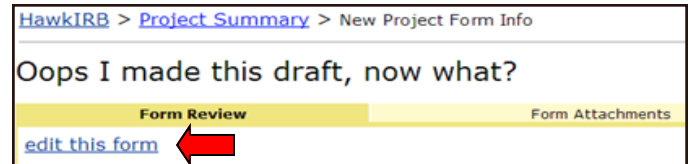
There are two ways to deal with the draft:

1. You can continue working on it, or
2. You can delete it and start fresh.

Go to your HawkIRB Inbox—the Inbox is your base camp in HawkIRB, the spot to return to if you happen to be disoriented while navigating through the system.

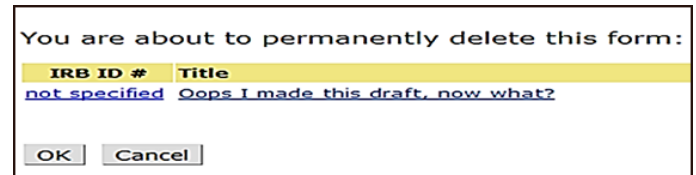


Next, look for your Draft Forms. This is where any drafts, intentional or otherwise, begin life in HawkIRB. To the right of each draft, you will see links to two choices, 'Review' or 'Remove'. To continue with the current draft, click 'Review'. You will see something like this:



Clicking the “edit this form” will let you make changes to the application. You don't need to finish all the edits in a single session, just make sure to use the gray buttons, continue/save, back/save, or index/save to save your changes. FYI— If you mistakenly use your Browser buttons, HawkIRB won't retain any of the changes you've made. To delete the draft, just click 'Remove'.

HawkIRB will give you a chance to change your mind:



But, once the form is deleted there's no going back—it's gone for good—so just be sure before you click 'OK'!

And as always, if you are struggling with HawkIRB give us a call! We are here to help.

New Positions filled in the Human Subjects Office!

Effective July 21, **Rachel Bullis** began as the External IRB Assistant. This is a new full time staff position in the HSO that will handle the daily activities for human subjects research studies using an external IRB other than the Western Institutional Review Board (WIRB). Even though the UI IRB is not the IRB of record, considerable preliminary work must occur before submitting to these IRBs. These studies still require review by Human Research Protection Committees and must meet applicable institutional requirements. Similar to the existing WIRB Coordinator role, the External IRB position was developed to help you navigate this process. The External IRB Assistant will also provide support to the WIRB Coordinator for processing WIRB submissions and assist in other operational activities.

In addition, the Conflict of Interest in Research Office (COIR) is adding a new COIR Assistant. **Senetibeb Gebre** will be joining the COIR operations effective August 4th. Sene comes to us from the lab of Dr. Bridget Lear. With her strong research background, Sene will be a great asset to the COIR Office. Please help us welcome Rachel and Sene into these roles. We are very happy to add them to our growing office!

Human Subjects Office

Office of the Vice President for Research
and Economic Development
105 Hardin Library for the Health
Sciences
600 Newton Rd.
Iowa City, IA 52242-1098

Phone: (319) 335-6564
Fax: (319) 335-7310
E-mail: irb@uiowa.edu

hso.research.uiowa.edu

Herky Hints cover, new student orientation manual, 1959 [Subject Vertical File Collection (RG 01.15.03), Miscellaneous category, folder “Freshman orientation,” University Archives, Department of Special Collections, University of Iowa Libraries]