



# Interruptions Skills Training and Assessment Robots



## Project Details

We've developed a robot to provide efficient and relevant training to improve users' tolerance to interruptions. We expect users will improve their tolerance for work-related interruptions where, with consistent practice, interruptions will become less disruptive, allowing them to return to their original task more quickly.

### What are you asking me to do?

If you agree to take part, your participation in this study will involve you engaging in short conversations with a social robot, and some of the discussions may include

performing certain tasks. You will also be responding to other types of interruptions initiated by the robot (such as questions or commonplace sounds).

You will be asked to:

- Work with the research team to set up the robot system
- Specify which days and times you can expect to engage in a training session
- Commit to your specified schedule and actively participate in training sessions
- Understand that the system records your activities during the training sessions
- Inform any other guests or co-residents of the possibility of being recorded during the training sessions
- Provide feedback on the effectiveness of the robot and training
- Provide feedback on the behavior of the robot

### **How long will it take?**

Your involvement will first require a 15-minute setup call at the beginning of the study after we deliver all study materials. During the study, you will participate in training sessions within a specified 2-hour period each day for 7 days. After the study, you will be requested to complete a survey and an interview that will help us make improvements to the system.

Participation is completely voluntary. You can choose to participate, or you can choose not to participate in this study. If you start participating in the experiment, you can always change your mind and stop at any time.

### **Is any compensation provided?**

You will be given \$15 per day of active participation. A check can be mailed to your residence.

### **Who is paying for the study?**

Yale University through award #UNIV61108 C-Accel Pilot - Track B1 (AI and Future Jobs): Empowering Neurodiverse Populations for Employment through Inclusion AI and Innovation Science sponsored by Vanderbilt University.

### **Who should I contact if I have questions?**

If you have any questions about this study, you may contact the principal investigator, Rebecca Ramnauth, at [rebecca.ramnauth@yale.edu](mailto:rebecca.ramnauth@yale.edu).

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or you have complaints about this research, you call the Yale Institutional Review Boards at (203) 785-4688 or email [hrpp@yale.edu](mailto:hrpp@yale.edu)

## Safety procedures

### **What measures have you taken to be COVID-safe?**

Given the difficult and unpredictable situation brought on by COVID-19, it may be difficult or impossible to perform these studies in-lab with participants. Because of this, a more safe and realistic way to continue the research would be to send required equipment to a participant's home and to communicate through video or phone calls and online instruction.

All equipment would be delivered to participants' homes. The equipment would be wiped down and sanitized between participants, and picked up from the participant when the study is completed. This approach ensures that the participant and researcher maintain social distancing requirements. The member of our research team responsible for delivering and picking up the study materials is fully vaccinated.

### **Are there any risks from participating in this research?**

There are no known or anticipated risks associated with this study. However, there is a possible risk of loss of confidentiality. Every effort will be made to keep your information confidential; however, this cannot be guaranteed.

### **How will you keep my data safe and private?**

All of your responses and recorded activities will be held in confidence. Only the researchers involved in this study and those responsible for research oversight (such as representatives of the Yale University Human Research Protection Program, the Yale University Institutional Review Boards, and others) will have access to any information that could identify you and that you provide.

Online data can be hacked or intercepted: Anytime you share information online there are risks. We are minimizing this risk in the following ways:

- All identifying information is removed and replaced with a participant-unique code.

- We will store all electronic data on a password-protected, encrypted computer.
- We will keep your identifying information separate from your personal information, but we will be able to link it to you. We will destroy this link after we finish collecting and analyzing the data.
- If consent is given, we will also share information about you with other researchers for future studies, but we will not use your name or any other identifiers. If consent is not given for us to use the recordings collected from this study in research presentations and further research, the recordings collected will be destroyed. We will not ask you for any additional permissions.

When we publish any results from this study, we will not use your name. We may also share the data with other researchers so that they can check the accuracy of our conclusions but will only do so if we are confident that your confidentiality is protected.