

INFORMED CONSENT
Concerning Participation in a Research Study:

Title of Research:

The Interaction of Technology and Culture in Shaping Civic Attitudes toward Political Institutions and Policy Outcomes: Lessons from the Finnish Experience

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and

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You are invited to participate in a study of the interaction of technology and culture in changing the way citizens evaluate political institutions and respective policy outcomes in the education and health sectors in Finland.

Research Purpose & Procedures:

The focus of this study is on the interaction/role of technology and culture in shaping civic attitudes to political institutions and outcomes in educational and health policies in Finland. The main research question is: How does technology (technology-enhanced knowledge practices, Internet/Intranet, mobile/fixed communication systems, or through regional information systems that serve as avenues for knowledge generation and diffusion) and culture shape civic attitudes in their evaluation of educational and health policy outcomes as well as the institutions responsible for policy making and implementation? The emphasis will be on how technology and culture influence the policy making process at the national level, institutional, and local government levels and how it consequently shapes civic attitudes toward particular policy outcomes.

I focus on institutions (Ministries) that deal with local governments because they help to sustain the bond between the central government and the constituent parts. At the policy outcomes level, we can expect to get a better understanding of how technology bridges ideological or cultural differences thereby helping to sustain the kind of civic values that citizens generally attach to the effectiveness of educational and health policies as well as their assessment of the efficacy and

effectiveness of respective political institutions in addressing key social problems that fall under their program jurisdictions. This choice reflects my long-standing interest and work on the role of information technology in reshaping organizations and society, redefining functional roles, reshuffling social relations that necessitate both man-designed and spontaneous adaptations. What type of cultural and organizational adaptations has information technology brought to Finland, and how has it advanced its political, social and administrative development? Under the current situation, how could Finland evolve in the future and in what areas? What could other countries in general, and the United States in particular learn from Finland? These are the major questions I look forward to addressing in this research.

You were selected as a possible participant because you live and/or work in Finland. If you decide to participate, I, Dr. Kalu N. Kalu (Principal Investigator), will describe procedures to be followed, including purposes, how long they will take, and their frequency.

Risks or Discomforts/Potential Benefits:

There is no obvious risk or discomforts to participants. The questionnaire does not indicate any kind of personal identification and participants should be able to complete it anonymously. Every effort will be made to maintain anonymity of the participants and confidentiality of the information provided. Participation in this survey is totally voluntary and there is no compensation involved. Each participant is free to participate or to withdraw from the process at any time and no explanation is required. It may require about 30-45 minutes of your time to complete the survey.

Provisions for Confidentiality:

Any information obtained in connection with this study is strictly confidential and cannot be identified or tied back to you. All information collected will be coded or given a case number and no name will be recorded.

Contacts for Additional Information:

Before you decide whether to accept this invitation to take part in the study, please ask any questions that might come to mind now. Later, if you have questions about the study, you can contact the principal investigator, Professor Kalu N. Kalu, Auburn University Montgomery, USA/University of Tampere, School of Management at kalu.kalu@uta.fi, kkalu@aum.edu, +358-40-190-1822. If you have any questions about your rights and protections as a volunteer in this research, contact Debra Tomblin, Research Compliance Manager, Auburn University Montgomery, Montgomery, AL 36117, USA, 334-244-3250, dtomblin@aum.edu; or you can contact the Finnish Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman, P. O. Box 800, FIN-00521 Helsinki, Finland, +358-29-5616670, tietosuoja@om.fi

Voluntary Participation & the Right to Discontinue Participation without Penalty:

If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at any time without penalty. If you decide later to withdraw from the study, you may also withdraw any information that has been collected about you. Your decision whether to participate will not prejudice your future relations with Auburn University at Montgomery, USA, or the University of Tampere, Finland. The researcher may discontinue the study at any point. The researcher may terminate your participation from the project at any point.

We will give you a copy of this consent form to take with you.

YOU ARE MAKING A DECISION WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE. YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE, HAVING READ THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE.

Participant's Signature & Date

Investigator's signature

UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE

The Academic ethical committee at the Tampere region

Statement 10/2013 pursuant to statement request 10/2013

Researcher in charge: Professor Kalu N. Kalu,
politics/administrative studies/School of Management, UTA

Research plan: "The Interaction of Technology and Culture in Shaping Civic Attitudes toward Political Institutions and Policy Outcomes: Lessons from Finnish Experience"

The Ethics Committee in the Tampere region has studied the research plan in its meeting held on 3 June 2013.

Committee's resolution: The committee resolved that the research does not entail ethical issues. However, the researcher in charge must answer and clarify the following points about the research:

-How will the research be implemented and how exactly will it proceed?

-Does the research involve collaboration partners or other researchers, and who is the contact person in Finland and/or at the University of Tampere?

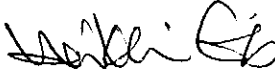
-Research participants must be sent a communication (at the least) in Finnish.

- The questionnaire must be translated into Finnish. Characteristics of Finnish cultural (political and innovation) systems should be observed in the wording of the questionnaire.

**Please submit the answers and clarifications by email to the
Committee's secretary.**

Tampere, 7th June 2013

Signed
Veikko Ikonen
Vice Chair


Heikki Eilo
Secretary