

# EXCHANGES w/ Turkers

São Paulo, March 8, 2020

## Contract for selected turkers

This document aims to regulate your participation in the Exch w/ Turkers project. We wish to establish ground rules so as to promote an ethical and efficient atmosphere during the 15 days of work that lie ahead – for both parties: you, the workers, and us, the requesters.

### 1. About us

We are researchers, artists and activists of the *Grupo de Experiências Críticas em Infraestruturas Digitais* (GECID) [Critical Experiments in Digital Infrastructures Group], which is part of a larger network called Grupo de Arte e Inteligência Artificial (GAIA) [Arts and Artificial Intelligence Group], headquartered at the C4AI – Inova USP building at the University of São Paulo, Brazil.

In partnership with aarea, a digital platform for the showing of internet artwork, we've created the Exch w/ Turkers project, a website that allows its visitors to communicate directly with a group of 5 Turkers. The Turkers can also communicate between themselves. All interactions occur in chat-style tabs or windows.

The project's main goal is to shine a light on the Turkers' work routine, as well as the people behind said work, with their specificities, different subjectivities and private opinions about their own and other realities. We also wish to do what the Amazon Mechanical Turk platform does not permit one to do: to allow these workers to come together and discuss the possibilities for improvement and regulation of said work, in addition to the sharing and exchanging experiences.

This is therefore a research project, so selected Turkers should be willing to follow the set of obligations and adhere to the commitments listed below.

### 2. Duration of work

The Exch w/ Turkers website hosted at [www.aarea.co](http://www.aarea.co) between March 13 and 27, 2020. We do not consider Sunday a working day,

therefore, we will have a total of 13 working days.

### 3. Work method

In order to guarantee a minimum quality of work life for the Turkers, and to allow the website to be continually updated with their feedback, we have stipulated that each selected Turker work for a total of 30 minutes a day (excepting Sundays, their day off). The work period should be used for the following tasks: 1. answering questions asked by visitors; 2. Contributing to and interacting in the chat between selected Turkers.

### 4. Daily wages

We pay 8 dollars for every 30 minutes of work (i.e. 16 dollars an hour), the maximum daily workload.

### 5. Payment method

Payments will be made via PayPal or Transferwise. Therefore, in order to participate, you will need to have an active account on one of said platforms. We recommend you review the fees charged by the institutions beforehand.

Payments will be made in 3 installments, on the following dates:

March 16 (work done from March 13 to 14)

March 20 (work done from March 16 to 19)

March 28 (work done on March 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27)

### 6. Your obligations

6.1 You must dedicate 30 minutes of every working day to answering questions left by website visitors on your chat. In addition, you must communicate with other selected Turkers on the Turkers chat window.

6.2 Both Turkers and participating members of the public must be respectful of each other in their interactions within the website. It is important to bear in mind that, in all open chat platforms, one is subject to receiving offensive and unwelcome messages. Said messages will be deleted, in accordance with our code of conduct policy, which does not tolerate messages containing personal attacks or content that might promote or perpetuate any kind of discrimination based on race, creed, religion, nationality, marital status, gender or sexual

orientation, as well as graphic and/or explicit language or content which shows no clear relation to the subjects under discussion.

6.3 One must bear in mind that most participants probably know little or nothing about the work done by Turkers, so their questions are those of people who are truly interested in your work routine. With that mind, try to be as clear and elucidative as possible.

6.4 In order to answer the visitors' questions one must click *reply* on the message itself – by doing so, anyone who accesses the chat will know what question is being answered. We will explain the answering process individually via e-mail.

6.5 It is important to elaborate on answers, avoiding those of the simple “yes” and “no” kind, so as to generate as much informative content as possible.

6.6 We are in no way or form associated to Amazon. You are free to share your opinions on your work relationship with Amazon Mechanical Turk.

6.7 If, during the 13 days of work, the Turker is unavailable on a specific date, said Turker should immediately contact us via e-mail. We will study each case individually, but we should inform you, beforehand, that payment of daily wages will only be made if the Turker works for the period specified in this document.

6.8 Before the the project starts, we will display a short biography about you on your chat window. We therefore ask you to send us 30 lines about yourself and your context (age, gender, location and other relevant information – we will write your biography ourselves, and it will be sent to you for approval before being displayed.

## **7. Our obligations**

7.1 We are committed to making the payments on the dates mentioned on item 5 for the sum of days worked up to said dates.

7.2 We reserve the right to cancel your participation in the project at any given moment and interrupt payments. This will be carried out if the Turker in question fails to comply with the obligations and code of conduct specified on item 6.2, or if he or she

fails to contact us. The Turker in question will be notified of his termination via e-mail.

## **8. Step-by-step instructions on how to answer questions**

The question-answering process will be explained via e-mail.

## **9. Possible work extensions**

9.1 It is possible that part of the communications that occurred on the website will be used for future online and/or printed publications. If you participate in the project, you are automatically consenting to the future use by GECID/GAIA of all and any messages exchanged on the website's chat feature.

9.2 Following the end of the project on the aarea platform, the website might be relocated to different, fixed domain, without the possibility of interaction between the public and the Turkers. Your messages will remain on this website, as a record, and cannot be altered.

## **10. Contacting you**

10.1 In the course of the project, we will maintain frequent contact with the selected Turkers via e-mail. We are available to hear suggestions for improvements, as well as observations and complaints by selected Turkers. To contact us, please write to [gecid@protonmail.com](mailto:gecid@protonmail.com)

10.2 We will do our best for our response time not to exceed 24 hours and we kindly ask the Turker to answer our messages within the same timeframe, with a view to achieving the agility necessary for the viabilization of the project.

**G:ECID**