

## DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION

### ***Faculty Oral Statement***

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Researchers at New York University and Hunter College are conducting an investigation into the way in which different goals, beliefs, and attitudes are integrated into the design of computer games.

The goal of the research is to develop a toolkit that helps game designers make more diverse and innovative kinds of games. The study is part of a research project funded by the National Science Foundation and is led by Dr. Helen Nissenbaum, a philosopher and ethicist at New York University, and Dr. Mary Flanagan, an artist and designer at the Tiltfactor Lab, Hunter College, City University of New York.

This research project involves the study of how game makers think about games and the creation of new games. I've been asked to share this project with you due to your interest in game design, and by virtue of the fact that you are enrolled in this class.

**Your participation in the study is completely voluntary and in no way affects your grades for this or any other class. Again, you don't have to participate in this project in any way.**

If you do opt to be a part of the study, you'll maintain a design journal throughout the duration of the class in order to record and reflect on your experiences with learning the methodology that we learn during this unit. Your class grade is in no way affected by the journal—you can contribute as much or as little (though I think the researchers hope for the former) as you like and it will not affect your grade in any way.

By participating, you'll also be agreeing to allow the researchers to use the game prototypes that you've developed for this class in further research. Specifically, they will analyze the games that you produce in order to determine whether people perceive the values that you have built into the game. They'll also show the games to players who don't have backgrounds in design in order to see how they perceive the values.

I'll hand out a recruitment letter from the research team that has a more detailed description of this study. If you agree to participate, I'll also give you a consent form to fill out that I will then send to the research team at NYU and Hunter College. You'll have a copy of all of these materials for your own records.

You can contact the researchers or Jonathan Belman ([jonathan.belman@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.belman@gmail.com)), the graduate research assistant with any questions. They'd be happy to answer.