IRB 360 NEWSLETTER

Connecting Research with Ethics

UNCONSENTED AI EXPERIMENT ON REDDIT SPARKS ETHICAL OUTRAGE

Researchers from the University of Zurich ran a covert experiment on subreddit, **r/ChangeMyView(CMV),** to study if AI bots are able to influence user opinions.

The bots, posing as real users, analysed comment histories and posted more than 1,700 replies. This study, performed without consent from participants, was condemned by Reddit and its moderators as unethical, leading to a ban on the researchers.

A university investigation resulted in a formal warning to the investigators, who did not adhere to their IRB's recommendations. The incident raises serious concerns on the ethics of AI-driven research.
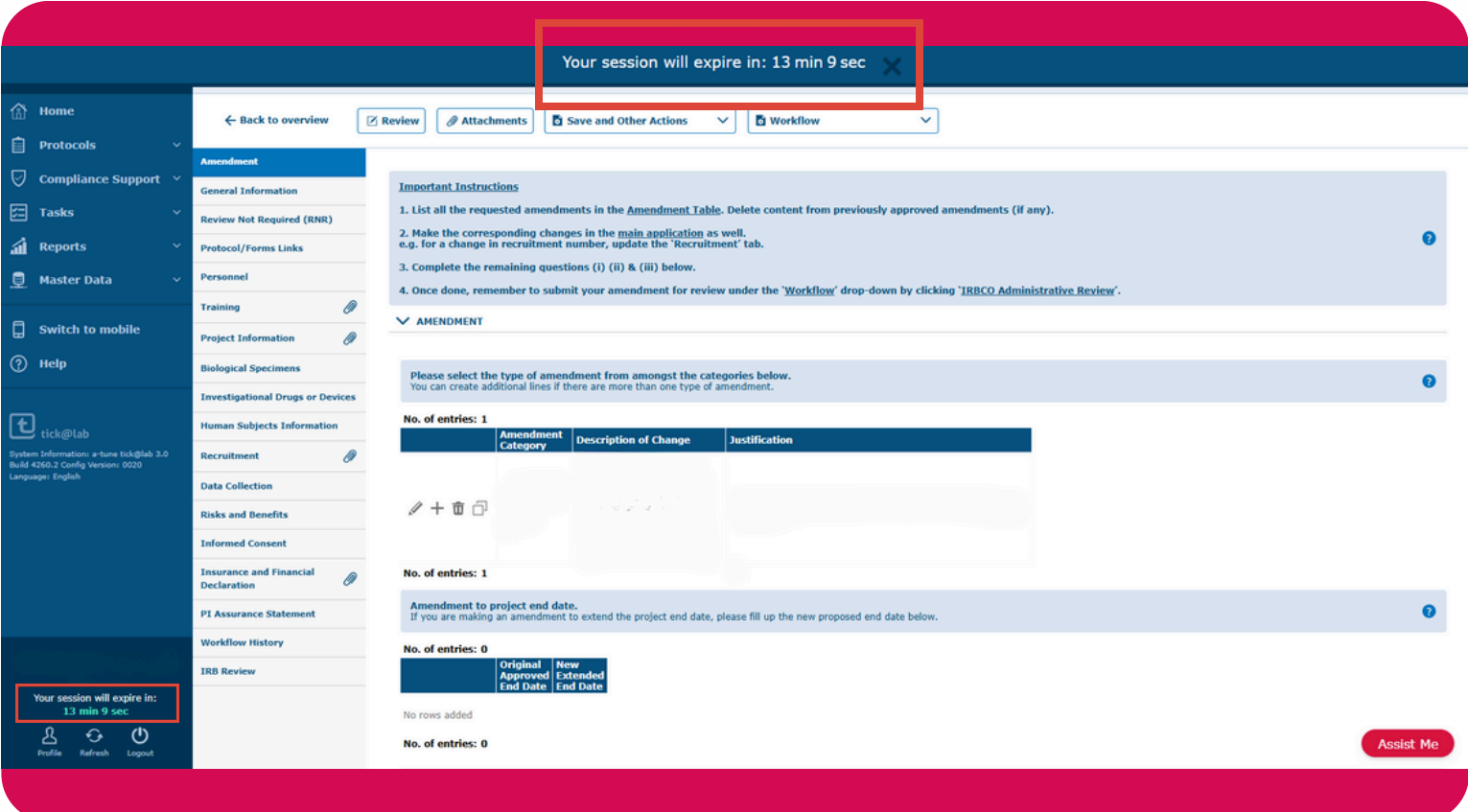
READ MORE

Experiment using AI-generated posts on Reddit draws fire for ethics concerns

Reddit users were subjected to AI-powered experiment without consent

REMINDER:
SAVE YOUR WORK FREQUENTLY ON ERMP

Seen this timer and notification before?

ERMP sessions are limited to **60 minutes.** To avoid losing your progress, remember to **save your work regularly.**
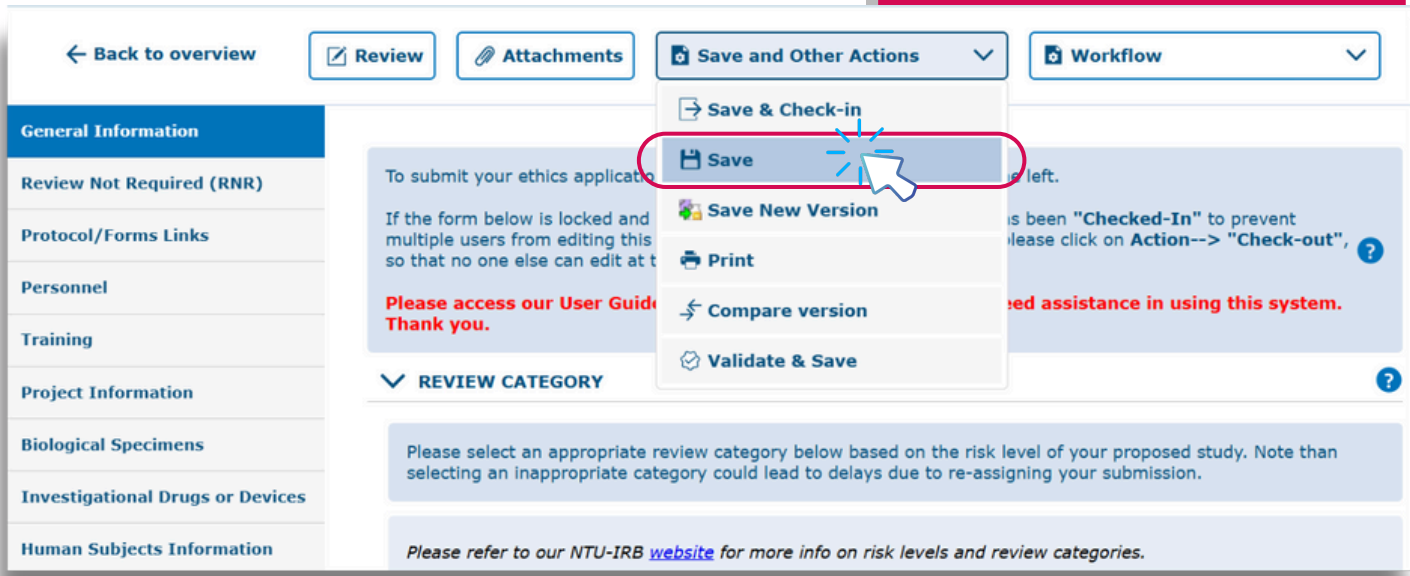
Need more time?
The session timer resets when you:

Save your work and move to the next tab, or

Click the refresh button after saving (if you're staying on the same tab)

Timer's ticking — don't forget to save!

Stay tuned for our next newsletter to learn more!