



March 30, 2018

Dear Panel Member,

The American Population Panel has recently received concern from panel members about the Facebook data breach regarding Cambridge Analytica. Like you, I am horrified by the news of Cambridge Analytica's actions. I can assure you that we have nothing to do with them. Information you have provided to us as a panel member is stored on very high security servers here at OSU, and is not available to anyone at Facebook or elsewhere.

Confidentiality and security of information that is shared with us by individuals like yourself is of the utmost importance to us. We will NEVER release any identifying information about you to anyone outside of CHRR. Further, only a very few individuals within our research organization have access to your information. Those who do have sworn to keep your information private at all times.

Whenever a research study wishes to use panel members, the study has to first be scrutinized by members of Ohio State University's Institutional Review Board and this is one of the many steps that sets us apart from commercial survey organizations. The American Population Panel is also overseen by this Board to ensure that we are both building the panel, and using the data only for projects that panel members have agreed to. We are NOT a marketing company, but a research center within the University.

I hope this helps to overcome any fears you might have about us and the manner in which we both store and use the information we collect. CHRR has been in existence for more than 50 years and we continue to work diligently to ensure that all personal data we keep will remain secure. We will never sell your information to any entity, and it will only be used to identify you as a potential respondent for bona fide research studies that CHRR undertakes.

Please do not hesitate to contact us (panel@chrr.osu) if you still have concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth Cooksey
Professor of Sociology and
Director, CHRR at The Ohio State University

