

Participant Information

Human Factors and Engineering Design: A Study of Professional Practices amongst Ergonomists and Engineers

Overview

This study explores the tools and practices that ergonomists and engineers apply during workplace design. Specifically, we are interested in how and why various tools are used; the impact of those tools on decision making; the flow of information in an organization; and, the factors that influence knowledge exchange. This phase of the study, based in Canada, builds on pilot work already conducted in Sweden at the National Institute for Working Life. Ultimately we hope to use this research to improve how human factors knowledge is used in the design of modern workplaces and production systems. For more information, please refer to a more detailed [Project Description](#).

Your Participation in the Study

We are looking for active ergonomists, currently engaged in workplace design. Participation involves completing a short questionnaire and engaging in a semi-structured telephone interview. Here are some important details:

- **Participant Involvement:** Your involvement in the study is entirely voluntary. You may stop the telephone interview at any time or choose to not answer specific questions if you wish.
- **Duration:** The questionnaire will take a few minutes to complete; the interview, itself, will last approximately 45-60 minutes.
- **Privacy and Security:** While we will record and transcribe your comments to make sure we don't miss anything, your name and any identifying information, such as your organization, will be held in strict confidence and never used in connection with the reporting of project results. Materials such as quotes from interviews will be reported anonymously. All information you provide will be kept on secure computer systems and your name will not be stored directly with any audio or transcript files.
- **Transcripts:** You will receive a copy of the transcript from the interview, in case you wish to modify or add to your comments. You will also receive a copy of the final report, once it becomes available.

Ergonomic 'Toolbox'

As an entry point for this project, we have compiled an 'inventory' of 82 ergonomic evaluation tools currently available. To download a copy of the 'inventory', please visit Ryerson's [Human Factors Engineering Lab](#) homepage. This 'inventory' is an evolving, freely distributed list. If your preferred tool is missing, please let us know. Once the study is complete, one of the research outcomes will be an expanded 'toolbox' to support various aspects of workplace design and evaluation.

Please join us in improving workplace design. [Contact us](#) as soon as possible to schedule an interview.

Thank you,

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