

**Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title**: Survey on sexually explicit material, wellbeing and relationships

**(Version 2, Date: 08/10/2019)**

**Researcher**: Nicola Fisher

**ERGO number: 52971**

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

**What is the research about?**

This research study is being conducted as part of a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology thesis. The researcher, a Doctorate student at The University of Southampton, aims to explore people’s access to and experiences of sexually explicit material and their perceptions of the impact of this material on their emotions/feelings, mood and relationships.

**Why have I been asked to participate?**

The research aims to investigate adults’ experiences of this material. It aims to include both a student and general public members within the participant responses.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you decide that you would like to take part, **you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire which will take approximately 35-45 minutes to complete** and you can choose to be awarded **6** **participation credits** towards your course **or entries into a £50 prize draw**. You can let us know this in the questionnaire.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

You will be offered the choice of course participation credits or entry into a £50 prize draw for both parts of the study. Your responses will also help to improve our understanding and the research literature on the impact of sexually explicit material.

**Are there any risks involved?**

The questions in this survey are of a sensitive nature and will ask about access to and experiences of sexually explicit material, your emotions/feelings, mood and relationships. The questionnaire will not ask you to go into details about your own personal experiences but may ask questions on your reactions to specific content.

If you experience any distress when completing the online questionnaire, you can stop the study at any time and your data will not be used. There are support services below and in the debrief should you experience any distress. If you decide to do the extra interview, if this is completed online again you can stop the study at any time.

If you experienced any distress during or following this research, please do contact:

* Your GP if you require support or a referral regarding your mental health.
* Your local mental health team if you are already under a mental health team.
* You can also access the university counselling service through contacting the enabling service. This can be done via telephone, drop-in or live chat. Please see <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/contact.page> for more details.
* You can contact the Student Life Team (who support student wellbeing) on 023 8059 8180 (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Student Life are based within Halls of Residence and support all University of Southampton students).
* Samaritans on 116 123 or <https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help-you/contact-us>
* Mind (mental health charity) on <https://www.mind.org.uk/>
* Relate (relationship support) <https://www.relate.org.uk/>

**What data will be collected?**

For this survey, data will be collected via online questionnaires, this data will be viewed and analysed by the researcher and potentially supervisors. Future requests to view the data (for research purposes) will only be able to see the data in raw data format

You will be asked demographic information such as your age, gender identity and ethnicity and you will also be asked questions on your experiences of sexually explicit material but you will not be asked to give your name or any other identifying information. You will be given a computer-generated participant number and this will be linked to the data (which will only be viewed by the researcher and potentially researcher’s supervisors whilst inputting data to avoid duplication).

For those who wish to receive prize draw entries you will be asked to click a separate link (which will not be associated with the data you input) to fill out your email address for the prize draw.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

Your responses will be stored as data on password protected computers and the university server.

For those completing online versions, consent will be collected by ticking the consent box and continuing to participate in the study. Data will be anonymised with computer generated participant numbers.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected.

To withdraw from the study, you can just exit the online webpage and your data will not be used. If however, you have pressed the submit button online, your data cannot be withdrawn unless you contact the researcher with your participant number.

Following the end of data collection (the closure of the online link) unfortunately data will not be able to be withdrawn as this will be in the analysis phase.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent.

The research will be written up as part of a thesis and it is anticipated that this will be published. Should you wish to receive a copy of the final research this can be done via contacting the researcher and can be sent once final versions are approved or the research has been published.

**Where can I get more information?**

For more information on the study please contact:

**Researcher – Nicky Fisher** [**nf1n17@soton.ac.uk**](mailto:nf1n17@soton.ac.uk)

**Researcher’s Supervisors – Professor Roger Ingham** [Roger.Ingham@soton.ac.uk](mailto:Roger.Ingham@soton.ac.uk)

* **Dr Emma Palmer-Cooper** [E.C.Palmer-Cooper@soton.ac.uk](mailto:E.C.Palmer-Cooper@soton.ac.uk)

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. If the survey contains personal data which could identify you then:  
   
1.    The University of Southampton is the ‘Data Controller’ for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.  
2.    The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you only for as long as it is necessary to verify and defend, when required, the process and outcomes of the research. Any link between you and your information will be removed as quickly as is feasible, provided your research is not impacted as a result.  
3.    We will only use your data/information as set out in this Participant Information Sheet and in accordance with our Data Protection Policy and our Privacy Notice for Research Participants.  
4.    We will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect."  
   
If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University’s data protection webpage where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@soton.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@soton.ac.uk))

**Thank you for taking time to read the information sheet and considering to take part in the research.**