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**Participant Information Sheet**

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

**Researcher**: Nicola Fisher

**ERGO number: 47561**

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 study is being conducted as part of a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology thesis. The researcher, a Doctorate student at The University of Southampton, is designing a questionnaire to use as part of a research study on sexually explicit material.

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

You have been asked to participate as a test-retest phase of the study to help the researcher analyse whether the questionnaire is valid and is measuring what is intended.

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

**This is a two-part study**. If you decide that you would like to take part, **you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire which will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete** and you will be awarded 2 credits for your participation.

At the end of the questionnaire you will be asked to click a separate link to input your e-mail address (this will not be linked to your responses) so that the researcher can contact you in a month’s time and send you the link to complete the same questionnaire again**.** You will receive a further 2 credits for this participation. **Giving 4 credits in total for this study.**

If you do not require credits, you can choose to enter a prize draw for a £25 amazon voucher, you will get one entry for the first part of the study and then a further entry when the second part has been completed in a month’s time. **You can let us know about this in the study questionnaire.**

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

You will be given credits towards your course for participation. Your responses will also help to assess the validity of this questionnaire to use in future research.

**Are there any risks involved?**

The questions 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. Although the questionnaire will not go into detail on your personal experiences, we ask that you complete this while you are on your own, both to avoid distractions and so that you feel able to give open and honest responses, as your data will not be identifiable.

If you experience any distress when completing the questionnaire, you can stop at any time and your data will not be used.

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?**

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 (and all generated personal IDs will be removed).

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 asked to generate your own personal ID 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).

In this part of the study your responses will be only used to do test-retest analyses your individual responses and demographic information will not be interpreted.

**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 of 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. Data will be anonymised with participant-generated unique ID numbers.

To ensure that you are happy to continue, you will be asked to tick the consent box.

**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 personal ID.

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. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, ‘Personal data’ means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University’s data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/ls/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University’s policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason (‘lawful basis’) to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, 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. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University 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 (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page) 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.**