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**Combined Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form for Anonymous Online Screening for Adult Participants**

**Study Title:** Couple’s sexual and relational satisfaction

**Researcher(s):** Dilan Kılıç Onar; Supervisors: Prof. Cynthia Graham and Dr. Heather Armstrong

**University email:** dk1u17@soton.ac.uk

**Ethics/ERGO no:** 62245

**Version and date:** Version 3 (24/06/2021)

**What is the research about?**

My name is Dilan Kılıç Onar and I am a PhD student at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom.

I am inviting you to participate in a screening survey for a study regarding sexual and romantic relationships. This screening is aimed to find eligible participants.

This study was approved by the Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC) at the University of Southampton (Ethics/ERGO Number:62245).

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

This screening involves completing an anonymous screening questionnaire which should take approximately 3 minutes of your time. As part of the screening, you will answer five questions to assess your eligibility.

When you start completing the survey your answers will be saved.

If eligible, you will be invited to complete an anonymous online survey (PART 2). You will be contacted via your Prolific IDs to participate in PART 2. We are inviting women of any sexual orientation and their partners who are both willing to participate in the study and answer the questions independently. After your partner approved that they would be willing to take part, you will receive the main survey separately (Part 2).

If you are happy to complete this survey, you will need to tick (check) the box below to show your consent.

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

You have been asked to take part because you and your partner are aged 18 and over, currently in a romantic relationship, and can read and understand English. This survey is inviting couples from around the world and you have been recruited through the Prolific website.I am aiming to recruit approximately 60 couples for this study.

**What information will be collected?**

You will complete five questions to assess your eligibility.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

At the end of the survey, you will be directed to the Prolific website. You will receive £0.25 for your current participation (irrespective of your eligibility status) and an additional £3 per half an hour for your participation upon the completion of the main survey (Part 2) study.

**Are there any risks involved?**

The screening inludes five questions to assess your eligibility for the main survey study. If you feel uncomfortable or wish to withdraw from the study you can do so before the end of the questionnaire by closing the internet window. As this study is anonymous, data cannot be withdrawn after it has been submitted.

**What will happen to the information collected?**

All information collected for this study will be stored securely on a password protected computer and backed up on a secure server. In addition, all data will be pooled and only compiled into data summaries or summary reports. Only the researcher and their supervisor will have access to this information.

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity. In accordance with our Research Data Management Policy, data will be held for 10 years after the study has finished when it will be securely destroyed.

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

If you are unhappy about any aspect of this study and would like to make a formal complaint, you can contact the Head of Research Integrity and Governance, University of Southampton, on the following contact details: Email: [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk), phone: + 44 2380 595058.

Please quote the Ethics/ERGO number above. Please note that by making a complaint you might be no longer anonymous.

More information on your rights as a study participant is available via this link:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/about/governance/participant-information.page>

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and considering taking part in this research.**

Please tick (check) here to indicate that you have read and understood information on this form,

are aged 18 or over and agree to take part in this survey.

*If consent given,*

## Screening Survey (STUDY 1 & 2)

**Header:** Screening for a **couple study on** sexual and relational satisfaction (PART 1)

Few questions in this screening will identify if you are eligible for the survey.

**Question 1)** Do you have a romantic partner who has a Prolific account and would you be willing to take part as a couple?

**Responses:**

Yes, I have a romantic partner who has a Prolific account and we would be willing to take part as a couple

No, I either do not have a romantic partner or we would not be willing to take part as a couple

Rather not to say

If yes to question one,

**Question 1a)** Can you provide your partner’s Prolific ID? **Responses:** text box

**Question 2)** Age **Responses**: (drop down menu from 18 to 100)

**Question 3)** Gender **Responses:** Women/Men/Non-binary/Other

**Question 4)** Sexual orientation **Responses**: Heterosexual/Bisexual/Lesbian/Gay/Asexual/Pansexual

Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**If not eligible:** Ineligibleparticipants will receive “Screening Debriefing Form A – if NOT eligible” (see attached).

**If eligible:** Eligible participants will receive “Next step information” at the end of Screening.

Next step information:

|  |
| --- |
| Next Step  Thank you for completing the survey.  You will shortly receive a message to your inbox in the Prolific from the researcher.  We will send a screening survey to your partner via the **partner id** you provided. Please make sure that you will receive the study link via the Prolific after your partner approved that they would be willing to take part as a couple.  Please make sure that the participants will not have access to their partner’s data in any period of the research. The linking will be done only by the primary researcher, Dilan Kılıç Onar, and on a completely confidential base.  Now please click the arrow below to end the survey. |

**To Prolific Participats**

**Combined Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form for Anonymous Online Surveys for Adult Participants**

**Study Title:** Couple’s sexual and relational satisfaction

**Researcher(s):** Dilan Kılıç Onar; Supervisors: Prof. Cynthia Graham and Dr. Heather Armstrong

**University email:** dk1u17@soton.ac.uk

**Ethics/ERGO no:** 62245

**Version and date:** Version 3 (08/06/2021)

**What is the research about?**

My name is Dilan Kılıç Onar and I am a PhD student at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom.

I am inviting you to participate in a study regarding sexual and romantic relationships. This research is aimed at investigating different aspects of sex and sexual practices within romantic relationships to improve our understanding of women’s and couples’ sexual and relational satisfaction. As part of an online survey, you will answer questions about your attitudes, beliefs and experiences on some sexuality-related topics, including solo and partnered sexual practices.

This study was approved by the Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC) at the University of Southampton (Ethics/ERGO Number:62245).

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

This study involves completing an anonymous questionnaire which should take approximately 20 to 30 minutes of your time. When you start completing the survey your answers will be saved.

This project is targeted at couples who are both willing to participate in the study and answer the questions independently. Due to the sensitive nature of the survey, a comfortable and private environment is suggested to ensure your privacy.

If you are happy to complete this survey, you will need to tick (check) the box below to show your consent. As this survey is anonymous, the research team will not be able to know whether you have participated, or what answers you provided.

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

You have been asked to take part because you and your partner are aged 18 and over, currently in a romantic relationship of at least one year, and can read and understand English. This survey is inviting couples from around the world and you have been recruited through social media (Facebook, Tweeter, Instagram).

I am aiming to recruit approximately 150 couples for this study.

**What information will be collected?**

The questions in this survey ask for information in relation to your demographics (e.g. age, gender), your romantic relationship as well as your attitudes, experiences and opinions on the topic of sexual practices (partnered sex, sexual pleasure, and women’s masturbation/self-pleasuring); there are no right or wrong answers to the questions. Some of the questions are considered sensitive, for example, questions about sexual activities including masturbation experiences, sex toy use, and attitudes towards self-pleasure.

Some of the survey questions contain textboxes where you will be asked to type in your own answers. Please note that in order for this survey to be anonymous, you should not include in your answers any information from which you, or other people, could be identified.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

If you decide to take part in this study, your participation will contribute to knowledge in this area of research.

At the end of the survey, you will be directed to the Prolific website. After the researcher confirms your survey responses and duration, you will receive your credit via the Prolific based on the estimated study completion time spent on the main survey; this is aprroximately £3 for 30 minutes.

**Are there any risks involved?**

Due to the nature of the survey topic and the personal questions involved, there is a possibility that taking part in this study could cause you some psychological discomfort and/or distress; however, we expect that if this occurs, it would be unlikely to be more than mild and short-lived. If this happens, you can contact your GP/ Family doctor for support or to discuss options that are available in your area, and/or you can explore some of the web sources for further information:

NHS choices: <https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Goodsex/pages/masturbation.aspx>

Planned Parenthood: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/teens/sex/masturbation

If you feel uncomfortable or wish to withdraw from the study you can do so before the end of the questionnaire by closing the internet window. You will not be entered into the prize draw, if you withdraw from the survey before submission. As this study is anonymous, data cannot be withdrawn after it has been submitted.

**What will happen to the information collected?**

All information collected for this study will be stored securely on a password protected computer and backed up on a secure server. In addition, all data will be pooled and only compiled into data summaries or summary reports. Only the researcher and their supervisor will have access to this information.

The information collected will be analysed and written up as part of the researcher’s dissertation, and it is likely to be published in a journal and presented at conferences, etc.

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity. In accordance with our Research Data Management Policy, data will be held for 10 years after the study has finished when it will be securely destroyed.

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

If you are unhappy about any aspect of this study and would like to make a formal complaint, you can contact the Head of Research Integrity and Governance, University of Southampton, on the following contact details: Email: [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk), phone: + 44 2380 595058.

Please quote the Ethics/ERGO number above. Please note that by making a complaint you might be no longer anonymous.

More information on your rights as a study participant is available via this link:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/about/governance/participant-information.page>

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and considering taking part in this research.**

Please tick (check) here box to indicate that you have read and understood information on this form,

are aged 18 or over and agree to take part in this survey.

**To Social Media participants**

**Combined Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form for Anonymous Online Surveys for Adult Participants**

**Study Title:** Couple’s sexual and relational satisfaction

**Researcher(s):** Dilan Kılıç Onar; Supervisors: Prof. Cynthia Graham and Dr. Heather Armstrong

**University email:** dk1u17@soton.ac.uk

**Ethics/ERGO no:** 62245

**Version and date:** Version 1 (14/12/2020)

**What is the research about?**

My name is Dilan Kılıç Onar and I am a PhD student at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom.

I am inviting you to participate in a study regarding sexual and romantic relationships. This research is aimed at investigating different aspects of sex and sexual practices within romantic relationships to improve our understanding of women’s and couples’ sexual and relational satisfaction. As part of an online survey, you will answer questions about your attitudes, beliefs and experiences on some sexuality-related topics, including solo and partnered sexual practices.

This study was approved by the Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC) at the University of Southampton (Ethics/ERGO Number:62245).

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

This study involves completing an anonymous questionnaire which should take approximately 20 to 30 minutes of your time. When you start completing the survey your answers will be saved.

This project is targeted at couples who are both willing to participate in the study and answer the questions independently. Due to the sensitive nature of the survey, a comfortable and private environment is suggested to ensure your privacy. If you are using a tablet computer or smartphone, it is easier to turn your device round so the screen is horizontal so that you have a wider view and easier response options.

If you are happy to complete this survey, you will need to tick (check) the box below to show your consent. As this survey is anonymous, the research team will not be able to know whether you have participated, or what answers you provided.

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

You have been asked to take part because you and your partner are aged 18 and over, currently in a romantic relationship of at least one year, and can read and understand English. This survey is inviting couples from around the world and you have been recruited through social media (Facebook, Tweeter, Instagram).

I am aiming to recruit approximately 150 couples for this study.

**What information will be collected?**

The questions in this survey ask for information in relation to your demographics (e.g. age, gender), your romantic relationship as well as your attitudes, experiences and opinions on the topic of sexual practices (partnered sex, sexual pleasure, and women’s masturbation/self-pleasuring); there are no right or wrong answers to the questions. Some of the questions are considered sensitive, for example, questions about sexual activities including masturbation experiences, sex toy use, and attitudes towards self-pleasure.

Some of the survey questions contain textboxes where you will be asked to type in your own answers. Please note that in order for this survey to be anonymous, you should not include in your answers any information from which you, or other people, could be identified.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

If you decide to take part in this study, you will not receive any direct benefits; however, your participation will contribute to knowledge in this area of research.

At the end of the survey, you will be asked whether you would like to enter a prize draw for the chance to win 1 of 20 £20 Amazon vouchers after submission of the survey. If you choose to be entered into the prize draw, at the end of the survey, you will be directed to a second survey link (prize draw sign-up form) to enter your email address for the draw. The purpose of this second survey link is to keep your survey responses anonymous. As soon as data collection is complete, we will organise the prize draw and delete email addresses from our records.

Once the survey is submitted by both you and your partner, both of you will be added to the prize draw list three times as a bonus.

**Are there any risks involved?**

Due to the nature of the survey topic and the personal questions involved, there is a possibility that taking part in this study could cause you some psychological discomfort and/or distress; however, we expect that if this occurs, it would be unlikely to be more than mild and short-lived. If this happens, you can contact your GP/ Family doctor for support or to discuss options that are available in your area, and/or you can explore some of the web sources for further information:

NHS choices: <https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Goodsex/pages/masturbation.aspx>

Planned Parenthood: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/teens/sex/masturbation

If you feel uncomfortable or wish to withdraw from the study you can do so before the end of the questionnaire by closing the internet window. You will not be entered into the prize draw, if you withdraw from the survey before submission. As this study is anonymous, data cannot be withdrawn after it has been submitted.

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