**ERGO II Ethics application form – FELS Committee**

1. **Applicant Details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.1 Applicant name** | Natalie Berry |
| **1.2 Supervisor** | Dr Claire Hart, Dr Sylwia Cisek & Prof Constantine Sedikides |
| **1.3 Other researchers / collaborators (if applicable):** *Name, address, email* | N/A |

1. **Study Details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2.1 Title of study** | Personality and Life |
| **2.2 Type of project** (e.g. undergraduate, Masters, Doctorate, staff) | Doctorate |
| **2.4 Proposed start date** (must match date stated in ERGO) | 27/11/2020 |
| **2.5 Proposed end date** (must match date stated in ERGO) | 27/05/2021 |

|  |
| --- |
| **2.6 Briefly describe the rationale for carrying out this project and its specific aims and objectives.** |
| The aim of this project is to explore what people who score high on narcissism find meaningful. In previous studies I have shown that narcissists derive Meaning in Life (MIL) from conspicuous consumption. In this exploratory study I will expand the search of areas in which narcissists derive MIL. This study will help to determine what narcissists find meaningful out of a large proportion of well-established possible sources of meaning. This study will help to inform on future studies on narcissism and meaning in life. |

|  |
| --- |
| **2.7 Provide a brief outline of the basic study design. Outline what approach is being used and why.** |
| This exploratory study will be completed online.  Participants will be asked to fill in some demographic questions followed by measures of narcissism and materialism (presented ina random order. A measure of socially desirable responding will also be included to control for possible biases in responding.  Participants will then complete a series of questionnaires assessing various sources of meaning, presence and search of meaning in life and an aspirations index (all presented in a random order).  Finally, participants will be asked to write down and rank the top three things that they find meaningful in their life and why they find them meaningful.  Attention check questions will be interspersed throughout the study.  We want to understand the relationship between the personality trait of narcissism and sources of meaning in life. |

|  |
| --- |
| **2.8 What are the key research question(s)? Specify hypotheses if applicable.** |
| **H1**. Those scoring **higher** in narcissism will report greater agreement with **agentic** sources of meaning *(as measured by Aspirations index and SoMe)*  **H2.** Those scoring **higher** in narcissism will report **lower** agreement with **communal** sources of meaning *(as measured by Aspirations index and SoMe)*  **H3a**. Those scoring **higher** in narcissism will score **higher** on **presence** and **lower** in **search** of MIL *(as measured by the MIL questionnaire)*  **H3b.** Those scoring **higher** in narcissism will score **higher** on **presence** and **lower** in **search** of MIL via greater endorsement of agentic and lower endorsement of communal sources of meaning.  **H4a.** Those scoring **higher** in narcissism will score **higher** in meaningfulness and **lower** in **crisis** of MIL *(as measured by the SoMe*)  **H4b.** Those scoring **higher** in narcissism will score **higher** in meaningfulness and **lower** in **crisis** of MIL via greater endorsement of agentic and lower endorsement of communal sources of meaning.  **H5**. Those scoring **higher** in narcissism will report more **agentic** than **communal s**ources of meaning when asked to rate their **top three sources** of meaning in life.  **H6**. Exploratory examination of the above hypotheses across the different domains of narcissism (admiration vs rivalry, adaptive vs maladaptive, grandiose vs vulnerable narcissism) |

1. **Sample and setting**

|  |
| --- |
| **3.1 Who are the proposed participants and where are they from (e.g. fellow students, club members)? List inclusion / exclusion criteria if applicable.** |
| Volunteers and students aged 18 or over with access to the internet. |

|  |
| --- |
| **3.2. How will the participants be identified and approached? Provide an indication of your sample size. If participants are under the responsibility of others (e.g., parents/carers, teachers) state if you have permission or how you will obtain permission from the third party).**  The study will be advertised on various online platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, CallforParticipants and Prolific. We will also be recruiting students from the University of Southampton in the Psychology department on ‘efolio’.  We are seeking to recruit 400 participants. |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **3.3 Describe the relationship between researcher and sample. Describe any relationship e.g., teacher, friend, boss, clinician, etc.** |
| N/A |

|  |
| --- |
| **3.4 How will you obtain the consent of participants? (***please upload a copy of the consent form if obtaining written consent***) NB. Consent form is not needed for studies collecting data online.** |
| All participants will read the information and consent form and will have to indicate their agreement to take part in the study. |

|  |
| --- |
| **3.5 Is there any reason to believe participants may not be able to give full informed consent? If yes, what steps do you propose to take to safeguard their interests?** |
| N/A |

1. **Research procedures, interventions and measurements**

|  |
| --- |
| **4.1 Give a brief account of the procedure as experienced by the participant. Make it clear who does what, how many times and in what order. Make clear the role of all assistants and collaborators. Make clear the total demands made on participants, including time and travel.** *Upload copies of questionnaires and interview schedules to ERGO.* |
| All participants will first read an informed consent form.  Participants will then be asked to complete an online survey where they will be asked to complete demographic information and measures of personality, including the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (Raskin & Terry, 1988), The Narcissistic Admiration and Rivalry Questionnaire (NARQ; Back et al., 2013), The Hypersensitivity Narcissism Scale (Hendin & Cheek, 2013), Self-esteem ( Rosenberg, 1965), the materialism scale (Richins & Dawson, 1992) and the impression management scale from The Balanced Inventory of Desirable Responding Short Form (BIDR-16; Hart et al. 2015).  Participants will then complete the dispositional measure of meaning in life (Steger et al. 2006) followed by the sources of meaning questionnaire (Schnell, 2016). Next, participants will be asked to fill out the aspirations index (Kasser & Ryan, 1996).  Participants will then be asked to write down and rank the top three things that they find meaningful in their life. They then will be asked to write why they are meaningful to them.  The study is expected to take approximately 30 minutes (to be piloted). |

|  |
| --- |
| **4.2 Will the procedure involve deception of any sort? If yes, what is your justification?** |
| No. |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **4.3. Detail any possible (psychological or physical) discomfort, inconvenience, or distress that participants may experience, including after the study, and what precautions will be taken to minimise these risks.** |
| The risk of creating distress is not bigger than in everyday life. If completing the questionnaires raises any issues, we provide links to counselling services: www.samaritans.org |

|  |
| --- |
| **4.4 Detail any possible (psychological or physical) discomfort, inconvenience, or distress that YOU as a researcher may experience, including after the study, and what precautions will be taken to minimise these risks.** |
| DN/A |

|  |
| --- |
| **4.5 Explain how you will care for any participants in ‘special groups’ e.g., those in a dependent relationship, are vulnerable or are lacking mental capacity), if applicable:** |
| N/A |

|  |
| --- |
| **4.6 Please give details of any payments or incentives being used to recruit participants, if applicable:** |
| Participants will have the option at the end of the study to be entered into a prize draw to win one of two £25 (or equivalent) Amazon vouchers. Any Psychology students from the University of Southampton will receive course credits for their time. Participants completing the study via prolific will be paid £3.75 for the 30 minute study. |

**5. Access and storage of data**

|  |
| --- |
| **5.1 How will participant confidentiality be maintained? Confidentiality is defined as non-disclosure of research information except to another authorised person. Confidential information can be shared with those already party to it and may also be disclosed where the person providing the information provides explicit consent. Consider whether it is truly possible to maintain a participant’s involvement in the study confidential, e.g. can people observe the participant taking part in the study?** |
| Personal information of the participants will be stored separately from the survey data. All data files will be kept in a password protected computer and anonymised. |

|  |
| --- |
| **5.2 How will personal data and study results be stored securely during and after the study. Who will have access to these data?** |
| All participant information will be stored on the private network of the university. All participant data will be anonymised and will only be accessible to the applicants and researchers named on this document. Responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to the 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. Data may be made available on the Open Science Framework, naturally this will be all anonymous. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential. |

|  |
| --- |
| **5.3 How will it be made clear to participants that they may withdraw consent to participate? Please note that anonymous data (e.g. anonymous questionnaires) cannot be withdrawn after they have been submitted. If there is a point up to which data can be withdrawn/destroyed e.g., up to interview data being transcribed please state this here.** |
| The information/consent form will explicitly state this. |

**6. Additional Ethical considerations**

|  |
| --- |
| **6.1. Are there any additional ethical considerations or other information you feel may be relevant to this study?**  No. |