**Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title**: Sleep Quality and The Self

**Researchers**: James W. Butterworth, Nicholas J. Kelley

**ERGO number:** 54014

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?**

The present research is a Doctoral Research Project. The aim of this research is to explore the relationship between subjective sleep quality and various concepts relating to the self and identity. For example, how does improved quality of sleep increase feelings of self-compassion? Research in this field is limited; prior literature has focused primarily on few constructs of the self, or explored this association indirectly, or not at all. The research at hand aims to build the foundations for future research to utilise, in order to provide invaluable insight into the field of psychology. This research will lead the way in investigating the relationships between sleep quality and a multitude of identity and self-related concepts. This research is funded by the University of Southampton.

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

You have been asked to participate because you are over the age of 18 and are a fluent English speaker. Your participation is optional and will provide valuable data for this research to utilise.

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

Your participation is very simple. You will be presented with a series of questionnaires regarding various aspects of your subjective sleep quality, and various constructs of the self. We ask that you answer every question, and answer with fully honesty. Your participation is completely anonymous. In full, the questionnaire will take roughly 45 minutes to complete; although you may pause and return to finish it later. You can complete the questionnaire on any device that has internet access (mobile phone / computer). No contact details will be recorded, as there is no requirement for follow up participation.

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

Your participation will provide invaluable data aiding the research into these variables of social psychology. Based up on the improved understanding of these constructs, future research may build upon the findings of the present study in order to develop significant results. Full completion of this questionnaire will also result in reimbursement to yourself in the amount of £3.75 / $4.94.

**Are there any risks involved?**

There are no significant risks involved in this study beyond those you would encounter in everyday life. Some of the questions you may be asked may ask you to think about personal or sensitive topics and although we have tried to ensure that the study does not cause distress some people may experience temporary feelings of negative emotion.

**What data will be collected?**

Basic demographic data will be record (gender / age / ethnicity / etc); although no personal information will be recorded (name / date of birth). The questionnaires incorporated into this study will regard various aspects of your sleep nature, personality traits, and wellbeing. All data will be kept confidential and maintained in accordance with the University of Southampton’s Data Management Policies. Data will be encrypted and password protected; although all data is non-identifiable to the participant.

**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.

You will be required to sign a consent form to indicate your willingness to participate, and all data and documentation will be stored securely; electronic data will be encrypted, and password protected and any other relevant security processes. Only the lead researcher (James W. Butterworth) and the co-researcher of this project will have access to the data.

**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 before you begin 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. Should you wish to withdraw from the study during the process, simply close-down the browser and do not return to it. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained for the purposes of achieving the objectives of the study only. Contact details of the researcher are available on this information sheet and will also be available at the end of the questionnaire, in case you have any queries, questions or issues.

**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. Results of the research will be published in the form of scientific articles.

**Where can I get more information?**

For any questions or further information regarding the study or any of the topics discussed so far, please contact the lead researcher (James W. Butterworth) vie email: **jb1c19@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: **jb1c19@soton.ac.uk.**

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)). Also, we have tried to ensure that the questions in this study do not cause any distress.  However, it is not uncommon to experience some anxieties or concerns when completing questionnaires about emotions, and support is available.  If participating in this study raises any issues for you, we recommend that you contact one of the following resources: UK participants: find a counsellor at www.bacp.org Worldwide: www.allaboutcounseling.com.

**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).

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