

Consent Form

Researcher:

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Title of Project: The Emotional and Behavioral Effects of Gendered Negative Stereotyping on a Group of Canadian Males

This consent form, a copy of which has been given to you, is only part of the process of informed consent. If you would like more details about something mentioned here, or information not included here, you should feel free to ask. Please take the time to read this carefully and to understand any accompanying information.

Purpose of the Study:

Men may be portrayed negatively or as suspect in some ways because of their gender. Such stereotypic assumptions may affect employment, social and family relations. The purpose of this research is to increase our understanding of the ways in which men are stigmatized and the effects of that stigmatization on their sense of well-being and behavior. We will be looking for patterns of troublesome incidents and coping that will allow us to generate a theory of stigmatization that may be tested in future research.

What Will I Be Asked To Do?

In agreeing to be part of this research, you agree to share an incident or group of incidents whereby you feel negative assumptions or suspicions were made about you because of your gender. You will describe the situation and the affect it had on you. You will also be asked to describe how you dealt with the situation and any lasting effects it had on how you see the world, see yourself or relate to others.

There are two ways you may share this information with the researcher: telephone or e-mail. If you choose the e-mail option we will arrange for a typed “conversation” where you talk about the incident and respond to inquiries from the researcher. You will be asked for your permission to record the conversation with both options. Transcriptions of these recordings allow the researcher to divide the information given into units that can be compared with the narratives of other participants in this research.

The amount of time required for each interview will vary with the individual; however, you should prepare for a couple of hours. If you think of additional things you wish to add after the interview you may contact the researcher by telephone or e-mail to provide that information.

Your participation in this research is voluntary and you may withdraw from the study at any time. If you decide to withdraw from the study before your information is used, then any information you have provided will not be used, and any records of that information will be destroyed immediately.

Are there Risks or Benefits if I Participate?

This research is intended to help counsellors understand the experience of men who have been stigmatized due to their gender. It may also have the effect of promoting greater understanding within the society at large and participants may gain an individual benefit related to self-understanding and self-affirmation. Risks are considered minimal because the incidents that you will be asked to describe are in the past and you are no longer actively engaged in those incidents in some way (for example, you are not in counselling or not engaged in the legal system as a result of those incidents). On the other hand, it is possible that an individual who is recounting a past incident that had strong emotions could again become emotional when recounting the story. For that reason, the researcher will have identified counselling supports in your area before the commencement of the interview. If you experience emotional upset when telling your story the researcher, who is a registered doctoral psychologist, will immediately stop the interview and assist you by telephone until you are ready to proceed or ready to access counselling services in your area.

What Happens to the Information I Provide?

Only the researcher listed on this form will have direct access to the information you provide. Any specific information regarding your interviews that may be quoted in publications will be under your pseudonym, and no identifying information will be used. All physical information from the research such as audio tapes will be destroyed on the completion of the study; however transcripts of both the audio recordings and the e-mail conversations will be kept in a locked cabinet for five years and will be permanently destroyed at that time. Non-identifying electronic information will be stored in a computer data base protected by password and will be destroyed at the same time.

Permissions

If you agree to this study please check the following

I grant permission to be audio taped (for those choosing to be interviewed by telephone):

Yes: ___ No: ___

I wish to remain anonymous, but you may refer to me by a pseudonym:

Yes: ___ No: ___

The pseudonym I choose for myself is: _____

You may quote me providing you refer to me by my pseudonym

Yes: ___ No: ___

I wish to review a summary of the results of this research prior to publication Yes:___No:___

Signatures (written consent)

Your signature on this form indicates that you 1) understand to your satisfaction the information provided to you about your participation in this research project, and 2) agree to participate as a research subject. In no way does this waive your legal rights and does not release the investigators, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. You are free to withdraw from this research project at any time. You should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation.

Participant's Name: (please print) _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Researcher's Name: (please print) _____

Researcher's Signature: _____ Date: _____

This study has been reviewed by the Athabasca University Research Ethics Board. Should you have any comments or concerns regarding your treatment as a participant in this study, please contact the Office of Research Ethics at 1-800-788-9041, ext. 6718 or by e-mail to rebsec@athabascau.ca