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## **Virtual Research Ethics Board**

### **Survey to determine culturally different patterns of emotional growth and stability among young adults**

#### **Background**

Dr. A. Smith's research program is focused on family relationships and the degree to which the expression of parental values influences children's emotional stability and growth.

Familial relationships have a dramatic influence on emotional growth and stability. International dating norms can vary dramatically and may be influenced by parental values. Dating practices therefore provide an excellent backdrop to assess familial relationships. We hope to characterize regional and international differences in dating practices and intend to use these differences to discern patterns associated with the emotional growth of young adults living with their parents.

The proposed research will provide the background material for my fourth year undergraduate course Psychology 453: 'Family influences on emotional growth and stability of young adults living at home'. Dr. Smith will be my supervisor for this research.

#### **Research Question**

My hypothesis is that parents play an influential role in their children's emotional stability and growth and this influence may be viewed and interpreted through the lens of dating practices. The goal is to assess the impact of parental values by comparing and contrasting culturally different dating practices.

#### **Participants (Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria)**

All individuals aged 16 and over who live with their parents will be invited to join the study.

#### **Proposed Methodology**

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The PI will join an international online 'chat room' dedicated to dating advice and marriage. Study information, including a link to the study, will be shared through that site. Ongoing conversations posted on the chat room site will be tracked; concerns and themes expressed in the chat room that are related to my research will be identified and used to aid in my data analysis. The survey instrument will be posted online and will be available to participants through a link that will also be posted on the chat room website. Questions will include participant age, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, frequency of dating, number of dating partners (current and past), strength of the participant's relationship with parents, parental views on dating practices and choice of dating partner etc. The questions will be based on Dr. Smith's former research findings (*citation*).

## **Risks**

This project is of minimal risk to the participants.

## **Benefits**

Study findings will aid in determining culturally different patterns of emotional growth and stability among young adults who live at home with their parents.

## **Recruitment**

A general invitation to participate in the research will be issued to all chat room participants. In addition, those individuals who are identified with the major themes will be sent a specific invitation to participate. I will also use the snowball technique to recruit other participants i.e. I will invite my friends to participate, and request that they invite other people that they may know (who fit within the inclusion criteria) to participate.

## **Consent Process**

Information about the survey will be posted on the website. Participation in the survey will be considered as tacit consent. No other form of consent will be sought. Participants may withdraw from the survey at any point without penalty or negative repercussions. However, participants will be informed that it will not be possible to withdraw their data once they have submitted their responses since all collected data will be anonymized and delinked upon submission.

## **Data Security**

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Only the primary investigator and the research supervisor will have access to the data. The University has purchased a license agreement with a cloud based software company that stores data on secure servers outside North America. All data collected under the University's license is stored on secure servers outside North America. Furthermore, the software company uses Transport Layer Security (TLS) encryption (also known as HTTPS) for all transmitted data. They also protect surveys with passwords and HTTP referrer checking. Data is hosted on third party data centers that are SSAE-16 SOC II certified. All data at rest are encrypted and data on deprecated hard drives are destroyed by a third-party data destruction service. No identifiable information will be collected as part of data collection. The software company provides an option to exclude identifying information (e.g. email, name, IP address) from the data collection.

Downloaded electronic data files (e.g. excel, SPSS) will be anonymized, password protected, and stored at the University on a secure personal computer that is only accessible to the researchers. All e-data as well as all paper based data (backup and original) will be destroyed after 7 years of secure storage.

**Dissemination**

The results of the research will be published as an Honours thesis and presented at a local conference. A summary of the study findings will be provided to all participants who request them. Results will be provided to the participants electronically (i.e. email) or via post-mail (if preferred).

**Other**

n/a