

**Project Title:** Longitudinal Investigation of the Consequences of Social Trauma

**Primary Researchers:**

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**Purpose and Objectives of the Research:**

- With this study we want to better understand how people view and respond to negative social experiences and what impact such experiences have on well-being and general adjustment.
- The aggregated (grouped) findings from this study will be communicated to other researchers and the public through presentations at national and international conferences and conventions, publications in peer-reviewed journals, and through other outlets deemed appropriate for communication.

**Procedures:**

- If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete online questionnaires now, and then one month, three months, and six months from now. Completing the questionnaires should take approximately 30 minutes.
- For each assessment that is completed, you will be able to enter your email address into a draw for one of four \$50 gift cards.

- Please feel free to contact the researchers to ask any questions regarding the procedures, goals, or your role in the study.
- Please note: we do not provide mental disorder diagnoses or treatments as part of the current study.

### **Confidentiality:**

- Any information gained from the questionnaires will be kept confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than those described above without your consent.
- The information gathered in this study will be encrypted and transmitted over secure protocols. Once the original electronic data has been downloaded, the data will be depersonalized and stored in an encrypted, password-protected file on a computer within the lock-secured Anxiety and Illness Behaviours Lab. Data will be stored for a period of seven years following study completion.

### **Potential Risks:**

- Some of the questionnaires ask you about topics you may find sensitive and answering them may cause you temporary emotional discomfort.
- You can contact us to receive contact information for local support, if needed. If the situation is urgent, please contact your local emergency services.

### **Potential Benefits:**

- By participating in the current study, you will be contributing to research that will provide preliminary evidence for how negative social experiences affect people over time. Your responses will be valuable information for future psychological assessment and treatment.

### **Right to Withdraw:**

- Your participation is voluntary and you can choose to answer only those questions with which you are comfortable. You can simply exit the online questionnaires and not submit your responses if you wish to withdraw.
- You may withdraw from the research project for any reason, at any time, without explanation or penalty of any sort; however, we may ask you to describe the reason you chose to withdraw. Your answer will help us with our future research, but you are under no obligation to provide an answer.
- Withdrawing from the current study will not result in any negative consequences for you.
- Data from withdrawn participants will be retained because the data provides important information for our study; however, you have the right to ask for your data to be deleted by contacting the researchers. The deadline for deleting your data from the current study is two weeks after you have completed the questionnaires.
- Please note that all responses will be anonymized, aggregated (grouped), and analyzed after the withdrawal deadline, making deletion impossible after two weeks.

**Questions or Concerns:**

- If you have any questions during participation, please feel free to contact us using the information provided above.
- The current project has been approved on ethical grounds by the University of Regina Research Ethics Board on December 1, 2017. Any questions regarding your rights as a participant may be addressed to the committee at by telephone at 306-585-4775 or by email at [research.ethics@uregina.ca](mailto:research.ethics@uregina.ca). Out of town participants may call collect.