

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FORM
Understanding Women's Experiences with Harassment Online
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What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to understand self-identified women's experiences with harassment on Twitter and other online spaces. The online harassment of women has received increased media attention, and yet, more needs to be known about the experience of harassment for meaningful solutions to emerge. You are being invited to participate in this study because of your experience with online harassment.

This study aims to make a contribution to how gendered online harassment is understood and responded to moving forward. Findings from this study may be published in academic and practitioner outlets. You may also be asked for recommendations about additional outlets to share the findings of this study.

What will I do if I choose to be in this study?

If you choose to participate in this study, your involvement will consist primarily of an interview in person or by phone, Skype, or email, depending on your preference and Internet access. Interviews will last for approximately 30 to 90 minutes. The goal of this interview will be to engage in a conversation about your online experiences, including experiences you may have had with harassment. The interview will be recorded with a digital voice recorder to aid in the accuracy of the study. You will also be asked to answer a few brief background questions prior to the interview. After the initial interview, we may wish to contact you with follow-up questions. You will be asked whether or not you would be willing to be contacted for participation in a future focus group to discuss the study's findings.

What are the possible risks or discomforts?

There are minimal risks for participation in this study. The risks are similar to those involved in daily activities such as speaking on the telephone or Skype or using email. In the case of the interview, because some of the topic matter related to experiences with harassment may be sensitive, there is a chance that your recollections may become personal and emotional. If there is any emotional distress, we will stop the interview and any data collected will be discarded. You also do not have to answer any questions with which you are uncomfortable. Breach of confidentiality is always a risk with research conducted online. However, safeguards to minimize it can be found in the discussion of confidentiality below.

Are there any potential benefits?

There is no direct benefit offered in association with participation in this study. However, your time and effort in contributing to the study are greatly appreciated. We hope that the information obtained from this study will be useful to both scholars and practitioners seeking to address online harassment as a social problem and that the findings of this study can aid in efforts to reduce online harassment. Following the conclusion of this study, a summary of the findings will be made available to participants.

Will information about me and my participation be kept confidential?

Efforts will be made to ensure your confidentiality. Your name and identifying characteristics will remain confidential and will not be included in any papers or documents produced from this study. Audio recordings, transcripts and notes will be uploaded as quickly as possible to a password-protected,

secured computer accessible only to the researchers. Data will be backed up on a password-protected flash drive and stored in a locked filing cabinet. De-identified findings from this study may be published in various scholarly or practitioner outlets and data may be used for future research. ***You will be given an opportunity to review your transcript and preliminary findings to ensure identifying information is removed and/or masked.*** The project's research records may be reviewed by departments at Purdue University responsible for regulatory and research oversight.

What are my rights if I take part in this study?

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to participate or, if you agree to participate, you can withdraw your participation at any time without penalty and without giving a reason. You are free to not answer any question or questions if you choose.

In addition to the initial interview, we may wish to contact you with follow-up questions as the study progresses. Again, your involvement in such follow-up efforts is completely voluntary and you may respond in any capacity with which you feel comfortable.

Who can I contact if I have questions about the study?

If you have questions, comments or concerns about this research project, you can talk to one of the researchers. Please contact Jasmine Linabary at jlinabar@purdue.edu or Stacey Connaughton at (765) 494-9107 or sconnaug@purdue.edu.

If you have questions about your rights while taking part in the study or have concerns about the treatment of research participants, please call the Human Research Protection Program at (765) 494-5942, email (irb@purdue.edu) or write to:

Human Research Protection Program - Purdue University
Ernest C. Young Hall, Room 1032
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West Lafayette, IN 47907-2114