
Informed Consent

This study involves providing some personal information about an experience you had with technology-facilitated sexual harassment/abuse, your feelings, and the impact of this experience. If you have NOT had an experience with technology-facilitated sexual harassment/abuse you CAN still participate in this study. Participants must be at least 14 years of age to participate in this study. This study will take approximately 30 minutes of your time.

Technology-facilitated sexual harassment/abuse can be defined as a range of behaviors where digital technologies are used to facilitate both virtual and/or face-to-face sexually based harms. Such behaviors include online sexual harassment, image-based sexual exploitation, gender and sexuality-based harassment, or the use coercive methods, such as blackmail to force a victim into an unwanted sexual act (Henry & Powell, 2016, p. 195). These experiences are commonly referred to as "revenge porn", "sextortion", online gender or sexuality-based hate speech, partner (or ex-partner) cyber-monitoring, online sexual harassment including receiving sexuality explicit images (Henry & Powell, 2016).

Remember, if you have NOT had an experience with technology-facilitated sexual harassment/abuse you CAN still participate in this study.

How old do you have to be to participate in this study? [Active informed consent question]

- At least 14 years of age
- Under the age of 14 years
- Any age

Voluntary participation: Your participation in this research project is completely voluntary. You have the right to withdraw from the research study at any time. By participating in this study, you have not waived your right to legal recourse in the event of research related harm.

Purpose & Procedures: The purpose of this study is to understand individual experiences with technology-facilitated sexual harassment/abuse and how these events are related to mental health outcomes, social or occupational functioning, social support, and bullying that might arise from the content being disseminated. Another goal is to explore the impact associated with different types of technology-facilitated sexual harassment/abuse among both teens and adults. Participation requires that you answer a series of questions related to your experience with technology-facilitated sexual harassment/abuse, and then complete a final series of questions regarding your feelings, coping
strategies, and impact of your experience. Again, if you have NOT experienced online sexual harassment you CAN still participate. Completion will take approximately 30 minutes of your time. To ensure you have read and understood the study you are about to complete, please answer the following question correctly in order to proceed.

**What is the purpose of this study?** [Active informed consent question]
- To better understand your experience with online sexual harassment
- To better understand how online sexual harassment might impact mental health and social functioning.
- All of the above

**Risks of harm:** This study is minimal risk. However, some participants may feel uncomfortable with the subject matter. If so, you can choose to withdraw from the study at any point by closing your web browser. Your data will then be discarded.

**Benefits:** If you would like to be entered in a draw to win one of ten $100 Amazon gift cards, you will be asked to submit your email address before you start the survey - your email address will not be attached to your survey responses. The results obtained from this study will contribute to our understanding of the prevalence of technology-facilitated sexual harassment/abuse among youth and adults as well as the mental health impacts, coping strategies, social or occupational impacts, and protective factors associated with online sexual victimization. Research that sheds light on the impact of online sexual harassment is fundamental to informing prevention efforts, such as digital literacy courses, and developing effective mental health intervention strategies.

**Confidentiality/Anonymity:** Participation in the survey is anonymous and every effort will be made to keep the information you provide confidential. Your name will never be connected to the data you provide. Only the principal investigator and co-investigator will have access to completed surveys and even then, will not have access to any information that identifies you. Further, online data collection methods will not be able to identify you (IP address and geodata collection elements will be disabled). Only the principal investigator and co-investigator will have access to this data. Please note that posting to comments sections on social media about this study may identify you as a participant. We therefore suggest that if this study was made available to you via a social media site, you refrain from posting comments to protect your anonymity. The information collected from this study will be stored on Qualtrics servers located in North America and is subject to the U.S. CLOUD (Clarifying Lawful Overseas Use of Data) Act that allows federal law enforcement to compel U.S.-based technology companies via subpoena to provide requested data stored on servers. However, your name will not be connected to the information you provide, so identifying you directly would be difficult. Results from this study will be disseminated via presentation, in aggregate form (grouped or summary statistics, so your personal responses will never be identified), at research conferences and through publication in journals.
Persons to Contact: If you have questions about this study, please contact the principal investigator, Amanda Champion; amanda_champion@sfu.ca or co-investigator Dr. Richard Frank; rfrank@sfu.ca

Concerns or Complaints: If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, you may contact Dr. Jeffrey Toward, Director, Office of Research Ethics at jtoward@sfu.ca or 778-782-6593.

24/7 Resources
Cyber Civil Rights Initiative: www.cybercivilrights.org or 1-844-878-CCRI
The Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) at www.rainn.org or 1-800-656-HOPE
Victim Link BC: victimlinkbc.ca or 1-800-563-0808
WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre: www.wavaw.ca or 1-877-392-7583
The Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC: crisiscentre.bc.ca or 1-800-784-2433