

Please read this document and keep it for your records. The researcher will also go through this with you before the interview.

Participant Information Sheet

A Research Study Exploring the Sexual Identity Development of Minor-Attracted Persons (MAPs).

Thank you for considering taking part in this research. Before you decide if you want to take part, it is important that you understand why this research is being carried out and what it involves.

Please take the time to read the following information. You can keep this document for your own records. If you want to discuss this study further you can contact our researcher by email: jasmin.stevenson2013@my.ntu.ac.uk.

1. What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to develop a theory of sexual identity development for individuals who identify as minor-attracted, or who are attracted to minors. We will be exploring this process from when the attraction first begins through into adulthood. The research will develop a theory of the stages of this development and its associated factors. For example, we will explore the thoughts, feelings, and behaviours that occur, as well as any experiences or milestones you feel were/are important. The research also wants to understand these experiences in adolescence – but do not worry if you feel this particular time doesn't apply to you. This research will address the gap in knowledge relating to how we understand the development of a minor attracted identity over time.

2. Can I take part in this study?

- **You are attracted (romantic/emotional/sexual) to individuals under the age of 16 years,**
- **You are willing and able to reflect on your adolescent years / when you realised the attraction,**
- **You are aged 18 or over,**
- **You speak English,**
- **You would take part in an interview over telephone or internet audio (e.g., Skype, Discord).**

If you meet these criteria you are eligible to take part.

3. Who is running this study?

This research is being conducted by Jasmin Stevenson, a researcher in the Division of Psychology at Nottingham Trent University, UK. Jasmin has researched the area of human sexuality since 2016 and has previously worked as a Senior Research Officer in mental health for the UK public sector. Jasmin has several years of expertise in conducting sensitive research. The rest of the research team consists of senior researchers, Dr Rebecca Lievesley and Dr Craig Harper.

4. What does taking part in this research involve?

You will take part in a one-to-one audio interview. This will last at least one hour. The interview will be conducted by doctoral researcher, Jasmin Stevenson. There will be questions and discussion regarding your experiences of growing up and living with a sexual/romantic/emotional attraction to minors. The interview will be audio recorded with your permission. If you do not wish to be audio-recorded, notes will be taken instead.

You have the chance to ask questions before the interview begins and you can take breaks at any point throughout the interview. You can also end the interview at any time without giving a reason and there will be no negative consequences for you. You do not have to answer any questions that make you feel uncomfortable - but as much information as you can provide is beneficial. After the interview, you will receive details of organisations you can contact for support (in case any of the topics we have talked about caused you distress). We will also have the opportunity to talk about the interview process, how it was for you and any questions you may have.

OPTIONAL: Once the findings from the research have been analysed, we would like to invite you to **check the accuracy of the developing theory**. This is to gain your perspective on the findings of the research. This would involve another discussion over the telephone/skype audio. So that we can contact you again, we would need to keep contact details for you, such as an email address. This will be stored securely and separately from any of your interview data. This second discussion could be at least 6 months after your initial interview*. Even if you agree to be contacted again, you can still change your mind and decide not to take part in another discussion. There will be no negative consequences for you if you decide not to take part.

**Please note: This second conversation is not guaranteed and may be affected by external factors, such as time remaining to complete the research.*

5. Can I stop or withdraw from this research?

You can stop your interview at any time. You do not need to give a reason and there will be no negative consequences for you. If after completing the interview you no longer wish to take part, you can ask to withdraw from the research altogether. This means that your recorded interview and any information relating to you will be destroyed as soon as possible. You will have up until 6 weeks after the interview to do this. After this time, your anonymised data may have been incorporated into the final analysis. To withdraw your contribution to the research, please contact a member of the research team. You can do this by telephone, email, or letter ([see contact details in the footnote /end of this document](#)). Please state 'withdrawal from study 1'.

6. What will happen to the information I provide in my interview?

The audio recorded interviews will be written up word-by-word into anonymised transcripts and analysed. This will inform the results and conclusions that can be drawn from the research. The

findings from this project will be published by way of academic journals, conferences and signposted to practitioners who work with MAPs. They will be used to develop an understanding of the sexual identity development and experiences of adults with an attraction to children. Where appropriate, extracts from the interview will be used in the final report (in year 2023/24) and research articles (from year 2021 onwards).

6.1. How are my rights to confidentiality and anonymity protected?

To protect your anonymity (to not be identified) all names, places and organisations that have been mentioned within the interview will be removed or changed. This will happen during the writing-up process, before files are shared with the research team, and before results are made public. There will be nothing that can personally identify you in any of the data.

To protect your right to confidentiality (keeping things private) any personally identifiable information we hold about you will be stored securely. This would include signed consent forms, an email address we have communicated through, and your interview recording. Documents such as these will require password access and will be stored in a secure network ([see section 6.2](#)).

All documents and data will be stored separately. Documents are things like the consent form you sign to take part in the research. Data are things like your interview recording. For example, your consent form will not be stored with your transcript, and your email will not be stored with your interview recording. Where information exists that links these documents together, only the research team will have access to this password protected document. [Please see section 6.2 for more information.](#)

The exception to Confidentiality and Anonymity

The only exception to maintain the confidentiality and anonymity of your data is if you disclose details of **previously unreported** or **intended criminal activity** and we **can identify you or an alleged victim.**

In this case the researcher would have an obligation both lawful and professional to report you to the relevant authorities.

At no time during the research process will the researcher ask questions that might incriminate you. We strongly advise that you do not reveal any identifying information unless you wish to do so. Where offences are mentioned by the participant, the researcher will assume these have been reported.

6.2. How is my data stored during the project?

Several safeguards are in place to protect your privacy and to ensure the security of the research data. The Nottingham Trent University (NTU) Data Store will be used to store the research data. This is a secure platform designed specifically for sensitive and confidential data. The interview audio recording will be transferred from a password-protected Dictaphone to this data store. The recording will then be deleted from the recording device. The anonymised interview transcript will also be stored at the data store. Only the immediate research team will be able to access the research data.

6.3. *What happens to my data when the project ends?*

The end of the entire research project will be January 2024. After this point the final anonymised dataset (from all participants) will be deposited in the NTU Data Archive and kept here for 10 years. This will not include any interview recordings or personally identifiable information. It will include documents like interview transcripts which are fully anonymised. This enables the data collected during this project to be accessed and used by other researchers (upon request only). These researchers may use the anonymised data for their own research purposes. Only genuine researchers can request this access, subject to strict conditions that protect the integrity of the data. They are not guaranteed access to this data.

7. What are the potential benefits and risks to taking part?

A benefit of taking part in this research is that your experiences will directly be contributing to the understanding of adult attraction to minors and this experience in adolescence. A potential risk to taking part is that you may find it distressing or uncomfortable to talk about your experiences. You will have the opportunity after the interview to talk about the interview process and any concerns you might have, and you will be given contact information for organisations which offer information and support.

8. Ethical review of the study

The research has received ethical approval by Nottingham Trent University's College Research Ethics Committee (CREC). It also draws reference from the British Psychological Society's Code of Human Research Ethics (2014).

9. I am still interested, what do I do next?

Please contact the Principal Investigator, Jasmin at jasmin.stevenson2013@my.ntu.ac.uk, if you wish to take part in the project and/or require further information.

Jasmin and the research team are based at the *School of Social Sciences, Department of Psychology, Nottingham Trent University, Burton Street, Nottingham, UK, NG1 4BU.*

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If you have any complaints after taking part in this study, please contact the senior research team listed above who will independently investigate this.

We look forward to hearing from you!