

CONSENT FORM

1. TITLE OF PROJECT

Nature and Correlates of Romantic Attraction to Children

2. RESEARCHER INFORMATION

My name is Julia Levitan. I am completing this research in partial fulfilment of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology at McGill University (Montreal, Quebec, Canada). If you have questions about this research, you may contact me or my faculty supervisor, Dr. David Vachon, at any time. (To protect your privacy, I encourage you to use a pseudonym and email address that do not suggest your identity.)

Julia Levitan (Principal Investigator): julia.levitan@protonmail.com

Dr. David Vachon (Faculty Supervisor): dvachon@mcgill.ca

3. PURPOSE

This is a study investigating the nature and correlates of romantic attraction to persons across physical maturity stages, ranging from infants to the elderly.

The study has received ethical clearance from the Research Ethics Board at McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada (REB File #: 22-08-069).

4. ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible to participate in this study if:

- You are age 18 or older
- You understand English
- You experience sexual and/or romantic attraction to prepubescent and/or pubescent children

Note: You are eligible (and encouraged) to participate whether you experience only sexual but not romantic attraction to children, only romantic but not sexual attraction to children, or both.

5. PROCEDURES

Participation involves completing a closed-response (e.g., multiple choice) survey, which should take approximately 30 minutes in total. You will be asked to respond to a variety of questions about yourself, including about your experiences of sexual and romantic attraction to persons across age/maturity stages, your personality, mental health and wellbeing, and your interactions with children (including convictions or arrests for child sexual offenses).

6. RIGHT TO DISCONTINUE

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You may refuse to participate outright, or withdraw your participation at any time during survey completion by exiting the survey tab or clicking the 'Leave and Delete my Data' button at the bottom-left of the page. However, if you exit the survey tab without clicking the 'Leave and Delete my Data' button, or you choose to submit your responses at the end of the survey, you will not be able to request that researchers remove your responses from analyses because no identifiable markers will be included.

7. ANONYMITY

Your participation in this study will be anonymous. No identifying information will be requested beyond basic demographic information, and your data will be identified using only a numeric ID number. The survey is hosted on SoSci Survey, a secure online platform that guarantees anonymity. (It does not store IP addresses, uses SSL encryption, is secured against unauthorized access, has SSH-encrypted access, does not use any cookies, and is TOR-compatible.)

In addition to our efforts to safeguard your privacy, you may wish to take additional precautions. Specifically, you may consider: a) completing the survey in a private place, b) completing the survey using an incognito tab, c) closing the survey tab if taking breaks during survey completion (by clicking the 'Pause the Survey' button at the bottom-left of the page), or d) deleting your browser history upon completion of the survey.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

The data you provide will be kept confidential. Only the researcher, her supervisor, and authorized research assistants will have access to the data, which will be password-protected and stored on the principal investigator's personal computer and the research lab computer (both password-protected for entry). All data will be kept for a period of seven years following the publication of findings from this study, after which they will be destroyed.

9. BENEFITS OF THE STUDY

You may gain helpful insights about yourself as a result of reflecting upon and answering our questions. In addition, your participation will directly contribute to the understanding of an under-researched domain of attraction to children: romantic attraction. Findings are expected to help broaden conceptualizations of attraction to children beyond strictly sexual attraction, and inform research and psychological treatment of minor-attracted persons so that they are better understood and supported.

10. RISKS OF THE STUDY

Given the personal nature of this survey, it is possible that you may experience some discomfort while responding. In addition, this survey includes semi-realistic medical illustrations of nude individuals ranging in age from infant to elderly (standing in neutral position), which may similarly lead to discomfort. (Rest assured that these illustrations do *not* qualify as child pornography.) Should feelings of discomfort occur, you are free to take breaks from answering and return to the survey at a later time (by clicking the 'Pause the Survey' button at the bottom-left of the page), skip questions that make you uncomfortable (by selecting the 'Prefer not to respond' response option), or discontinue your participation altogether (by exiting the browser or selecting the 'Leave and Delete my Data' button at the bottom-left of the page). In addition, it can be helpful to reach out to a person(s) you trust for support, or alternatively, you may wish to make note of this list of resources:

Peer Support Groups for People who are Attracted to Children

B4U-ACT Peer Support: <https://www.b4uact.org/attracted-to-minors/peer-support/>

Online Chat Lifeline: <https://www.lifeline.chat/>

Virtuous Pedophiles Forum: <https://virped.org/>

John Hopkins – Resources for People Concerned About Their Sexual Thoughts and Behavior: <https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/moore-center-for-the-prevention-of-child-sexual-abuse/resources/covid-19-csa-prevention/>

General Mental Health Support

Global Directory for Mental Health Support: <https://checkpointorg.com/global/>

- scroll down to find your country
- the tabs “Emergency Numbers” and “General Websites” are likely to be the most helpful

Your Life Counts – Worldwide Supports: <https://yourlifecounts.org/find-help/>

- *please consider accessing this resource if you are having thoughts of **suicide***
- type your country into the search bar
- you do not have to type in the province/state

In addition, there is a remote possibility that a person(s) in your personal life may come across your survey responses on your computer, thus exposing details about your personal beliefs and experiences. This is unlikely to occur should you remain at your computer for the duration of survey completion. However, if you'd like to take extra safety precautions, remember that you may consider the additional measures outlined in section 7.

11. COMPENSATION

At the end of the survey, you will be given the option to provide an email address to be entered in a draw to win one of three \$100CAD Amazon eGiftCards. (You will be asked to click a link to a *separate* survey on SoSci Survey to enter your email address, so it will not be possible to link your email address with your survey responses at any time.)

If you are one of the randomly selected winners, the principal investigator will email you by July, 2023 with instructions to retrieve your eGiftCard.

12. DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH

I will publish the results of this research in my doctoral dissertation. I may also publish findings in academic journals or speak about the research publicly (e.g., at academic conferences).

13. ETHICAL ISSUES

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your rights or welfare as a participant in this study, please email Lynda McNeil (Associate Director, Research Ethics, McGill University) at lynda.mcneil@mcgill.ca. (Once again, to protect your privacy, you are encouraged to use a pseudonym and email address that do not suggest your identity.)

Please save a copy of this consent information for your records.

[Julia Levitan](#), PhD Candidate, Department of Psychology, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada