



DETAILED CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY

You are being invited to take part in the following research study: The Curative Kink Research Project

Researchers:

The persons conducting this study are Cory J. Cascalheira, Yelena Salkowitz, Ellen E. Ijebor, and Tracie L. Hitter, PhD.

WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES AND PROCEDURES OF THIS STUDY?

The primary aim of the present project is to create a thematic model of how survivors of childhood abuse heal from, cope with, and transform their trauma through kink and/or bondage, discipline, sadism, and masochism (BDSM). Additionally, it attempts to reduce the stigmatizing language of pathology around non-traditional sexual practices.

As a participant, you can expect a single interview via Skype, Zoom, or by phone. After answering some demographic questions, we will ask you about your perception of, interest in, and involvement with kink and/or BDSM (e.g., “How do you define your sexual practices?”). We will ask you to reflect on your experiences with kink and/or BDSM as it relates to your memories of childhood abuse (e.g., “What makes kink play a safe space to explore or heal from past abuse?”). You will have the chance to select a pseudonym and any accidental information disclosed in the interview will be removed (e.g., if you disclose that your hometown is Denver, we will write “a large urban city”). Your responses will be record and transcribed. In addition to the researchers listed above, we may ask research assistants to help us transcribe your interview.

WHY ARE WE ASKING YOU TO PARTICIPATE FOR THIS STUDY?

You are being asked to participate in this study because you survived childhood abuse and we are interested in how you use kink and/or BDSM to make sense of your experiences.

ARE THERE REASONS WHY YOU WOULD NOT QUALIFY FOR THIS STUDY?

You may be ineligible to participate in this study if:

- a) You are under the age of 18;
- b) You do not engage in kink and/BDSM; or
- c) You have not experienced childhood abuse.

WHAT IS THE DURATION?

Your participation in this research will last approximately 1 hour. You will schedule an interview with the Researchers at a convenient time for both of you. If you discuss informed consent on the same day as your interview, please anticipate an additional 10 minutes to discuss this document.

At a later date, you might be invited to review the results or offer feedback on the themes, which may take about 5 to 10 minutes.

WHERE IS THE STUDY GOING TO TAKE PLACE?

The research procedures will be conducted via Skype, Zoom, or over the phone.



WHAT IF NEW INFORMATION IS LEARNED DURING THE STUDY THAT MIGHT AFFECT YOUR DECISION TO PARTICIPATE?

You will be informed if the Researchers learn new information that could change your mind about staying in the study. You may be asked to sign a new informed consent form if the information is provided to you after you have joined the study.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS, RISKS, COSTS, and COMPENSATIONS OF PARTICIPATION?

Benefits

The Researchers cannot know if you will get any personal benefit from taking part in this study. You may experience a positive emotion after sharing your story. However, there may be potential benefits for the public, such as a model that normalizes non-traditional sexual practices such as kink and/or BDSM. Findings will (a) provide sex-positive language for mental health professionals and (b) reduce stigma as a barrier to mental health care for individuals who participate in these sexual practices.

Risks

The expected risk of participating is emotional discomfort upon bringing up difficult memories. As a precaution, the consent form will remind study participants that they are free to withdraw from the study at any time or refuse to answer any questions without penalty. Additionally, Researchers will terminate the interview, without penalty, if it seems likely that the emotional discomfort is too painful. The Researchers (two counseling psychology trainees and one licensed psychologist) will continue to check in with you to ensure that the memories and emotions are manageable.

Participants may also have concerns about a breach of confidentiality given the sensitive nature of some questions. However, responses are completely confidential; only pseudonyms will be used. No identifying information (i.e., name, birth date, hometown, current city) will be reported or published.

If you believe you are hurt, distressed, or if you get sick because of something that is due to the study, you should immediately contact the Researchers and/or the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance at New Mexico State University, [575-646-7177](tel:575-646-7177) or ovpr@nmsu.edu. The Researchers will help you find a mental health provider in your area.

In addition to risks described in this consent, you may experience a previously unknown risk. If at any time you experience discomfort or distress in relation to the study, you are encouraged to contact a mental health professional. To access mental health resources or find a therapist, you can use:

- APA Psychologist Locator: <https://locator.apa.org/>
- Psychology Today, Find a Therapist: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/therapists>
- MentalHealth.gov: <https://www.mentalhealth.gov/get-help>
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), M–F, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST:
 - 1-866-615-6464
- The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), M–F, 10:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST:
 - 1-800-950-6264
 - info@nami.org



- Crisis Text Line: Text CONNECT to 741741
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-4673
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
 - 1-888-628-9454 (Spanish)
 - 1-800-799-4889 (TTY)
- Signs That You Might Therapy: <https://www.goodtherapy.org/blog/why-should-i-go-to-therapy-8-signs-its-time-to-see-a-therapist-0118197>

Costs

There are no costs associated with taking part in this study.

Compensations

You will receive a \$10 Amazon.com gift card for taking part in this study.

WILL YOU BE GIVEN INDIVIDUAL RESULTS FROM THE STUDY?

For this study, you will not be given individual results. However, if you are interested, the Researchers will share the overall results with you.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The Researchers will keep your name and other identifying information private to the extent that we can. The Researchers will make every effort to prevent anyone who is not on the research team from knowing that you gave us information, or what that information is. You should know that there are some circumstances in which the Researchers may have to show your information to other people. If the Researchers become aware that you want to harm yourself or harm others (especially children and the elderly), they will follow legal requirements and report the incident to the appropriate individuals or authorities.

The Researchers will take careful steps to keep your information confidential and deidentified. No personally identifiable information (e.g., name, birth date, place of birth, etc.) will be collected. In addition to pseudonyms, any accidental disclosures of information that may reveal your identity (i.e., your username on social media, your current city) will be obscured during transcription. All interviews will be audio and/or video recorded. The recordings will be downloaded, encrypted, and stored on a password-protected USB drive. After downloading the recordings, they will be deleted from Zoom or Skype. If you elect to conduct your interview by phone, the researchers will record the interview in a private room using a voice recorder. Please schedule your interview at a time when others cannot hear your responses (such as in your home).

The Researchers and their research assistants will have access to the recordings. The encrypted USB drives and recording device will be stored in a locked cabinet in the CEP Graduate Lounge at New Mexico State University. After the Researchers have transcribed your recorded interview, they will play the recording while analyzing the transcript to ensure your story is not misrepresented. Once data analysis is complete, the recording will be deleted so that your voice cannot be identified.

Transcriptions will then be transferred to password-protected computers and, in the interest of scientific integrity, will be stored on the Open Science Framework (<https://www.osf.io>).



The Researchers will make every effort to safeguard your information during this process, but the security of information obtained through commercial communications platforms, such as Zoom and Skype, cannot be guaranteed. However, both companies use 256-bit TLS and AES-256 encryption. Please be aware that phone lines are typically not encrypted. It is your responsibility to find a private location for your interview.

The findings and results of the study may appear publicly, in whole or in part, as dissertations, journal articles, books and/or book chapters, conference presentations, and on the Open Science Framework (<https://osf.io>).

WHERE WILL INFORMATION BE STORED AND FOR HOW LONG?

The information, in audio or video format, will be stored on encrypted USB drives for no more than 3 years. Once the recordings are deleted, the transcriptions will be stored on password-protected computers and on the Open Science Framework.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS OR WANT TO WITHDRAW:

Participation in this study is strictly voluntary. You may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

If you choose to leave the study, you have the right to decide whether data collected up to that point that can be linked to your identity will remain in the study database or should be removed.

The Researchers conducting the study may need to remove you from the study. This may occur for a number of reasons. You may be removed from the study if you are not able to follow the directions, they find that your participation in the study is more risk than benefit to you, or the agency paying for the study chooses to stop the study early for a number of scientific reasons.

The Researchers at New Mexico State University, Department of Counseling & Educational Psychology in charge of this study are Cory J. Cascalheira, who may be reached at (575) 323-1272 or coryjc@nmsu.edu, Yelena Sakowitz at ysalkow@nmsu.edu, and their faculty supervisor, Tracie L. Hitter, Ph.D., at (575) 646-3755 or thitter@nmsu.edu.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns about your rights as a participant in this research study, contact the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance at New Mexico State University 575-646-7177 or ovpr@nmsu.edu.

A copy of this form is available for you to keep.



INFORMED CONSENT SIGNATURE PAGE

**You are a participant or are authorized to act on behalf of the participant.
This consent includes the following:**

- **Key Information Page**
- **Detailed Consent**

You will receive a copy of this consent form after it has been signed.

Signature of research subject or, if applicable,
**research subject's legal representative*

Date

Printed name of research subject and, if applicable,

**Printed name of research subject's legal representative*

**If applicable, please explain Representative's relationship to subject and include a description of representative's authority to act on behalf of subject:*

Printed name of [authorized] person obtaining informed consent

Date

Signature of Principal Investigator or Sub/Co-Investigator