

Interviews with Women (RS Study)

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

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What is the study about?

We are masters students and an academic in psychology at the University of Auckland and we are interested in exploring women's experiences of unwanted and/or non-consenting 'rough sex'. This could include a range of different experiences where 'rough sex' was not equally wanted by both people. This may be because of psychological pressure from the other person or a more general feeling as if it was expected. It could also involve explicit threats, physical force, intimidation, deception, or starting 'rough sex' in the context of a sexual interaction without any prior talk or agreement.

Who can participate?

If you are in Auckland, are 18 years of age or older, fluent in English, and have had any previous experience of 'rough sex' that was unwanted or pressured (whether you ended up consenting to it or not), we would like to invite you to participate in this research.

We are hoping to interview around 40 women. In this interview, you will be given the opportunity to talk about your experiences in a non-judgmental and confidential environment while contributing to one of the first research studies in this area.

Note: If you are a student, colleague, friend, or family member of the researchers, we recommend not participating in this study. However, if you are a student of the researchers, and you do wish to participate, we give our assurance that your participation or non-participation in this study will have no effect on your grades or relationship with the University and that you may contact the Head of the School of Psychology should you feel that this assurance has not been met.

What does the study involve?

Should you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to take part in a face-to-face interview that will last approximately one to one and a half hours. The interviews will be conducted in an interview room at the University of Auckland at a time that is suitable for you. In the case that a face-to-face interview is not possible, we may be able to arrange for the interview to be done online through Zoom. The interview will focus on your personal experiences, including the context, circumstances, impacts and effects, and your related views and experiences. The interview will be audio recorded so it can later be transcribed for analysis. We will also ask you to complete a brief form of demographic questions (e.g., about your age, ethnicity and so on).

To recognise the transportation costs that may be involved in participating in our research, participants will receive a \$20 voucher as compensation for their time and efforts in travelling to the interview.

What data will be collected and what use will be made of it?

Your interview will be transcribed from audio to text by your interviewer (Daman, Bella or Nicola), or in some cases by another person employed to do this. Interview transcripts will be analysed, and excerpts from the interviews (and some demographic/descriptive information) will be included in our masters theses, and in other publications and presentations. On the transcripts and in any reports about the research findings, pseudonyms will be used instead of participants' real names.

The transcript from your interview and the demographics form that you fill out will be marked with codes (letter and numbers), which will be applied by your interviewer at the time of the interview. These data will be kept in secure storage for a minimum of six years, or longer if we are still doing research in this area and are in a position to keep the project data secure. Beyond that time, hard copies of the interviews will be shredded, and digital files deleted. This material will not be shared with anyone not involved with the research – those involved in the research may include additional researchers or research assistants at some point in the future, although those people would not have access to any documents with your name on.

Consent Forms and records with your name on them (e.g., a document that has your name, contact details, and interview code – kept in case we need to remove data) will be stored by the Principal Investigator in a secure manner, with access restricted to the Principal Investigator (Nicola), Bella and Daman. This material will be kept in a completely separate place from the interview transcripts and demographic forms.

Are there any risks?

We hope you will find it helpful to discuss your experiences in a private and non-judgemental environment. Since the interview will involve discussing very personal matters that might in some cases be associated with upsetting memories and emotions, participation in this project could bring about distressing feelings. If this happens, you can choose to pause or stop the interview at any time without giving a reason.

You are welcome to bring a friend or member of your whānau to the interview. We would recommend this be someone who you have already told about your experiences. Please let us know if you intend to do this, so we can make arrangements.

As the interviews involve personal stories, there is a very slight chance that interview extracts or descriptions of your experiences included in research publications could identify you to someone who knows you and your story. We take your privacy very seriously, and would ask you to let us know if there's anything particular that you think would identify you that you may wish us not to include in any publications. In cases where we have our own concerns about this, we can always leave out or slightly alter details that might be identifying, without changing the main points of your story.

Can participants change their mind and withdraw from the study?

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you can withdraw any time before or during the interview, or up to **one month** afterwards, without giving reason. Any decision to withdraw from the study would

be met with understanding and respect, no questions asked. You also have the option to withdraw aspects of your story in the one month period after the interview, should you wish. If you were to contact us later than one month, we would still do our best to follow your wishes – although when the analysis is finalised and publications are released it is not always possible to remove data.

Is it all confidential?

We will do everything we can to maintain participants' confidentiality, and participants will never be referred to by name within our reports, publications, presentations, and so on. All researchers and transcribers from outside the research team will sign a confidentiality agreement to ensure participants' information is kept as confidential as possible. Although it is unlikely, there is always the chance that a participant's identity might be guessed by someone who knows them well, particularly if unique details are shared. For this reason, we would ask you to carefully consider what you feel comfortable talking about and let us know if there is anything you would not want us to refer to in the research.

We are also asking your permission to re-contact you in the future so that we can check in with you if we are concerned about any details you have told us. For example, if we may need to check details that we would like to include in our reports, if we are concerned certain details might be too private or, if we are concerned that anyone is being harmed so that we can offer assistance. While it is our duty as researchers to uphold your confidentiality at all times, in the unlikely case of disclosures of conduct that would cause serious harm to either yourself or to others we would be obligated to disclose this information to appropriate authorities.

Can I get a summary of the research outcomes?

Of course! You can request this on the consent form given to you at your interview. Just circle that you wish to receive a summary and write your email address.

You are always welcome to contact us in the future as well, to check on updates on our research publications. Academic research can be a slow process! We may publish some articles after we have shared that summary with you.

Contact information

If you would like to be involved, have any questions, or would like to know more, please contact 022 165 6673 or womenrsstudy@auckland.ac.nz. Alternatively, you can contact the Principal Investigator, Professor Nicola Gavey, who will be supervising the project. Email: n.gavey@auckland.ac.nz. The Head of School for Psychology is: Professor Suzanne Purdy, School of Psychology, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142, Telephone 09 923 8516, Email: s.purdy@auckland.ac.nz.

For any concerns regarding ethical issues you may contact the Chair, the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee, Office of Strategy Research and Integrity, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142. Telephone 09 373-7599 ext. 83711. Email: humanethics@auckland.ac.nz.

Approved by the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee on 24/06/2021 for three years. Reference Number UAHPEC22