

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Body Positivity and Fat Activism On Instagram: Bodies and the Digital Field

HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVAL NUMBER: H-2021-139

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Professor Megan Warin

STUDENT RESEARCHER: Tarmia Klass

STUDENT'S DEGREE: PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Gender Studies

Dear Participant,

You are invited to participate in the research project described below.

What is the project about?

This research project is about Body Positivity (BOPO) and Fat Acceptance/ Fat Liberation movement (FAM/FLM) advocates and activists on Instagram and people who interact with these communities.

Who is undertaking the project?

This project is being conducted by Tarmia Klass. This research will form the basis for a degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Adelaide under the supervision of Dr Megan Warin and Dr Dianne Rodger.

Why am I being invited to participate?

- You are being invited to participate because you are a part of the BOPO or FAM/FLM community(s) on Instagram.
- You are an active part of one or both of these communities, either through creation of content, advocacy and activism, or through regular and sustained interaction with creators or activists.
- You are over the age of 18.

- If you are part of the FAM community you identify as fat or plus-size (if you are part of the BOPO community you DO NOT need to identify as fat or plus size but if you do that is welcomed).

What am I being invited to do?

You are being invited to take part in the study as a participant.

As a participant you will take part in all, or some, of the following aspects of research:

- Observation (the researcher will observe your online activity, take notes of your posts, interactions, photo captions, reels, videos. The researcher may ask you the occasional question about these activities).
- An interview later on in the project around themes of embodiment online, your relationship with your body/fatness, how and why you chose this space to advocate/educate/share, how space is made on Instagram by activists/advocates for activism/education.
- Any follow up that may be requested
- Use of any recording (audio, video) or photographs, screen captures, quotes.
- Location of activities to take place completely online/ over video call.

How much time will my involvement in the project take?

Time commitment from the participant is minimal.

- Interviews will take 60 minutes but could be longer or shorter if the you requires.
- The observation element of the project does not take up any of your time

Are there any risks associated with participating in this project?

The only risks associated with participating in this project is discomfort and anxiety surrounding the interview process. The researcher will email you a copy of the interview questions and themes before the interview. If there are any questions that you do not want to answer they can simply let the interviewer know and the questions will be removed from the interview process.

Interviews can also be stopped or paused at any time. It is also my top priority to make sure that you are comfortable during the interview process and I will check-in, e.g. ask you how you are doing, throughout.

What are the potential benefits of the research project?

The potential benefits of the research project for the participant and wider BOPO and FAM communities are to have your voice heard and to communicate your opinions and thoughts. The research may result in your words being used in research material and could broaden academic understanding of the lived experiences of fat and/or body positive advocates.

Can I withdraw from the project?

- Participation in this project is completely voluntary. If you agree to participate, you can withdraw from the study at any time up until the publication of papers or the submission of the thesis.
- If you indicate that the researcher may still use the information you have already provided but you no longer wish to participate the researcher will make all data (quotes, comments) unidentifiable and will not use any photos or direct quotes.
- Withdrawal can only occur fully before the publication of the academic papers that will make up some of the thesis and before the final thesis is submitted. Any withdrawals after the submission of any parts of the thesis (papers or final submission) will not result in the anonymisation of participant information.

What will happen to my information?

Confidentiality and privacy: As a participant in this project you have the choice of whether to remain entirely anonymous, to go by a pseudonym, or to participate fully with your name and identifiers. If you chose to remain anonymous all steps will be taken to achieve this but complete anonymity may not be possible due to the nature of internet content being highly searchable.

Storage: All data collected will be stored on external, password protected hard-drives that will only be accessible by the researcher. Some data may be stored in cloud data but will still only be accessible by the Miss Klass. As with complying with university storage suggestions all data will be kept for a minimum of 5 years after the project has been completed. However, only the researcher will have access and the data will only be used again for closely related papers, presentations, and publications.

Publishing: The information collected may be included in the publication of journal articles, or conference presentations, and could be included in the submission of a final PhD thesis. If your information is to be used in any of these previously mentioned formats you will be contacted and you will be able to give feedback on these before publication/submission/presentation.

Sharing: All work including your information, including written work and interview transcripts will be made available to you to read over before publication or other/ further sharing. If at any point before the submission of the thesis/ publication of papers, you want information you provided to be kept private the researcher will anonymise you information, however extended consent allows the researcher to continue to use the content in closely related projects.

Your information will only be used as described in this participant information sheet and it will only be disclosed according to the consent provided, except as required by law.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the project?

If you have questions please contact:

Primary Contact:

Dr Megan Warin

Email: megan.warin@adelaide.edu.au

Phone no. 83134864

Researcher:

Miss Tarmia Klass

Email: tarmia.klass@adelaide.edu.au

Phone No. 0449611501

Instagram: [tklassy98](#)

What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

The study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Adelaide (approval number H-2019-xxx). This research project will be conducted according to the NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 (Updated 2018). If you have questions or problems associated with the practical aspects of your participation in the project, or wish to raise a concern or complaint about the project, then you should consult the Principal Investigator. If you wish to speak with an independent person regarding concerns or a complaint, the University's policy on research involving human participants, or your rights as a participant, please contact the Human Research Ethics Committee's Secretariat on:

Phone: +61 8 8313 6028

Email: hrec@adelaide.edu.au

Post: Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza, 50 Rundle Mall, ADELAIDE SA 5000

Any complaint or concern will be treated in confidence and fully investigated. You will be informed of the outcome.

If I want to participate, what do I do?

If you want to participate in this study please email/direct message the primary researcher Tarmia Klass.

If you want more information a video or audio call can be arranged to talk through the details. A link to the consent form, which needs to be completed to the participant, can be found at the link in the researcher's Instagram profile or emailed to you.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Megan Warin

Ms Tarmia Klass

Dr Dianne Rodger