



California State University SAN MARCOS

Build and Broaden: Growing Capacity in Research Examining Entrepreneurship as a Response to Socio-Legal Exclusion

Consent Form for Research Participation – In-Person Focus Group

Dear participant,

My name is Carly Offidani-Bertrand, and I am an assistant professor in the College of Education, Health & Human Services at California State University San Marcos - CSUSM. I am working in this research project with Paola Ometto, an assistant professor at the College of Business Administration at CSUSM. You are invited to participate in a research study about your experiences as a minority entrepreneur.

You were selected as a possible participant because we identified you as someone who is an entrepreneur who identifies as a person of color. Please read this form carefully and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study. This form has important information about the reason for doing this study, what we will ask you to do if you decide to be in this study, and the way we would like to use information about you if you choose to be in the study.

You must be 18 or older to participate in the study.

Key information about this study

The following is a short summary of this study to help you decide whether to be a part of this study. Information that is more detailed is listed later on in this form.

The purpose of this study is to understand how individual and collective factors shape the development of entrepreneurial ventures within minority communities of color. You will be asked to participate in a focus group, and possibly a follow-up interview. We expect that you will be in this research study for a maximum of two hours. The primary inconvenience of your participation is the time it will take for you to complete the focus group. The primary risk of participation is tiredness and emotional distress during the interview/focus group process. The main benefit is helping in the understanding of how minority entrepreneurs overcome difficulties, and providing knowledge for other entrepreneurs. You will also receive a stipend of US \$50.00 for participating after we finish the focus group.

Why are you doing this study?

You are being asked to participate in a research study about entrepreneurship in minority groups. We recognize that many individuals in minority groups face more challenges to start and develop their businesses. The purpose of this study is to understand how different factors (individual, collective, societal) impact the development of entrepreneurial ventures within minority communities of color.



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What will I do if I choose to be in this study?

If you agree to be in the study, you will do the following: participate in a focus group. You will perform the activity once and you might have a quick follow-up interview if you agree to participate. In the focus group, you will also be asked to answer questions about how you started your business, what barriers you faced in your entrepreneurial trajectory, how being part of a minority group impacted your entrepreneurial journey, and what were the organizations and other supports that helped you with your business. Other participants might interact and give their views on the same questions.

Study time: Study participation will take the form of a focus group that will last approximately 1-2 hours. In case we do a follow-up interview, it should not take more than 20 minutes.

Study location: Focus group and follow-up interviews will take place at an open area at CSUSM.

We would like to record the focus group so as to make sure that I remember accurately all the information you provide. We will keep these recordings on a password protected computer and they will only be used by the investigators.

What are the possible risks or discomforts?

There are minimal risks and inconveniences associated with participating in this study, not much more than you would experience in everyday life. These minimal risks include:

- The time participants spend participating in the study.
- Participants may feel uncomfortable answering the interview questions.
- Participants may feel psychological distress while discussing their experiences of discrimination as a person of color, as well while discussing experiences of being formerly incarcerated and facing legal challenges related to immigration.
- Participants may feel anxious and/or fearful of being exposed to COVID-19 in the study.
- Participants may be at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to contact between participants and focus group leader.
- Due to the nature of focus groups, complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

What are we going to do to minimize these risks/discomforts?

To minimize these risks and inconveniences, the following measures will be taken:

- The focus group will be scheduled at a time that is convenient to the participants and at a place that is private.
- Participants can skip any questions that they feel uncomfortable answering during the interview.
- Participants can ask for a break or to stop the interview. If participants experience psychological distress, they can seek out mental health resources at <https://www.csusm.edu/counseling/healthlinks.html>. In the case of extreme depression or



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suicidal ideation participants can get help by contacting the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

- We are taking the following precautions to minimize the possibility that you will be exposed to the COVID-19 virus: Interviews will take place in an outdoor space with ample ventilation. Researchers and participants will maintain social distance at all times. Masks may be used if requested by the participant. All researchers are fully vaccinated.
- In spite of these precautions, the risk of exposure to COVID-19 is still present.
- At the start of the focus group, participants will be advised not to share information that might put participants at risk, while at the same time we will review with all participants of the focus group that all information shared in the group is strictly confidential and cannot be shared outside the bounds of the group.

How will you protect the information you collect about me, and how will that information be shared?

Results of this study may be discussed in reports and presentations. However, your name will never be revealed in any reports or presentations about the findings of this study. We are going to use a pseudonym to refer to you in our reports (for example: Interviewee1). There will be confidentiality between the participant and the researcher such that the information you share with the researcher will not be linked back to you. The researchers will not share any identifiable information with others outside of the study.

During the research process, the taped and transcribed interviews will be kept in password-protected files in the researcher's own computer (to which no one else has access). The data will be retained up to 20 years after the completion of the project. After that, the physical data will be shredded and tossed and the digital files will be erased.

Due to the nature of focus groups, complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

The only circumstance this promise of confidentiality would be breached is that we must report child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities if it is revealed to us during the course of the research. Any action in this regard will only be taken after careful consideration through a culturally sensitive frame that acknowledges the cultural norms of the participant and her family as best as possible.

What are my rights as a research participant?

Participation in this study is voluntary. If at any time and for any reason, you would prefer not to participate in this study, please feel free not to. If at any time you would like to stop participating, please tell me. We can take a break, stop and continue at a later date, or stop altogether. You may withdraw from this study at any time, and you will not be penalized in any way for deciding to stop participation.



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If you decide to withdraw from this study, the researchers will ask you if the information already collected from you can be used. Your decision whether or not to participate in this study will not affect your current or future relations with California State University San Marcos.

What are the possible benefits for me or others?

The possible benefits to you from this study include emotional benefits of feeling that your voice and opinion are valued, and the opportunity to think about and discuss your own sense of identity within the trajectory of being an entrepreneur. In addition, taking part in this research may help us learn new things that will help others. The study results may be used to help other entrepreneurs in the future.

Payment or Incentive: You are also going to receive a financial incentive of US\$50.00 for taking part in this study. You are going to receive the cash payment/gift card after the conclusion of the focus group.

Who can I contact if I have questions or concerns about this research study?

If you have questions about the study, please call Carly at 480-235-0247 or e-mail at cbertrand@csusm.edu, or Paola at 760-697-8798 or by email at pometto@csusm.edu. You will be given a copy of this form for your records. If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this research or if you feel you have been placed at risk, you can contact the IRB Office at irb@csusm.edu or (760) 750-4029.

PARTICIPANT'S CONSENT:

By signing your name below, you are giving consent to participate in the study.

- ☐ I give permission for my focus group to be audio taped.
- ☐ I do not give permission for my focus group to be audio taped.

- ☐ I give permission for my focus group to be videotaped.
- ☐ I do not give permission for my focus group to be videotaped.

- ☐ I have been informed about the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in this study. I understand that regardless of any precautions taken, a possible risk of exposure to the virus still exists.

- ☐ Focus group was not conducted on campus.
- ☐ I have been vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

Name of the Participant: _____

Signature of the Participant: _____

Date: _____