

Verbal Consent Form

Before we go any further, I am going to read you a statement about this project and what it means to participate in it. This form is also available on the research page on my website, and I can also send you a copy if you would like. After I read this form, I will ask for your verbal consent. If you consent, then we'll proceed with the interview. You have no obligation to consent.

As an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, I am conducting research about how people's experiences with sex, dating, and relationships have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The purpose of this study is to examine the extent to which things have changed, how long these changes may last, and what these changes may mean for the future of courtship and gender roles.

I am interviewing adults in their 20s and 30s who lived in the United States in 2020 during the height of the pandemic. I would like to interview you about your experiences with sexual and/or romantic relationships during and since the pandemic and how your social life has been impacted. Your participation is expected to take approximately an hour, but no longer than 3 hours, and ultimately depends on how much time you'd like to give and what you'd like to share.

You have no obligation to participate, and you may discontinue your involvement at any time. Your participation should cause no more discomfort than you would experience in your everyday life. Although participation may not benefit you directly, the information obtained from the study will help me gain a better understanding of how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted courtship practices and gender norms. Any identifiable information will not be shared intentionally unless (a) it is required by law, or (b) you give written permission.

With your permission, the audio of this interview will be recorded. Recording is not required to participate. Recordings are filed under pseudonyms on a password-protected personal computer and no identifying information will be kept with the saved audio file or transcripts. I will transcribe the interviews and may use the help of AI transcription services. I will change names and places to make sure everything remains anonymous in the transcript and other written products. Because you may want access to your interview recording or have questions for me in the future, I will keep a key that links your contact information to your pseudonym, but this key will be kept in a separate folder. This will also allow me to contact you in the future if you are interested in receiving updates.

Participation in this interview indicates your willingness to take part in this study and that you are at least 18 years old. I am happy to answer any questions you may have about this project or your participation in it, and if you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, I can put you in contact with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Institutional Review Board (if participant asks for information: 865-974-7697; utkirb@utk.edu).

1. Do you have any questions about this project?
2. Do you consent to participate in this project?
3. Is it okay for me to record the audio?

