

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Informed Consent for Participants in Research Projects Involving Human Subjects

Title of Project: To Be or Not To Be A Feminist: A Qualitative Study of Feminist Identity.

Investigator(s) Adrienne Trier-Bieniek (graduate student) and Carol A. Bailey (Faculty Advisor)

I. Purpose of this Research/Project

The purpose of this research is to explore young women's perceptions of feminism. The purpose for conducting the study is to contribute to the literature on feminism and for the completion of a Master of Science degree for Adrienne Trier-Bieniek. The total number of subjects involved will be between 12 and 18. The subjects will be young women, ages 18-22 who are attending Virginia Tech.

II. Procedures

You, as a research subject, will be expected to participate in one focus group that will take place from one to one and a half hours. The focus group will take place in a meeting room at Virginia Tech and will be audio-recorded.

III. Risks

There is only minimal risk expected in the study.

IV. Benefits

The benefits to you is the opportunity to talk about how you view yourself and how you view feminism. The larger benefits of this study are to contribute to the academic literature on feminism.

No promise or guarantee of benefits have been made to encourage you to participate.

You will be able to receive a copy of the research results at a later time.

V. Extent of Anonymity and Confidentiality

As a research subject, you will be promised confidentiality. Your name and contact information will be used only by the researcher as a way to communicate focus group time and place. Once a reminder has been set to you regarding the focus group meeting, your identifying information will be destroyed by Adrienne Trier-Bieniek. However, your name and other identifying characteristics will not be included in the transcription of the focus group and the tapes of the focus group will be destroyed immediately after Adrienne Trier-Bieniek defends her thesis.

Each focus group will be audio taped. It is necessary for the group to be audio-taped for analysis purposes by the researcher. These tapes will only be heard by the researchers listed above. The tapes will be stored at the home of Adrienne Trier-Bieniek who is

under the supervision of Dr. Carol A. Bailey, an associate professor in the Department of Sociology. Adrienne Trier-Bieniek will transcribe the tapes and will destroy them upon defense of her thesis.

It is possible that the Institutional Review Board (IRB) may view this study's collected data for auditing purposes. The IRB is responsible for the oversight of the protection of human subjects involved in this research.

In some instances, it might be necessary for the researcher to break confidentiality. If child abuse is known or strongly suspected the researcher is required to notify the appropriate authorities. If partner violence is strongly suspected, and there is a danger to you or your partner, the researcher is required to notify the appropriate authorities. If you are found to be a danger to yourself or others, the researcher is required to notify the appropriate authorities.

VI. Compensation

There is no compensation for this study.

If, as a result of this research project, the researcher believes that the subject should seek counseling or medical treatment, a list of local services are:

The Virginia Tech Cook Counseling Center- (540) 231-6557 240 McComas Hall
The Virginia Tech Women's Center- (540) 231-7806, 204 Washington Street

Please note that all costs associated with treatment will be your responsibility.

VII. Freedom to Withdraw

You are free to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty. You are free not to answer any questions or respond to experimental situations that you choose without penalty.

If a situation arises where the investigator believes that a subject should not continue as a you will be free to withdraw without penalty.

VIII. Subjects responsibilities

I voluntarily agree to participate in this study. I have the following responsibilities:

I will answer questions and engage in discussions as I deem appropriate.

I will attend one focus group session and agree to be on time.

IX. Subject's permission

I have read the Consent Form and conditions of this project. I have had all my questions answered. I hereby acknowledge the above and give my voluntary consent:

Signature of Subject

Date

Signature of Investigator

Date

Should I have any pertinent questions about this research or its conduct, and research subjects' rights, and whom to contact in the event of a research-related injury to myself, I may contact:

Adrienne Trier-Bieniek-Investigator

amtrier@vt.edu

540-552-2523

Carol A. Bailey- Faculty Advisor

baileyc@vt.edu

540-231-2247

Departmental Reviewer (who is this for us?)

David M. Moore

Chair, Virginia Tech Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects

Office of Research Compliance

1880 Pratt Drive, Suite 2006 (0497)

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