



**BRANDON
UNIVERSITY**

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Informed Consent Letter

Research Project Title: Polarization of Beliefs, Social Media, and Restoring Relationships

Contact Person: Gustavo Moura, MouraG@brandonu.ca, 204-571-7851

This consent form, a copy of which will be left with you for your records and reference, is only part of the process of informed consent. It should give you the basic idea of what the research is about and what your participation will involve. If you would like more details about something mentioned here, or information not included here, you should feel free to ask. Please take the time to read this carefully.

For those interested in an online consultation (2 hours) to share your thoughts, participate in a research study, and share your unique perspectives on the polarization of beliefs, social media, and restoring relationships, consider registering and participating in this study. We will be meeting on zoom to discuss questions about the impact of social media on how we see things (e.g., politics, racism, discrimination, belonging) and how these affect our relationships with others. This Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) study will foster the democratization of different opinions and will enable future empathy and respect skills for one another.

By participating in the Zoom event, I agree to take part in the study: *Polarization of Beliefs, Social Media, and Restoring Relationships*. Participating does not waive your rights to legal counsel in the event of research-related harm.

I understand that my participation will involve:

My information collected in the study.

A two-hour online group meeting participation regarding the impact of social media on the polarization of social media and the pathways to restore relationships to be audio recorded.

I understand that names will not be identified in any report or presentation that may arise from the study.

I understand that there is no financial compensation for my participation.

I understand that the findings of this study may be presented to academic audiences (including workshop and conference presentations, reports, and refereed/non-refereed journal articles) and non-academic audiences (presentations and recommendations to community leaders and policymakers).

I understand that there are no repercussions for (non-)participation.

I understand that I may ask my participation to be withdrawn from the study at any point during the online meeting.



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I understand that Brandon University may look at the research records to see that the research is being done in a safe and proper way.

I understand that interview transcripts will be available only to co-investigators of the study, and possibly research assistants.

Pseudonyms will be used for participants in all written records generated by the research, and consent forms will be housed in a separate location from the data, from which all identifiers will be removed as soon as the interviews are transcribed.

Data will be stored in a password-protected computers accessible only to the researchers.

All data from the project will be destroyed once reports and manuscripts are written.

I understand that a summary of the findings of the study will be sent to me via e-mail within two months of the conclusion of the report (by July 2023).

I agree to hold in strictest confidence the identification of any individual that may be inadvertently revealed.

I agree to not disclose any information shared.

I agree to not make copies of any digital video-recordings or files of any online meetings.

Your participation in the zoom event will imply your consent to participate in the study. Your participation indicates that you have understood to your satisfaction the information regarding participation in the research project and agree to participate. If you opt for an oral consent, this will be given when we meet for the online meeting. In no way does this waive your legal rights nor release the researchers, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. You are free to withdraw from the study at any point prior to the researchers' reports being submitted, and /or refrain from answering any questions you prefer to omit, without prejudice or consequence.

You should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation. Note that the research team and research assistants will have access to your information (e.g., name, age, profession). These individuals are committed to the ethics of non-disclosure agreement which guarantees participants' personal information will be protected. However, researchers may encounter ethical and/or legal obligations to disclose any information to third parties in case they find out about the possibility of abuse of children or persons in care during the course of the project. The research team (e.g., co-investigators, collaborators, and research assistants) will access the recordings, transcribe, code, and analyze any collected data. The research team will work collaboratively in writing reports, academic manuscripts and conference presentations.

For the online meeting registration, when you register with Eventbrite or over the phone, your name and email address are kept for the purposes of sending you the zoom link for the event.



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We will not share your information with any third party. The risks in this study are minimal. However, there are support resources available to you if you experience distress as a result of participating in this study. If you experience any emotion distress, given the nature of the study, there are resources you can contact to help you cope.

Adult Crisis Line, Prairie Mountain Health, 24/7 at 1-888-379-7699

Klinic Crisis Line, 24/7 at 1-888-322-3019

Manitoba Suicide Prevention and Support Line, 24/7 at 1-877-435-7170

And if you are in immediate need of help, call 911 or go to the nearest hospital

The final results of the study will be shared in the form of research reports, research briefs, scholarly publications and/or conference publications. You will be able to access reports at www.bucares.ca/publications. There is no possibility of the commercialization of the collected data in any form.

Would you like a copy of the final research report?

a) Yes

b) No

If yes, please provide your e-mail address so that I can send you the report.

Email address:

This research has been approved by the Brandon University Research Ethics Committee (BUREC). If you have any concerns or complaints about this project, you may contact Gustavo Moura or BUREC at 204-727-9712.

If you need to reach out to any of the co-investigators of this research, see below their contact information:

Dr. Michelle Lam (LamM@BrandonU.ca)

Dr. Mateo DiMuro (DiMuroM@BrandonU.ca)

Dr. Ellen Watson (WatsonE@BrandonU.ca)

Dr. Zahra Kasamali (KasamaliZ@BrandonU.ca)

Dr. Jacqueline Kirk (KirkJ@BrandonU.ca)

Dr. Ayodeji Osiname (OsinameA@BrandonU.ca)

We appreciate your considering participating in this study!

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