

## **Oral Consent Form – Interviews (HIV Negative Participants)**

**Title of the study:** The Emotional and Felt Experience of HIV Nondisclosure

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**Doctoral Supervisor:** Dr. Jennifer M. Kilty, PhD. | Full Professor & Chair | Department of Criminology | University of Ottawa | 120 University Private | Ottawa, ON | K1N 6N5 | [jkilty@uottawa.ca](mailto:jkilty@uottawa.ca)

**Invitation to Participate:** I am invited to participate in the abovementioned research study conducted by Katarina Bogosavljevic under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer M. Kilty. This project is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

**Purpose of the Study:** The purpose of the study is to examine how people who are HIV negative feel about experiencing HIV nondisclosure in order to better understand the criminalization of HIV nondisclosure in Canada. Specifically, the researchers are interested in feelings related to experiences of a partner not disclosing their HIV status prior to either consensual or non-consensual intercourse, and feelings about nondisclosure and disclosure generally including the law. The researchers aim to understand how people respond to HIV nondisclosure including the identities they may take up and the role of emotions and feelings in shaping these identities, and the actions they take in response to nondisclosure including going or not going to the police.

**Description of Participation:** My participation in this project will include one interview, approximately one hour in length, during which I will be required to respond to questions asked by the researcher. Some questions are structured in nature while others are open-ended so as to encourage me to speak openly about my experiences. The interviews will be scheduled at a time, place, and date most convenient for both me and the researcher. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, interviews will be conducted over Zoom or by telephone and will be audio and video recorded if on Zoom and audio-recorded if by telephone. I will also be asked whether I want to participate in a creative activity and debrief session that will occur at a later date.

**Risks:** My participation in this study will entail that I volunteer personal information that may bring up memories or moments that feel difficult to recount and may bring about some discomfort or distress. I will never be forced to answer any questions that I do not feel comfortable answering and I may withdraw from the study at any time. I have received assurance from the researcher that every effort will be made to minimize the risks of emotional or psychological discomfort. At the end of the interview I will be provided with a list contact phone

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numbers at local crisis centres that I can contact should I continue to feel any distress following the interview.

**Benefits:** My participation in this study will contribute to ongoing efforts by HIV/AIDS activists, organizations, people living with HIV/AIDS, and scholars to study the criminalization of HIV nondisclosure in Canada. My participation in this study will also contribute to an area of knowledge in the field of criminology that has not yet been explored. This is the first known study to explore the role of emotions in structuring identity in the context of HIV criminalization. The hope is to make both an academic and policy contribution.

**Confidentiality and anonymity:** I have received assurance from the researcher that the information I will share will remain strictly confidential and that I, as a participant, will be completely anonymous. I understand that the contents of the interview will be used only for research and publication purposes and that all identifying names or features (including names of cities, dates, specifics of your nondisclosure story etc) will be removed or modified from the transcripts and publications in order to protect confidentiality. The researchers will protect anonymity by allowing participants to choose a pseudonym. Pseudonyms will be used in any publication and in the writing of the dissertation to protect my identity.

For interviews conducted over Zoom, every interview will have a different meeting ID/link and password and will use all security measures available on the platform such as using a waiting room where the host (researcher) has to approve entry and the researcher will lock each meeting so no one else can join. In order to minimize the risk of security breaches and to help ensure my confidentiality, the researchers recommend that I use standard safety measures such as using a secure connection and to not share the meeting ID and password with anyone else. For privacy and confidentiality purposes, I am encouraged to conduct the online interview in a space that is private, to limit the chances of being overheard.

**Conservation of data:** The data collected, including the digitally recorded audio and video files, transcripts of the interviews, and notes taken will be kept in a secure manner. Hard copies of transcripts and notes will be stored in a locked box in the researchers home office, audio and video recordings will be stored on a password protected USB key in the researcher's locked box, and all other electronic files including the audio and video recordings will be stored in a password protected folder that is in a separate password protected user account on the researcher's personal computer. This user account is disconnected from any cloud services. Audio and video recordings will be deleted as soon as transcription is complete, and all other data will be stored for a period of five years following the defence and then will be destroyed using secure deletion protocols.

**Compensation:** I will be given a \$40 honorarium for generously contributing my time to this research project. I will still be given this \$40 even if I decide to withdraw from the study at a later date. Compensation will be offered via e-

transfer to my personal banking account or through Western Union where I will be able to pick up cash.

**Voluntary Participation:** I understand that I am under no obligation to participate. If I choose to participate, I can terminate the interview at any time, withdraw from the study at any time and/or refuse to answer any questions that I do not feel comfortable answering without suffering any negative consequences. If I choose to withdraw, all data gathered until the time of withdrawal will be securely deleted from the recording device and destroyed. The destroyed data will not be used in the study. If by participating in this interview, I feel that my memories or emotions are hard to handle, I can contact one of the counsellors from the list provided to me by the researcher.

**REB Contact Information:** If I have any questions regarding the ethical conduct of this study, I may contact the Protocol Officer for Ethics in Research, University of Ottawa, Tabaret Hall, 550 Cumberland Street, Room 154, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5, Tel.: (613) 562-5387, Email: ethics@uottawa.ca

**Consent to participate:** I agree that in consenting to participate in this project I do not give up any rights. I have been informed about the different requirements of the research and that I agree to take part in the interview. The reason I am not providing my signature and that I am providing oral consent is to protect my anonymity and maintain confidentiality in the research. I agree to participate in the above research study conducted by Katarina Bogosavljevic, a PhD Candidate in the Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa, whose research is under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer Kilty.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Yes      No      Signature of Researcher      \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

With my permission only, this interview will be audio and/or video recorded using the recording feature on Zoom or by using a digital recording device if interview done over the phone. Only the researcher will have access to the recordings. If I do not wish to be video recorded, the researcher may audio record the conversation and if I do not wish to be audio or video recorded the researcher will take detailed notes.

I agree to the audio recording of this interview:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Yes                      No

I agree to the video recording of this interview:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Yes                      No

If I have any questions about the study, I may ask them now and/or contact the researcher or her supervisor using the contact information given. Participants should save or print a copy of this consent form for their personal records.