

Participant Information Sheet

Name of department: School of Education

Title of the study: An investigation into the dating experiences of adults with Asperger's Syndrome

Introduction

My name is Hannah Murray, I am currently a postgraduate Masters student studying Autism under the supervision of Dr Anna Robinson. My specific area of interest so far has been focused on Autism and sexuality, something which I aim to explore further in my current study, more specifically focused on the dating experiences of adults with Asperger's Syndrome (AS).

What is the purpose of this investigation?

The aim of the study is to investigate the varied experiences of adults with AS when considering or engaging with dating and romantic relationships. Although there are written accounts by those with AS, there is limited research evidence which explores their personal and very individual experiences of dating. The expectation is that this study will provide an opportunity for individuals with AS themselves to openly discuss their experiences, and therefore identify areas of both strength and weakness in current educational opportunities and supports for such issues.

What will you do in the project?

Upon reading the Participant Information Sheet and providing consent, you will have the option to participate with the study from a variety of options. You have access to an anonymous online questionnaire which has a number of open questions which you can answer in as little or as much detail as you feel necessary. Alternatively, you can choose to answer the same general questions via an interview. You can take part in this by either arranging a telephone interview, an interview via your preferred Instant Messaging site, or by a Skype video chat. At the end of your participation, you will be asked to provide your consent once again before submitting the information.

Do you have to take part?

Participants can volunteer to take part at their own discretion, and can be assured of the opportunity to withdraw or refuse to take part at any time. The online questionnaire collects data as you write your answers, however only the information that is submitted will be used.

Why have you been invited to take part?

I am interested in the complexities of dating for adults with AS, so you therefore must be an adult over the age of 21 with AS who either has an interest in, or experience of dating.

What are the potential risks to you in taking part?

There are no known risks for participation. You can withdraw at any point and have the opportunity to 'Pass' on any question you do not want to answer. If you do not want to share any sensitive information with the researcher, you will have the opportunity to tell them this before you begin. If you do want to share any sensitive information, this is at your own discretion.

What happens to the information in the project?

The study will not use information that can reveal your identity. The questionnaires will store information privately on the University of Strathclyde database and will only be accessed by the researchers. However, there will be the opportunity to share your details with the researcher if you would like to be sent the findings of the investigation.

The place of useful learning

The University of Strathclyde is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, number SC015263

The University of Strathclyde is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office who implements the Data Protection Act 1998. All personal data on participants will be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

What happens next?

If you are interested in participating in this study, we ask that you either complete the consent form and questionnaire, or you voice your interest to the researcher via e-mail in order to arrange an interview. If you are interested in viewing the results and any conclusions which result from your participation, please send an e-mail to the researcher stating your preferred contact details and these will be distributed upon the completion of the investigation.

Follow this link to the questionnaire:

https://hass.eu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6hc0vbicw0EdyAt

Researcher contact details:	Chief Investigator details:
<p>Hannah Murray Postgraduate Student</p> <p>School of Education Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Room 202, Lord Hope Building University of Strathclyde 141 St James Road, Glasgow G4 0LT</p> <p>hannah.murray.2013@uni.strath.ac.uk</p>	<p>Dr Anna Robinson Masters in Autism Course Leader</p> <p>School of Education Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Room 636b, Curran Building University of Strathclyde 141 St James Road, Glasgow G4 0LT</p> <p>anna.robinson@strath.ac.uk</p>

If you do not wish to participate then I would like to thank you for your time in reading this information today. Thank you for your time – please don't hesitate to ask any questions if you are unsure about what is written here.

This investigation was granted ethical approval by the University of Strathclyde Ethics Committee.

If you have any questions/concerns, during or after the investigation, or wish to contact an independent person to whom any questions may be directed or further information may be sought from, please contact:

Secretary to the University Ethics Committee
Research & Knowledge Exchange Services
University of Strathclyde
Graham Hills Building
50 George Street
Glasgow
G1 1QE

Telephone: 0141 548 3707
Email: ethics@strath.ac.uk

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Consent Form

Name of department: Humanities and Social Science

Title of the study: An investigation into the dating experiences of adults with Asperger's Syndrome

- I confirm that I have read and understood the information sheet for the above project and the researcher has answered any queries to my satisfaction.
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw from the project at any time, up to the point of completion, without having to give a reason and without any consequences. If I exercise my right to withdraw and I don't want my data to be used, any data which have been collected from me will be destroyed.
- I understand that I can withdraw from the study any personal data (i.e. data which identify me personally) at any time.
- I understand that anonymised data (i.e. .data which do not identify me personally) cannot be withdrawn once they have been included in the study.
- I understand that any information recorded in the investigation will remain confidential and no information that identifies me will be made publicly available.
- I provide my consent to the anonymous results of the investigation being used for publication or conference presentations
- I consent to being a participant in the project

(PRINT NAME)	
Signature of Participant:	Date: