

# Practically Addressing Law (&/vs.) Ethics in Darkside Studies

Jessica J. Eckstein

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## What IRBs look for...

(OHRP, 2020)

- ✓ Risks minimized
- ✓ Risk vs. Benefits ratio
- ✓ Equitable selection
- ✓ Informed Consent *appropriate*
- ✓ Privacy, confidentiality, safety - *maximized*
- ✓ Safeguards
- ✓ Design - scientifically sound

- “Human Subject” § 46.102(f) (HHS, 2020)
- Living people *and* their:
  - DATA via **intervention or interaction, OR**
  - Identifiable private info
  - The **ABOUT WHOM** standard [www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/regulations/45-cfr-46/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/regulations/45-cfr-46/index.html)
- Historically...
  - \*To explore further: [www.hhs.gov/ohrp/about-ohrp/history/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/about-ohrp/history/index.html)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_8Ku4b1fW18&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_8Ku4b1fW18&feature=youtu.be)
- Codes of conduct
  - *Belmont Report* (Belmont, 1978)

# RESPECT FOR PERSONS

- Process *throughout*
- Means to ensure:
  - “respect for persons”
  - mutual understanding
  - continuous, voluntary
- PARTS:
  - **Initial consent**
  - ***Continual* understanding-assessment**
  - **W/draw anytime**

*Institutional  
(re)victimization?*

*Protected classes vs.  
Vulnerable populations?*

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## *Exemplars...*

### *Online survey end-page*

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS RESEARCH TO HELP OTHERS IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS!

If you want to speak to a counselor, to learn more about domestic violence, or to learn more about resources available in your community, you may contact the Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men and Women toll-free 24-hours a day [phone: 1-888-7HELPLINE, website: <http://www.dahmw.org>] or the National Domestic Violence Hotline [phone: 1-800-799-SAFE, website: <http://www.ndvh.org/>].

If you have questions about the study, you may contact us at [email: [jessi.research@gmail.com](mailto:jessi.research@gmail.com), phone (203) 837-8873, address: 181 White St., Danbury, CT 06810].

This research project has been reviewed and approved by the WCSU Institutional Review Board (Protocol #). If you have questions concerning the rights of the subjects involved in research studies please call the WCSU Assurances Administrator, at (203) 837-8281.

# Exemplars (cont.)

## Online consent template (color-coded)

### Abused Male Disclosure Study

#### Oral Consent Script

**The contents of this form will be provided to prospective volunteers.  
The form may be read to volunteers and their verbal consent recorded using audiotape.**

My name is INVESTIGATOR NAME. I'm from the Department of Speech Communication at the University of Illinois. I am doing a research project to study men who are or have been victims of abuse by their female partner. I would like to interview you and to audiotape our discussion. The study is being conducted under the supervision of Dr. John Caughlin, with the Department of Speech Communication at the University of Illinois. The interview will be open-ended and may last approximately 45 minutes to an hour. We can do the interview at a time that is best for you. We can stop any time you want.

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. You must be at least 18 years of age or older in order to participate. There are no direct benefits to you from participating, nor are there any risks besides the feelings you may feel when talking about your abuse. I will not use your name in my research report to protect your identity. I will keep any information you give me that would identify you confidential. The audio tapes will be kept secure until transcription. I will transcribe your audio recorded session within one week of completing your interview, after which time I will destroy the tapes. You don't have to answer any questions you don't want to and you can stop the interview or ask questions at any time.

The results of this study, without any identifying information from you, may be used for publication in an academic journal, or at an academic conference. You may also request to receive the results of this study once it is completed.

This study focuses on your abuse from your female partner. I will only ask questions about your experiences being abused.

I'd like to start the tape now and first ask you to answer yes or no to these questions about the research:

Do you understand that your participation in this project is entirely voluntary? [Yes, No]

Do you understand that you can ask me to stop the interview at any time and that you do not have to answer any questions you don't wish to answer? [Yes, No]

Do you understand that your identity will be kept confidential? [Yes, No]

Great. You should have received an email copy of this consent form for your records.

Please feel free to ask any questions you have about this research at any time. You may contact me (email: [jessi\\_research@gmail.com](mailto:jessi_research@gmail.com), phone (217) 333-9210, address: 702 S. Wright St., 244 Lincoln Hall, Urbana, IL 61801) the supervising professor, Dr. John Caughlin (email: [caughlin@uiuc.edu](mailto:caughlin@uiuc.edu), phone: (217) 333-4340) or the University of Illinois Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (email [irb@uiuc.edu](mailto:irb@uiuc.edu), phone: (217) 333-2670 – you may call collect, address: 417 Swanlund, 601 E. John St., Champaign, IL 61820).

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
APPROVED CONSENT  
VALID UNTIL

JUL 26 2006

**SURVEY ON EXPERIENCES WITH A FORMERLY ABUSIVE PARTNER**  
This study is conducted by..., faculty members in the Communication Department at .... It surveys men & women who've experienced any type of physical and/or psychological abuse from romantic partners. The 20-25 min. survey is all online.

Computer use can be monitored & is impossible to completely clear. If you're afraid your Internet or computer might be monitored by your partner or otherwise present a danger to your safety, please take this survey at another time or a location where you won't be monitored.

Your participation is entirely voluntary. You must be 18 years of age or older to participate. The survey contains items about you & your relationship, the kinds of abuse you experienced, the communication you used with this person, & how you felt about the abuse. There are no direct benefits to you from participating. However, info you provide may help us better understand abuse victims' experiences.

If you're free to respond without your computer being monitored by an abusive partner, the only risks to you may be discomfort you felt when thinking about your abuse.

Your info stays anonymous. You don't have to answer any questions you don't want to answer, & you can stop or email us with questions any time. If you email us, we won't retain your contact info & can't link it to any info in the study.

Our results may be used for academic journal publication or conference presentation, but we'll change or omit any info that could identify you before using quotations taken from your responses. In other words, quotes won't be linked to you.

Before proceeding, you must agree to the following:

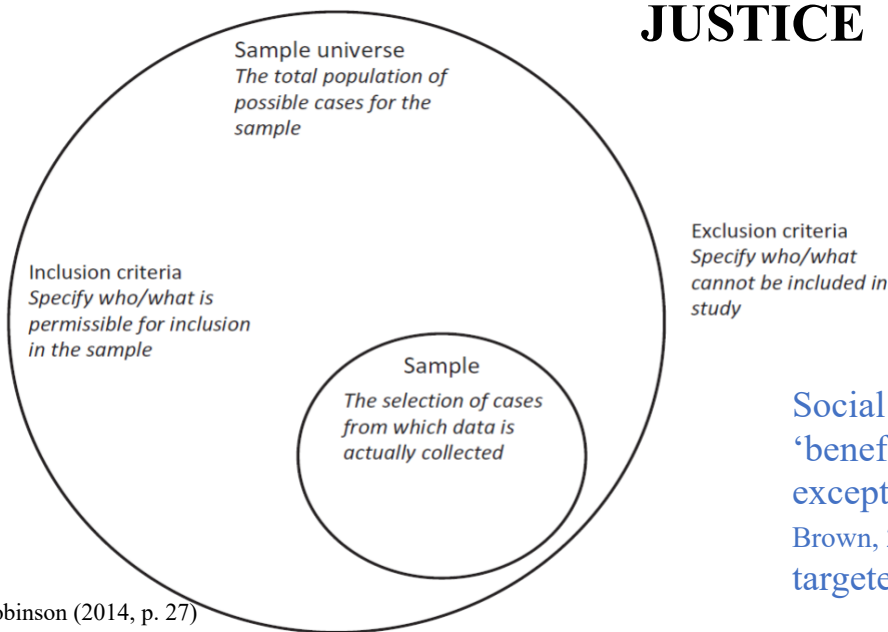
- I am 18 years of age or older.
  - I am not currently living with an abusive partner.
  - I understand it may be unsafe to take this survey on a computer monitored by a partner.
  - I have read & understand this consent form & voluntarily agree to participate in this study.
- Please print a copy of this consent form for your records.

To speak to a counselor or learn more about abuse or available resources, free 24-hour resources: Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men & Women 1-888-7HELPLINE, [www.dahmw.org](http://www.dahmw.org)] or the Natl. Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE, [www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org).

For questions about this study, contact us at EMAIL.

This research project (Proposal #0809-77 expires February 4th, 2010) has been reviewed approved by the WCSU Institutional Review Board. If you have questions concerning your rights in this study, please call the WCSU Assurances Administrator, at (203) 837-8281.

# JUSTICE



Robinson (2014, p. 27)

Social science research doesn't typically 'benefit' participants (see Shorey et al., 2011), though exceptions exist (e.g., Gilman & Walker, 2020; Moore & Brown, 2017), so Justice more about WHY/HOW targeted than ensuring "reward" outcomes.

## Purposive (Intentional) Sampling

### • Probability & Nonprobability

### • Targeted types:

#### • Deviant case sampling

- Snowball sampling

#### • Intensity sampling

- Opportunistic sampling

Typically use fewer, rich cases  
(qualitative tradition)

#### • Heterogenous sampling

- Social network sampling

#### • Homogenous sampling

Typically use many, "quick" cases  
(quantitative tradition)

## Finding sensitive participants...

*Did you REALLY try?*

- Avoid "collectors"
- "Young" Marketing mindset
- Vary distribution/outreach
- Utilize present resources!
- Use templates!
- Track collection/sampling methods?
- No \$ necessary

## Community Samples

vs.

## Clinical/Agency Samples

## Exemplars

### Call For Participants: Online survey

#### HAVE YOU BEEN ABUSED BY A ROMANTIC PARTNER?

If you are a heterosexual man or woman who has experienced any physically and/or psychologically abusive behaviors from a former partner, you are eligible to participate in a survey about your experiences. I am a researcher at the University of Illinois collecting information about people's experiences in abusive relationships.

To participate, you must (1) be a U.S. citizen or reside in the U.S., (2) have experienced some type of abusive behavior in a heterosexual, romantic relationship, (3) be currently *out* of (no longer in) the abusive relationship with your former partner, and (4) no longer living with this person. If you meet these criteria, please consider taking a 25-35 minute survey located here:

#### LINK

Simply click on the link to get started. Your identity will be anonymous.

By participating, you are giving *much needed* information about abusive relationships. You will not receive any compensation for taking this survey, but you will be providing important information to help others.

If you have questions before, during, or after participating, please contact Jessi Eckstein at [jessi.research@gmail.com](mailto:jessi.research@gmail.com). If you choose to contact me via email, your email address and contact information will be deleted; there will be nothing linking you to the information you provide in the survey.

### Template Reply after contacted

(phone) interview studies

Great! Thank you for your interest! I would love to set up a time to do a phone interview with you. It would be tape-recorded, but of course your responses are still completely confidential and your contact info would be kept separately from your responses to maintain privacy. If you're open to that, please email me back with

1. a couple of the days (dates) and times of day (please include your time zone) that work best for you (assuming the interview may last anywhere from 30 minutes to 1.5 hours) and,
2. Let me know at which specific phone number you'd like to be contacted.

Then I'll confirm a time to chat with you, and email you a copy of the Institutional Review Board's consent form for you to keep, which will give you more detailed information about the study and all your rights within.

Again, I am so grateful that you've shown an interest in contributing to this research and I look forward to speaking with you further.

Sincerely,

Jessi Eckstein

## *Exemplars (cont.)*

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### **Instructions for Students' Recruiting Credit (Social Media)**

For this task, copy the purple text below and paste it into a social media post online (you only need to post/distribute it to one place). To get credit, just take a screen shot of the post and submit that to BB.

If you have Facebook, paste it in your feed and then "like" it, then post *that* screenshot on BB. If you use Instagram or Twitter another social media site (one that doesn't erase or expire after time), post it there, then post that screenshot on BB.

If you don't use ANY social media sites, then paste the purple text into a group chat or text or email (these must have at least 20 people addressed in them) and then post that/those screenshot/s on BB (it may take multiple "messages" to reach 20 if your site has limits).

### **RECRUITING YOUR HELP TO STUDY NEGATIVE RELATIONAL COMMUNICATION**

*I'm helping to collect info about people's communication. If you're in a romantic relationship (now or in past 5 yrs.) & 18+ yrs. old, please consider taking an approx. 20-30 min survey. There's no reward, but sharing your own (good and bad) experiences helps us create a tool to aid abuse victims & will help me out in my WCSU class.*

*Tech use can't be completely cleared (e.g., cache, cookies), so if it threatens your safety (e.g., monitored by abuser), please take the survey later (i.e., non-monitored device &/or private/incognito browser window). **If you're free/safe to do so, get started here: [LINK](#)***

*You're anonymous, no IPs are saved, & each page has a "quick exit" button. By responding, you'll give much needed info on how people treat partners.*

*This study's approved (Protocol #2122-14) by WCSU's Institutional Review Board until October 2022. Direct any participant-concerns to [irb@wcsu.edu](mailto:irb@wcsu.edu).*

*To learn more about counseling/related resources in your community, contact (1-800-799-SAFE/7233 or TTY 1-800-787-3224) or access the National Domestic Violence Hotline ([www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)) or the Tech Safety website of the National Network to End Domestic Violence ([www.techsafety.org](http://www.techsafety.org)).*

If you don't use ANY social media sites, then paste the purple text into a group chat or text or email (these must have at least 20 people addressed in them) and then post that/those screenshot/s on BB (it may take multiple "messages" to reach 20 if your site has limits).

**For up to 15 pts ex credit, send the CFP & submit your screen shot of doing so by DATE.**

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### **Instructions for Students' Recruiting Credit (Direct Contacts)**

Copy the CFP (Call for Participants) - the purple text below - and paste it into a group message/chat/email addressed (up to) 30 people. You'll get ½ pt per person you send it to - preferably people not affiliated with WCSU, the older the better. ;) To get credit, just submit a screen shot of the message/s showing the contacts you sent it to. It may take multiple "messages" to reach 30 if your site has limits. Attach as many as necessary to show up to 30 people you sent it to. Also, feel free to add your own message to the CFP if you think that'll increase the likelihood of people taking the survey.

# BENEFICENCE

- Voluntary participation ongoing (respect)
- No harm to people (beneficence)
  - Researchers/Coders – location & follow-ups?
  - Participants online vs. in-person safety
  - Affiliates/Bystanders/Public deception?
- No harm to/from data (justice)
  - Access
  - Identifiability?
  - Mandatory reporting

*Planning –*

*Implementation -*

*Data storage -*

*Analysis -*

*Publication -*

*Data storage -*

*Data transfer -*

**ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS...**

## References

All citations (oral or written) in this presentation are excellent resources for exploring “issues” further, as there’s no consensus on ethical and/or legal aspects...esp. as tech evolves. **You may use my exemplar templates (with exact words/phrasing © 2023 J. Eckstein) for education/research purposes.**

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