



SOCIAL-BEHAVIORAL STUDY: Understanding How Personal Networks Change

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH – Main Survey – Web

We are conducting a research study with Professor Claude Fischer at the University of California, Berkeley, in the Department of Sociology. We are eager to have you participate in our study. You do not have to participate, and even if you agree at first, you can always change your mind and drop out.

You are being invited to participate in this study because you meet the description of participants in our initial inquiry about this study. This research study concerns how people get along with other people over the years.

If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire about the people you consider your friends and confidants, who you would rely on in case of illness or hardship, and the kinds of activities in which you participate and consider important.

I will email you a link to a web-based survey that you can complete at your convenience. This survey consists of questions about the kinds of people you know, your social activities, and your life transitions such as a new job, marriage or retirement. It should take about 60 minutes to complete. You do not have to complete it all in one sitting: you can pause the survey and when you click on the link again, it will take you back to where you were before.

In 18 months after this survey, we will again survey you about the same topics to see what, if anything has changed, and how you have adapted to this change. There will be a third survey about 18 months after the second, with about the same content and length as the first and second surveys. There may be opportunities for additional surveys but in each case we will ask for your consent again.

Participation in this study will involve a total of about 3 hours total of your time - or one hour in each of the three waves over the next 3 years

Because we wish to survey you at subsequent dates, we will also periodically take steps to maintain contact, via email, a phone call, or US postal mail.

There is no direct benefit to you from taking part in this study. It is hoped that the research will help individuals and policy-makers understand what is important for managing the kinds of changes occurring in life that can be stressful. We know that these sorts of stresses create health issues. We will let you know about any publications resulting from this study, and there will be a study website where you can find out more about how we are progressing.

If any of the research questions makes you uncomfortable, you are free to decline to answer any questions you don't wish to, or to stop participating at any time.

No one outside the researchers will be able to connect answers to participant names. If results of this study are published or presented, individual names and other personally identifiable information will not be used. Please be assured that we take precautions to minimize any risk associated with data security, such as keeping the answers to the surveys separate from your contact information. We will save the survey answers indefinitely but your identity will be kept separate from your answers. Your contact

information, which we will gather just so we can get back in touch, will also be safeguarded with the same level of security.

There are no costs to you for this study.

In return for your time, you will be paid \$25 for taking the first survey, then \$35 for the second survey in about 18 months, and \$50 for the third survey, about 18 months after the second. A check will be mailed to you about 6 weeks after the survey

Participation in research is completely voluntary. You have the right to decline to participate or to withdraw at any point in this study without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, you may contact Dr. Leora Lawton, Project Director, ucnets@berkeley.edu, or 510-643-1270, or Prof. Claude Fischer, fischer1@berkeley.edu, 510-642-4772.

If you have any questions or concerns about your rights and treatment as a research subject, you may contact the office of UC Berkeley's Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, at 510-642-7461 or subjects@berkeley.edu.

Please print a copy of this statement for your records.