



SOCIAL-BEHAVIORAL STUDY: *Understanding How Personal Networks Change*

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH – Screener (web)

Understanding how Personal Networks Change

Thank you for contacting us about the research study on personal networks. We are conducting a research study with Professor Claude Fischer at the University of California, Berkeley, in the Department of Sociology.

We would like to invite you to take part in our research study, which concerns how people get along with other people over the years.

First we need to know if you fit the criteria for this study. We will ask you some very simple questions about your age, gender, and whether you use a computer, have internet access and use a computer. We seek one person per household, who is either 21 to 30 years old OR is 50 to 70 years old. If there is more than one person in the household who fits this description, then we would be grateful if all interested could sign up and then we will choose the person who will give our total group a representative group - that is, balanced for men and women, young and old, etc.

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.

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 notes 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.

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 entitled.

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, you may contact Dr. Leora Lawton, Project Director at UCNets@berkeley.edu or (510) 643-1270 or Professor Claude Fischer, fischer1@berkeley.edu, or 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.