

NUS-IRB Reference Code: NUS-IRB-2020-598

1. Protocol title

Detrimental to Our Well-Being: Digital Technologies and Campus Sexual Misconduct in Singapore

Trigger Warning: This research is based on sexual misconduct and the description of the research in this document may trigger emotions and memories that are discomforting. Remember that at any point in this survey, you can skip questions, discontinue your participation, or withdraw from the research without giving any reasons. If you have or suspect you might have an existing mental health condition and/or suspect you might be traumatized, we would recommend that you refrain from participating in this study. If you require support, please refer to the list of on-campus and off-campus resources on [our website](#) or in Point 8 below.

2. Principal Investigator and co-investigator(s) (the persons in charge of this research) with the contact number and organization:

Principal Investigator: Michelle Ho
Department of Communications and New Media
National University of Singapore
michelle.ho@nus.edu.sg
(+65) 98253089

Co-investigator: Shivani Gupta
Department of Communications and New Media
National University of Singapore
cnmsg@nus.edu.sg
(+65) 86179505

Co-investigator: Jungup Lee
Department of Social Work
National University of Singapore
swklj@nus.edu.sg
(+65) 90667478

3. What is the purpose of this research?

You are being asked to volunteer in a research study. The purpose of the study is to explore university students' digital well-being and the ways in which various technologies like social media, online platforms, and mobile applications shape and are shaped by "sexual misconduct" on campus in Singapore. "Digital well-being" refers to the impact of digital technologies on a person's quality of life in the social, mental, emotional, and physical sense. "Sexual misconduct" is defined as any nonconsensual action of a sexual nature, including but not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual voyeurism.

Specifically, we are interested in the role digital technologies play in campus sexual misconduct as well as the social and personal well-being of survivors at the National University of Singapore (NUS). This is also known as "technology-facilitated sexual violence and harassment" (TFSV), which refer to a range of

behaviors using or aided by various digital and communication technologies to harm, offend, humiliate, or intimidate women and other individuals. Some examples of TFSV include sexual voyeurism, digital sexual harassment (e.g. sexual solicitation and gender-based hate speech and rape threats), and image-based sexual abuse (e.g. nonconsensual distribution of nude and sexually explicit images—also known as “revenge pornography”—and threats and coercion related to such images—known as “sextortion”).

This information sheet provides you with information about the research study. The interviewer (project research staff) or Principal Investigator (Michelle Ho) will also describe this research to you and answer all of your questions. Please read the information below and ask questions about anything you don’t understand before deciding whether or not to take part.

4. Who can participate in the research? What is the expected duration of my participation? What is the duration of this research?

Participants are asked to volunteer in this study based on their being a student of NUS. Participants must also use and be comfortable engaging with digital and communication technologies, such as social media and text-based and video-based online platforms. Participants must be those who are willing and feel ready to discuss their experiences. Participants must be at least 18 years of age and freely willing to participate in the research. Participants may be of any nationality and identify with any race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. Participants do not need to identify as survivors to participate in the online survey.

If you have or suspect you might have an existing mental health condition and/or suspect you might be traumatized, we would recommend that you refrain from participating in this study. If you require support, please refer to the list of on-campus and off-campus resources in Point 8 below.

The online survey will take approximately 25-30 minutes.

This research will be carried out between March 2021 and February 2022.

5. What is the approximate number of research participants involved?

Approximately 300 participants will be involved in the online surveys.

6. What will be done if I take part in this research study?

If you agree to be in this study, the research team would ask you to complete an online survey. Once you access the survey link, it will lead you first to the participant information sheet (PIS), which outlines important details about the study, such as the purpose of the study, confidentiality, and the possible benefits and risks associated with participation. You will also be able to read the Pamphlet on Sexual Offence Laws for Participants. If, after reading the PIS and Pamphlet in full, you decide to participate in the survey, you will click the “I Agree” button, indicating your informed consent and thereby leading you to the first page of the online survey. This survey will take approximately 25-30 minutes to complete. Questions will ask about technology use, digital well-being, campus sexual misconduct, and your demographic characteristics. Participation is voluntary and anonymous; please do not provide your real name on the survey. You can choose to pause to take a break from, return to, or stop the survey at any time, for any reason, with no consequence.

Some questions could be potentially sensitive, such as the following: *Has someone sent you sexual messages, images, or videos that you did not want? Have you had unwanted sexual contact with anyone? If people you don't know very well are making unwanted sexual comments, jokes, or gestures, how likely are you to say something to try to get them to stop?*

You can skip questions that you do not wish to answer. Further, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the online survey, please contact co-investigator Jungup Lee.

7. How will my privacy and the confidentiality of my research records be protected?

Personal data—such as a pseudonym we will use to address you, email address and/or contact number—is collected only for recruitment and scheduling purposes. Only Principal Investigator will have your personal data and this will not be released to any other person, including members of the research team. To protect your confidentiality, all identifiable research data will be coded (i.e. only identified with a pseudonym) at the earliest possible stage of the research. Personal data will not be used in a publication or presentation and will be discarded upon completion of the research. Your responses will remain confidential.

All data collected will be kept in accordance to the University's Research Data Management Policy. Research data used in any publication will be kept for a minimum of 10 years before being discarded.

Please be reminded that under section 424 of the Criminal Procedure Code if we are made aware of the identity of any person who has committed or has an intention to commit an arrestable offense, they have a legal duty to report the said person and crime to the authorities, even in the case where the survivor in question does not wish to make a report. Please assess the information and identities you reveal during the interview.

Please find the details here:

<https://sso.agc.gov.sg/Act/CPC2010?ProvlDs=P1XXII-> and in the Pamphlet on Sexual Offence Laws for Participants.

8. What are the possible discomforts and risks for participants?

This study represents no more than minimal risk to most participants. However, it may represent greater than minimal risk to a small portion of the target participants. Some of the questions when discussing experiences regarding TFSV and campus sexual misconduct may make you uncomfortable or embarrassed but we will keep your answers confidential. Should you feel uncomfortable answering questions related to these experiences, you do not have to answer any question that you do not wish to, and you are entitled to stop the online survey at any time.

If you wish to seek help, here are some helpline and counselling services:

On-campus

NUS Care Unit (NCU)—formerly Victim Care Unit (VCU)

NCU provides support for students who are experiencing sexual misconduct.

Website: <https://care.nus.edu.sg>

Helpline: 6601 4000 (After office hours, for emergencies only)

E-mail: ncu_help@nus.edu.sg

University Counselling Services (UCS), NUS

UCS provides free short term individual counselling for students.

Website: nus.edu.sg/uhc

Helpline: 6516 7777 (24 hours)

E-mail: uhc_counselling@nus.edu.sg

Off-campus

AWARE Sexual Assault Care Centre (SACC)

SACC provides safe, free, and confidential services for people facing sexual assault and/or sexual harassment.

Website: <http://sacc.aware.org.sg>

Helpline: 6779 0282 (Monday – Friday, 10am to 10pm)

Whatsapp: 9781 4101 (Monday – Friday, 10am to 7pm)

E-mail: sacc@aware.org.sg

Help123 by TOUCH Youth Intervention (TYI)

Help123 is a one-stop service for youth cyber wellness issues run by counsellors from TYI.

Website: <https://www.help123.sg>

Helpline: 1800 6123 123 (Monday – Friday, 9am to 6pm)

E-mail: hello@help123.sg

TOUCHline by TOUCH Community Services

TOUCHline provides counselling services for youths.

Website: <https://www.touch.org.sg>

Helpline: 1800 377 2252 (Monday – Friday, 9am to 6pm)

Samaritans of Singapore (SOS)

SOS provides confidential emotional support for people facing a crisis.

Website: <https://www.sos.org.sg>

Helpline: 1800 221 4444 (24 hours)

E-mail: pat@sos.org.sg

National CARE Hotline (NCH)

NCH offers support for individuals impacted by COVID-19.

Website: <https://www.ccs.org.sg/nch/#1560443813377-022b6048-22de>

Helpline: 1800 202 6868 (Monday – Sunday, 8 am to 12 mn)

Oogachaga Counselling and Support

Oogachaga provides confidential counselling services and emotional support for individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer, or gender-diverse (LGBTQ+).

Website: <https://oogachaga.com>

Helpline (temporarily suspended)

Whatsapp: 8592 0609 (Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays: 7pm – 10pm; Saturdays: 2pm – 5pm)

E-mail: CARE@oogachaga.com

Brave Helpline

The Brave Helpline provides confidential counselling services and emotional support for women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LBTQI).

Website: <https://bravespace.org/brave-helpline/>

Helpline: 8788 8817 (Monday – Friday, 9am to 6pm) (currently running as text-based via Whatsapp)

E-mail: mama@bravespace.org

9. What is the compensation for any injury?

There are no foreseeable risks to you for participating in this study. Hence, no injury or compensation is expected.

If you follow the directions of the PI in charge of this research study and you are injured, the NUS will pay the medical expenses for the treatment of that injury. By giving your consent, you will not waive any of your legal rights or release the parties involved in this study from liability for negligence.

10. Will there be reimbursement for participation?

You will receive a one-time reimbursement of \$5 Grab eGift Card for completing the online survey.

11. What are the possible benefits to me and to others?

There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this study. However, participation may give you the opportunity to express your opinions and experiences. Moreover, the knowledge gained may benefit the public in the future, particularly in understanding the relationship between digital well-being and sexual misconduct on campuses.

12. Can I refuse to participate in this research?

Yes, you can. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You do not have to participate if you don't want to. At any point in this survey, you can skip questions, discontinue your participation, or withdraw from the research without giving any reasons. Thereafter, all your data collected will be discarded.

13. Whom should I call if I have any questions or problems?

If you have any questions or concerns about the study, you may contact the Principal Investigator and co-investigators by email and telephone as listed below:

Principal Investigator: Michelle Ho

michelle.ho@nus.edu.sg

(+65) 98253089

Co-investigator: Shivani Gupta

cnmsg@nus.edu.sg

(+65) 86179505

Co-investigator: Jungup Lee

swklj@nus.edu.sg

(+64) 90667478

For an independent opinion specifically regarding the rights and welfare of research participants, you may contact a staff member of the National University of Singapore Institutional Review Board at telephone (+65) 6516 1234 [Mondays

NUS Institutional Review Board (IRB)

to Thursdays from 8.30am to 6pm, and Fridays from 8.30am to 5.30pm, except public holidays] or email at irb@nus.edu.sg.