

Does The Neurodiversity Paradigm Risk Minimising The Struggles Faced By Some Neurodivergent Individuals?

Thank you for considering participating in this research project. The purpose of this document is to explain to you what the work is about and what your participation would involve, to enable you to make an informed choice.

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to examine whether the neurodiversity paradigm risks minimising the struggles faced by some neurodivergent individuals. Should you choose to participate, you will be asked to take part in a one-to-one interview with a member of the research team. This interview will be audio recorded and is expected to take 30-40 minutes to complete.

Is your participation voluntary?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. There is no obligation to participate, and should you choose to do so, you can refuse to answer specific questions, or decide to withdraw from the interview. Once the interview has been concluded, you can choose to withdraw at any time in the subsequent two weeks.

Will participation in this research be confidential?

All of the information you provide will be kept confidential and anonymous, and will be available only to James White and his supervisor, Dr Gill Harold. The only exception is where information is disclosed which indicates that there is a serious risk to you or to others. Should a serious risk to you or others be identified as part of the study the research team will follow established protocols to ensure appropriate support and intervention, which may include contacting relevant support services or authorities as necessary. Once the interview is completed, the recording will immediately be transferred to a safe UCC data storage platform and wiped from the recording device. The interview will then be transcribed by the researcher, and all identifying information will be removed. Once this is done, the recording

will also be deleted and only the anonymised transcript will remain. This will be stored on a University College Cork supported cloud storage platform (OneDrive). The data will be stored for minimum of 13 months in line with UCC's Code of Research Conduct for taught undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

What will the information collected be used for?

The information you provide may contribute to dissertations, research publications and/or conference presentations. The primary purpose of the research is to inform a thesis for the award of a taught Master's degree.

Does the researcher anticipate any negative consequences for participants?

I do not anticipate any negative outcomes from participating in this study. At the end of the interview, I will discuss with you how you found the experience and how you are feeling. Should you experience strong emotional response during the interview, the contact details for support services will be provided. A list of support organisations and their contact details are also provided below.

- **Samaritans (24 hrs): 116 123**
- **Aware Support Line: 1800 80 48 48**
- **Family Carers Ireland: 1800 24 07 24**

This study has obtained ethical approval from the UCC College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences (CACSSS) Research Ethics Committee.

If you have any queries about this research, you can contact me (James) at jameswhite@umail.ucc.ie or my supervisor (Dr Gill Harold) at g.harold@ucc.ie

If you agree to take part in this study, please sign the consent form overleaf.

Sample Research Consent Form

I.....agree to participate in James White’s research study.

The purpose and nature of the study has been explained to me in writing.

I am participating voluntarily.

I give permission for my interview with James White to be audio/video-recorded.

I understand that I can withdraw from the study, without repercussions, at any time, whether before it starts or while I am participating.

I understand that I can withdraw permission to use the data within two weeks of the interview, in which case the material will be deleted.

I understand that anonymity will be ensured in the write-up by disguising my identity.

I understand that disguised extracts from my interview (e.g. my name / location won’t be used) may be quoted in presentations and publications (e.g. article, book chapter, student thesis, social media publicity of the study’s findings, etc.), if I give permission below (please tick one box):

I agree to participate in this study

I do not agree to participate in this study

Signed:

Date:

PRINT NAME: