

INFORMATION & CONSENT SHEET

STUDY NAME: EXPLORING THOUGHTS, FEELINGS AND SOCIAL EXPERIENCES IN PEOPLE WITH AND WITHOUT LIMERENCE

INVITATION TO TAKE PART

You are being invited to take part in a research study to further our understanding of an involuntary experience that has been called 'limerence'. Limerence is an extreme form of unexpected feelings of connection, love, or attachment to another person (often called the 'limerent object' or LO). It does not matter whether you have heard of this term before now or whether you are or have experienced it. We are interested in people who do and don't have experience with limerence.

Thank you for carefully reading this information sheet. If you'd like to keep a copy for your records, please take a screenshot. This study is being conducted by Dr. Giulia Poerio from the School of Psychology, University of Sussex, who is happy to be contacted (g.i.poerio@sussex.ac.uk) if you have any questions. Students working under her direction on this project are: Daniya Amin Shah (ds639@sussex.ac.uk), Ellie Hobden (E.Hobden@sussex.ac.uk), Marianna Bolec (M.Bolec@sussex.ac.uk), and Sian Panton (S.Panton@sussex.ac.uk). The research team is collaborating on this project with Chloe Evans (Clinical Psychology Trainee, University of Sheffield).

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART AND WHAT WILL I DO?

We are surveying around 400 people over aged 18 – the survey will take around 30 minutes if you do not experience Limerence and 40 minutes if you do. In the survey we will first ask you some basic demographic questions followed by a detailed description of limerence. You will be asked to identify whether you are, or have previously, experienced limerence. If you have, you will be asked a few follow-up questions to more fully understand your experience and the impact it has on you. We will then use a series of established questionnaires which explore aspects of your thoughts, feelings and social experiences. You can then opt to be entered into a prize draw to win 1 of 4 £25 Amazon vouchers and/or leave your contact details for future research on limerence. Your contact details will be stored separately from your survey responses in a password protected document. If you have only included your email for the prize draw we will delete your details as soon as the draw has been conducted.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS TO TAKING PART?

The topics involved in this study may be more sensitive to some than others. A small number of questions about psychological symptoms involve asking about low mood, anxiety, and negative events in your life. In particular, there are several questions asking about adverse childhood experiences (known as ACEs, including experiences of neglect and trauma) as well as whether you experience negative themes such as violence in your daydreaming activity. If you feel that answering any of these questions will impact negatively on your wellbeing or cause significant lasting distress, then it is important for your wellbeing not to take part. You are also not obliged to answer any of the questions. If you feel yourself becoming distressed as a result of taking part in this study then we would advise you to stop the study by closing your browser.

If you are concerned about your own emotional wellbeing or mental health, then here are some immediate sources of support to consider:

- Samaritans - 116 123 (lines are open 24hrs)
- SANEline - 0300 304 7000 (lines are open from 6pm-11pm)
- Shout crisis text line - text SHOUT to 85258 (open 24/7).

If you were to experience distress, then you may also consider speaking to your local healthcare provider.

For further information about this research please contact Dr Giulia Poerio (g.i.poerio@sussex.ac.uk). This research has been approved (ER/EH557/1) by the School of Psychology, University of Sussex. The University of Sussex has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS AND MY PERSONAL INFORMATION?

The results of this research may be written into a scientific report for a Psychology dissertation and/or publication. Your anonymity will be ensured in the way described in the consent information below. Please read this information carefully and then, if you wish to take part, please press the continue button to show you have fully understood this information, and that you consent to take part in the study as it is described here.

CONSENT

By selecting the 'I consent to take part in this research study' below...

- I confirm that I am 18 years of age or over
- I understand that I am agreeing to take part in the University of Sussex research described here, and that I have read and understood the above information.
- I understand that my participation is entirely voluntary, that I can choose not to participate in part or all of the study, and that I can withdraw at any stage without having to give a reason and without being penalised in any way.
- I understand that I can request without penalty that my data be withdrawn and deleted even after the data collection is complete, any time up until the results are analysed (1st June 2023). Should you wish to withdraw your data please email g.l.poerio@essex.ac.uk quoting the unique identification code created for you by qualtrics when you start the study.
- I understand that my personal data will be used for the purposes of this research study and will be handled in accordance with [Data Protection legislation](#). I understand that the University's [Privacy Notice](#) provides further information on how the University uses personal data in its research.
- I understand that my collected data will be stored in a de-identified way (e.g. using ID numbers not names). Electronic data will be stored securely on a University server. De-identified data may be made publically available through online data repositories (e.g., Open Science Framework) or at the request of other researchers.

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