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CRC
Procréation
pour autrui et
liens familiaux

CONSENT FORM

The Contact Research Project: The experience of gamete donors contacted by their donor offspring

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A) INFORMATION

1. General purpose of the study

We invite you to participate in a study that aims to gain a better understanding of the experience of gamete donors who have been contacted by at least one of their donor offspring. The project aims to understand how donors experience the long-term effects of their donation, more specifically regarding their anonymity and their donor offspring's access to information about their origins. This research is financed by the Canada Research Chair in Third-Party Reproduction and Family Ties (SSHRC, 2020–2025). It has been approved by the research ethics committee of Université du Québec en Outaouais (2023-2586).

2. Your participation in this study

Your participation consists in an interview that will last about 90 to 120 minutes, at a time that is convenient for you.

The interview will take place via Zoom. Several topics will be explored, including: a) the circumstances in which you became a gamete donor; b) your first contact with a donor offspring and any ensuing contact; and c) the resources that have helped you and any resources you might have wanted but did not have. The interview will be audio- and video-

recorded and then transcribed. The audio-video file will be destroyed as soon as the transcription is completed.

3. Confidentiality

The collected data are entirely confidential. In the interview transcript, your name will be replaced by an alphanumeric character combination, which will ensure you cannot be identified. The interview coding key will be kept separately from the file containing the coded data.

All physical documents and data regarding the study will be kept in a locked office. The digital documents and data will be kept on the lead researcher's professional computer, in a password-protected folder with a personal access code. Until the transcription is completed, your interview's recording will be kept on the lead researcher's professional computer under the same conditions. Only the lead researcher will have access to it, as well as the research assistant responsible for transcribing interviews, who have signed a confidentiality agreement.¹ Your data will be destroyed seven (7) years after the end of the research project. The recording of your interview will be destroyed as soon as the transcription is completed.

Digital data will be destroyed using specialized software for the permanent deletion of files. Physical documents will be destroyed by shredding.

The collected data will be used for research purposes only. It may be: a) published in articles for scholarly or professional periodicals and journals; b) presented at scholarly or professional conferences; and c) presented at conferences intended for the general public. If we quote your words, your name will be replaced by an alias. We will not publish any information that could identify you in any way.

4. Benefits and discomforts of participating

The interviews will provide an opportunity for you to take time and talk about your personal experience as a donor. You will get a confidential and non-judgemental space where you can express your thoughts and where we will listen to your expertise about donor conception.

Without generating direct benefits for you, the results of the research will advance knowledge on issues regarding donor-conceived people's access to information about their origins and contacts between donor offspring and donors. Your participation will also help us better understand the repercussions of this event as part of the life trajectories of the people involved. Furthermore, it may contribute to updating support practices in fertility clinics and gamete banks.

Interviews will address events that happened in your personal life. Although the lead researcher is mindful of the limits each person places on their privacy, some questions may

¹ For control and verification purposes, the data you share with us could be consulted by the authorized UQO personnel, in compliance with the Regulation relative to the use of information technology resources and telecommunications (Règlement relatif à l'utilisation des ressources informatiques et des télécommunications).

be emotional or uncomfortable for participants. If so, the lead researcher assures you that she will not ask to further investigate any topic you do not wish to expand on. Feel free to ask for a break or to bring the interview to a close.

5. Access to your personal data

You can request access to the project data that concerns you personally by writing an email to Anaïs Martin (anais.g.martin@uqo.ca). The data will be forwarded to you via a secure email.

6. Right to withdraw from the study

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You are entirely free to take part or not.

You are free to refuse to answer any question or to ask to stop the interview, without justification or prejudice. If a second interview is requested, you are free to refuse without justification or impact on your participation in the study.

You are also at liberty to withdraw entirely from the study without justification. You can express your wish by writing to Anaïs Martin (anais.g.martin@uqo.ca). We will then destroy all the data we collected from you. You will keep the compensation that you received after the interview.

7. Incentive

Every participant will receive compensation of CAD 30 (in the form of a gift card) as a way to thank you for your time.

B) CONSENT

Your signature attests that you clearly understand the information regarding your participation in this study and that you consent to participate. It does not indicate that you give up your rights or that you release the researchers from their legal or professional responsibilities. You must clearly understand the implications of your participation in this study, so your decision to take part is informed and remains so throughout the entire research process. Consequently, do not hesitate to ask for clarifications or for more information about this study. You are free to withdraw from it at any time without prejudice.

1. Consent to participate to the Contact research-project

After having read and understood the information regarding my participation in this study, I attest that I freely consent to take part in it. The form is signed in duplicate and I keep a copy.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
First name: _____ Last name: _____

2. Results of the study

Do you wish to receive a summary of the research results? Yes No

If so, please provide the email address where we can send you the results:

3. Secondary use of the data

With your permission, we would also like to be allowed to keep the data we collected within the Contact Research Project for the purpose of further research activities in the same field. In order to safeguard your personal data and identity, the data will be fully anonymized, i.e., it will not be possible for anyone to link it to your identity. We undertake to respect the same ethical rules as for the current study.

It is not mandatory to consent to this part in order to participate in this study. If you refuse, your data will be destroyed at the end of this project. If you agree, your data will be kept for a period of 15 years after the end of this project and then destroyed.

- I agree to secondary use of the data I will provide.
- I refuse the secondary use of the data I will provide.

4. Sharing a future call for participation

We would also like to ask you to participate again in a later project on the experience of the relatives of gamete donors (life partners, parents, children) which would take place in

2025 or 2026. Your acceptance does not mean that you agree to participate in further research, but rather that you agree to be contacted and invited to share our call for participation with your family and friends. You will be contacted by email and given the opportunity to decline or ignore the message. You do not need to consent to this section to participate in this study.

- I agree to be contacted for another study.
- I refuse to be contacted for another study.

If you agree, please provide the email address where we can contact you:

5. Investigator's signature

I attest that I have explained the purpose, the nature, the benefits and the discomforts of the study to the participant.

Signature (research team member): _____ Date: _____

First name: _____ Last name: _____

This study is led by Anaïs Martin, postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Social Work at Université du Québec en Outaouais. For any question regarding this study or to withdraw from it, you can reach the lead researcher by email at anaïs.g.martin@uqo.ca or by phone at +1 (819) 595-3900, extension 2557.

For any complaint or additional questions about your participation in this study, please contact the president of the Research Ethics Committee of Université du Québec en Outaouais, Mr. André Durivage, by phone at 1 800-567-1283, extension 1781, or by email at andre.durivage@uqo.ca.

LIST OF RESOURCES

Agence de la Biomédecine (France)

<https://www.agence-biomedecine.fr/Sites-thematiques>

Association Dons de gamètes solidaires (France)

<https://donsdegametes-solidaires.fr/>

Donor Conceived Alliance (Canada)

<https://www.donorconceivedalliance.ca/>

Donor Conceived Register (United Kingdom)

<https://www.donorconceivedregister.co.uk/>

Donor Conception Canada (Canada)

<https://dccanada.org/>

Donor Conception Network (United Kingdom)

<https://dcnetwork.org/>

Donor Sibling Registry (United States)

<https://donorsiblingregistry.com/dsr-support>

Health Law Central

<https://www.healthlawcentral.com/donorconception/>

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (United Kingdom)

<https://www.hfea.gov.uk/donation/donors/>

Procréation Médicalement Anonyme (France)

<https://pmanonyme.asso.fr/>

Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority (Australia)

<https://www.varta.org.au/understanding-donor-conception/becoming-donor>

We are donor conceived

<https://www.wearedonorconceived.com/resources-page/resources/>

We are egg donors

<https://www.weareegdonors.com/>

A more extensive list is available at

https://crcppa.uqo.ca/app/uploads/2023/01/Ressources_Projet-Contact.pdf