

APPENDICES

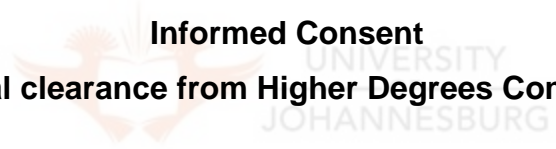


APPENDIX A

Ethics Documents

Informed Consent

Ethical clearance from Higher Degrees Committee





Date: _____

Dear: _____:

I am a Master's student at the University of Johannesburg (ex RAU) under the supervision of Professor Jace Pillay and Dr. Elzette Fritz in the Department of Educational Psychology. I am conducting research to determine the reasons for the high drop out rate of black students from the Masters in Educational Psychology course over the period 2002-2006.

I am requesting your participation in this study, which will involve a two hour taped interview, as well as the completion of a set of "incomplete sentences". Your participation in this study is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study at any time if you wish to do so. Withdrawal from the study will not affect your relationship with the researcher in any way. The results of the study will be published in the form of a mini dissertation and an article. Your name will not be used in the publication of results and your anonymity will be maintained by making use of codes throughout the study. As a registered Intern Psychologist, I will maintain the ethical code of conduct as prescribed by the Health Professions Council of South Africa, as well as the University of Johannesburg with regard to the conducting of research.

If you have any questions concerning the research study, please call me at 011-489-3046 (work) or 0832536952. You may also contact Prof. Jace Pillay on 011-489- 3017 or Dr. Elzette Fritz on 011-489-2273

Yours Sincerely,

Lynn Court Holmes
Intern Psychologist

Prof. Jace Pillay
Supervisor

Dr. Elzette Fritz
Supervisor



INFORMED CONSENT LETTER
FOR PARTICIPANTS TAKING PART IN THE STUDY ON
“THE HIGH DROP OUT RATE OF BLACK STUDENTS FROM THE MASTERS
IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY COURSE FROM 2002-2005”.

Introduction:

The Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Johannesburg supports the practice of protection of human participants participating in research. The following information is provided for you to decide whether you wish to participate in the present study. You may refuse to sign this form and not participate in the study. You should be aware that even if you do agree to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time. If you do withdraw from the study, it will not affect your relationship with the researcher or the University of Johannesburg.

Purpose of the study:

The reason for conducting the research is to look at the experiences of black students in the course, as well as to find out the reasons for the high drop out rate of black Masters in Educational Psychology students from the course over the period 2002-2006, and thus to look at the type of support students require in order to complete the course successfully both now and in the future.

Procedures:

As a participant, you will be required to participate in a two hour individual interview with the researcher, which will be tape recorded, and later transcribed. In addition to this you will be asked to complete some incomplete sentences as well as a collage. The complete contact time will be approximately three hours and will be conducted at a time and place mutually acceptable to you and the researcher. A one hour focus group interview with participants will be held later in the year.

Risks:

I will at all times ensure confidentiality and anonymity by using codes for all participants, but there is always the risk that people may recognise certain experiences and incidents described by you. Talking about experiences of dropping out may illicit negative or uncomfortable feelings. I will try to ensure that I am sensitive to your needs and feelings and may recommend therapy if necessary. I will try to adhere to time constraints as I know everyone is busy, and try to meet with you at a mutually agreed time and place to ensure that you are not inconvenienced more than necessary in terms of travel and interview time.

Benefits:

There may be no direct benefits to you as the participant, other than having the opportunity of sharing your experiences and some of the reasons that led to you dropping out of the course. However, I am hoping that the present and future black students will benefit from the study, and that a support programme can be implemented to decrease the high drop out rate of black students from the course.

Payment to participants:

I will not be able to pay you for your participation in the study, but will do my best to ensure that you are inconvenienced as little as possible financially in terms of transport costs, as well as time constraints, by attempting to meet you at a convenient time and place.

Participant Confidentiality:

Your name will not be associated in any way with the information collected when you are interviewed or with the research findings from the study. You will be allocated a letter of the alphabet instead of your name. The researcher will not share any information about you unless required by law, or unless you give written consent. Any information gathered during the research process will be used during the course of 2006 to write up the findings and to complete my mini dissertation. An article to be published in a relevant journal will also be written about the findings of this research. By signing this form you give permission to the researcher to make use of the information collected in this study both now and at any time in the future.

Refusal to sign consent and authorization:

You are not required to sign this consent form and you may refuse to do so without harm.

Cancelling consent and authorization:

You may withdraw your consent to participate in this study at any time. You also have the right to cancel your permission to use your information collected in this study, in writing at any time, by sending your request to the researcher at PO Box 166537, Brackendowns, 1454. If you cancel your permission to use information collected, no more additional information will be collected from you. The researcher may use information gathered before the cancellation is received, as described above.

Questions about participation:

Questions about procedures or the study should be directed to the researcher or either of the two supervisors listed at the end of this consent form.

Participation Certification:

I have read this consent and authorization form. I have had the opportunity to ask, and I have received answers to any questions I had regarding the study. I understand that if I have any additional questions about my rights as a research participant, I may call or write to the researcher or either of the two supervisors.

I agree to take part in the study as a research participant. By my signature I affirm that I am at least 18 years old and that I have received a copy of this consent and authorization form

Participant's Name

Participant's signature

Signed at _____ on date: _____

Researcher's details:

Lynn Court Holmes
011-489-3206(w)
0832536852
PO Box 166527
Brackendowns
1454

Supervisor's details

Prof. Jace Pillay
011-489-3017

Dr. Elzette Fritz
011-489-2273

APPENDIX B
Beginning the research



Beginning the process of research:

1. Contacting Participants by phone to explain research:

I already have contact numbers for the four possible participants that were in my class. I will ask Tumi Diale to help with contact numbers of the other four possible participants who dropped out in the previous year, as she has already agreed to do.

I will personally contact each possible participant and explain who I am and what my research is about, with the aim of encouraging them to agree to participate in my research. If they agree to participate, I will arrange a meeting with each participant as soon as possible, preferably before the end of February 2006. I would prefer it if each participant could meet me at the ICAG so I have the facilities to video tape each interview as well as audio tape them to ensure back up for when I do my transcriptions. I may have to offer some petrol money to participants who come to the ICAG. If the participant cannot come to the centre or is unwilling to do so, I will have to make arrangements to meet them at a mutually agreed upon venue.

2. The Interview:

The interview will begin by discussing ethical and professional practice. I will ensure that each participant signs a document giving me permission to conduct the research. In addition to written informed consent, I will also discuss issues of confidentiality, explain that I will ensure anonymity of each participant by using codes and pseudonyms, and at the end of the research I will destroy all tapes. The interview will make use of open-ended questions and I will ask the participant to tell his or her story. The aim of the interview is to allow each participant to tell his or her story of how they got to be selected and the circumstances leading up to them dropping out of the course.

I shall then ask each participant if he or she would fill in some incomplete sentences (see separate sheet) which have been compiled especially for this research. At the end of the interview I will ensure that each participant is emotionally well after exposing their feelings and experiences of dropping out of the course, and may need to recommend therapy if they feel they need it.

APPENDIX C

Verification of themes questionnaire



30 September 2006

Dear Participant _____

The following **themes** have emerged as I have analysed my data from the interviews, incomplete sentences and other feedback. To allow me to **verify my data**, please would you comment on each theme regarding its relevance to your situation. Please give as much detail as you are comfortable with. Please remember that the confidentiality agreement and informed consent that you signed still applies.

Please fill in at the relevant places below, add more space if you need to, and e-mail back to me lynn@holme.co.za and icag7@uj.ac.za or bring to me personally at ICAG if you prefer to print out and write in answers. Remember you will be identified only by your allocated code letter.

If you have any questions, please call me on 011-489-3106(w) or 0832536952

Many thanks

Lynn Holmes.

Please comment on your experiences and difficulties regarding the following identified themes. Explain how these may have led to you dropping out/nearly dropping out of the Educational Psychology Master's course.

If you did not experience anything like this, let me know that too.

Age: _____

Gender: _____

Year you started the course: _____



Theme 1: Lack of Time/Time pressures (course more full time)

Theme 2: Lack of resources and financial difficulties

Theme 3: Cultural differences, language, gender, traditional roles and past experiences

Some of these differed for men and women, married and single people, so please give your gender (male or female) are you married or single, and comment on how your gender, culture, language, past experiences and traditional roles added to your difficulties in the course, and/or having to drop out/nearly drop out.

Theme 4: Lack of skills

eg: Academic writing skills, concept mapping, putting a portfolio together; computer literacy skills etc.

Theme 5: Racism

Level 1: Internalised oppression due to past experiences

5.1. Did you experience any feeling of internalised oppression due to your past _____ experiences? ie: feelings of not being good enough, being more sensitive due to skin colour, afraid to ask for help in case thought of as "stupid", overly aware of being black?

5.2. Did you expect racism and yet find it different/things have changed/not changed?

Level 2: Covert/direct racism

- 5.3. Were you treated differently by fellow students, lecturers because you were black?
- 5.4. Did you have difficulty communicating with fellow students, lecturers?
- 5.5. Did you have difficulty conceptualising psychopathology or other modules due to your own traditions, culture, beliefs etc.
- 5.6. In what way (if any) are your traditions, culture, beliefs etc. in conflict with some of the course work?

Theme 6: Structure of course

- 6.1. In what ways could the course have been better structured/organised to assist you better?

Also comment regarding your experiences of

- 6.2. Supervision
- 6.3. Times of lectures
- 6.4. Course modules
- 6.5. Availability of lecturers
- 6.6. Assessment
- 6.7. Course materials
- 6.8. Support
- 6.9. Practical hours
- 6.10. Assignments and presentations



7. Extra Questions:

- 7.1. Comment on **how you coped** and the support systems you have/had.
- 7.2. Do you have any constructive suggestions on what could have been done to make you stay/would have prevented you from dropping out or nearly dropping out?

Thank you for taking time to answer these questions.

APPENDIX D
Interview format used
(Open-ended questions used for interviews)



Some ideas for Individual Interview Questions:

1. Discuss the reasons you decided to apply for the Masters in Educational Psychology course.
2. Discuss how you felt when you were accepted for the Masters in Educational Psychology course.
3. How did your family, partner, friends react to you being accepted into the course?
4. What fears did you have when you first began the course?
5. What did you find most difficult about the course?
6. What factors contributed to you dropping out of the course?
7. What support do you feel the University could have offered you which may have prevented you from dropping out of the course?
8. How has dropping out of the course affected your life and career?
9. What problems did you experience after you dropped out of the course?
10. How did you experience your class mates and lecturers?
11. What did you find helpful and enjoyable about the course?
12. In what ways could you have been better prepared for the course?
13. What does the future hold for you outside the course?

APPENDIX E
Incomplete sentences questionnaire



Incomplete sentences questionnaire:

Code: _____

Date: _____

Please complete the following sentences as honestly as possible. Do not spend too much time thinking about what to write, it is preferable to write whatever you think of first. There are no right or wrong answers.

1. When I was accepted for the Masters degree in Educational Psychology I felt _____

and I thought _____

2. My family/partner/friends were _____

3. I found the course _____

4. I felt the lectures were _____



5. I did not have enough _____

6. I struggled with _____

7. I enjoyed _____

8. I was not prepared for _____

9. I needed more _____

10. I would change _____

11. If I could do it over I would _____

12. The people in my class were _____

13. The lecturers were _____

14. I had to drop out because _____

15. Dropping out made me feel _____

16. ..and I realised _____

17. I learnt _____

18. I am now _____

19. Because I dropped out _____

20. I would like to _____

21. In the future I will _____



APPENDIX F
Language Editing Certificate



**This is to certify that the mini
dissertation**

**“The experiences of black students
who dropped out of the Masters in
Educational Psychology Course at a
Gauteng University during the years
2002-2006”**



by:

Lynn Court. Holmes

has been language edited

Signed:_____ Date:_____

Paul Court

011-900-4471

0731384858