

Informed Consent Form

Date: December 9th, 2022

Study Name: The role of entertainment media in the persistence of Canadian and American Poverty

Researchers: Anne F. MacLennan, Associate Professor, Victor Phillip Dahdaleh (DB) Building 3025, amaclenn@yorku.ca, 416)736-2100 Ext: 33857

Purpose of the Research:

This research project will examine taken-for-granted notions of poverty and the means that the poor should employ to join the middle class that have persisted for centuries. The trope of hard work and "rags to riches" rise from poverty is echoed in the media. This research will gather and analyze media representations of poverty in film, television, and music to examine the pervasiveness of stereotypes about poverty and its stigmatization to investigate their prevalence; the reinforcement; and any emerging challenges to the status quo. Then in this stage of the research focus groups will be hosted to gather and analyze opinions formed about or reactions to the poor/poverty by consumers of media representations of the poor/poverty. The research about the media and the discussion from the focus groups to examine connections between the media representations and audience to examine stereotypes and beliefs about persistent poverty.

What You Will Be Asked to Do in the Research:

As part of this research, you will join a focus group of four to eight people, ideally six. Regularly participants should expect that the focus group will be held on Zoom and the participants will be instructed on how to make their name display as a pseudonym before they enter Zoom. They may leave their cameras on or off. They will be given a consent form and the general questions that will be discussed by DM or email prior to the focus group. To mitigate the bias of conducting focus groups and only interviewing media consumers who are active on the internet, some in person groups will be hosted as well, such as at fan gatherings, conferences, or events that are connected to the television or film audiences. The participants at in-person focus groups will also use pseudonyms. Similarly consent forms will be distributed in print form for any participants who did not complete a form online for an in-person focus group and the broad questions and topics for discussion will be distributed. It is anticipated that by far the majority of the focus groups will be held on Zoom. In the case of Zoom, participants will list their income level, gender, race, education level, sexuality, region, and pseudonym online and in person participants will do so on paper. This will be prior to the focus group so that the data is retained separately and it is not shared with anyone in the group.

Most focus groups will last for approximately one hour and the participants will discuss the portrayals and stereotypes of people living in poverty in music, film, and television.

Risks and Discomforts:

We do not foresee any risks or discomfort from your participation in the research. Should any participants feel any discomfort they should stop participating.

Benefits of the Research and Benefits to You: The focus groups will allow the research team to examine the ways that the media representations are received and assess the connections between entertainment media and empathy toward the poor or the lack of it thereby providing a cultural understanding of poverty.

Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal: Your participation in the study is completely voluntary and you may choose to stop participating at any time. Your decision not to volunteer, to stop participating, or to refuse to answer particular questions will not influence the nature of your relationship with York University either now, or in the future.

Confidentiality: All information you supply during the research will be held in confidence and your name will not appear in any report or publication of the research.

The principal investigator will keep a link that identifies you to your coded information, but this link will be kept secure and available only to the principal investigator and/or selected members of the research team. Any information that can identify you will remain confidential.

The data will be collected by audio recording. Your data will be safely stored in a locked/password protected secure server and temporarily on locked/password protected external drives and only research staff/research team members will have access to this information. The data will be stored indefinitely on the same locked server. Confidentiality will be provided to the fullest extent possible by law.

The data will be used in presentations, journal articles, creative work that includes podcasts or documentary, a book, book chapters, public discussions such as The Conversation, and teaching.

The data collected in this research project may be used in an anonymized form by members of the research team in subsequent research investigations exploring similar lines of inquiry. Such projects will still undergo ethics review by the HPRC, our institutional REB. Any secondary use of anonymized data by the research team will be treated with the same degree of confidentiality and anonymity as in the original research project.

This study will use Zoom to collect data, which is an externally hosted cloud-based service. When information is transmitted over the internet privacy cannot be guaranteed. There is always a risk your responses may be intercepted by a third party (e.g., government agencies, hackers). Further, while York University researchers will not collect or use IP addresses or other information which could link your participation to your computer or electronic devices without informing you, there is a small risk with any platform such as this of data that is collected on external servers falling outside the control of the research team. If you are concerned about this, we would be happy to make alternative arrangements (where possible) for you to participate, perhaps via telephone. Please contact Anne MacLennan for further information.

Recordings (audio) will be saved in a password protected file to research team members' local computer, not the cloud-based service.

Please note that it is the expectation that participants agree not to make any unauthorized recordings of the content of a meeting / data collection session or share any of the information discussed. Due to the nature of focus groups, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in this setting. However, the researchers ask that information from the discussion not be shared outside of the focus group setting.

Questions About the Research? If you have questions about the research in general or about your role in the study, please feel free to contact Dr. Anne MacLennan either by telephone at (416) 736-2100, extension 33857 or by e-mail (amaclenn@yorku.ca). This research has received ethics review and approval by the Human Participants Review Sub-Committee, York University's Ethics Review Board and conforms to the standards of the Canadian Tri-Council Research Ethics guidelines. If you have any questions about this process, or about your rights as a participant in the study, please contact the Director, Research Ethics in the Office of Research Ethics, 3rd Floor, Kaneff Tower, York University (e-mail ore@yorku.ca).

Legal Rights and Signatures:

I (*fill in your name here*), consent to participate in (*insert study name here*) conducted by (*insert investigator name here*). I have understood the nature of this project and wish to participate. I am not waiving any of my legal rights by signing this form. My signature below indicates my consent.

Signature

Date

Participant

Signature _____

Date _____

Principal Investigator

For online consent, please add your electronic signature above.

Additional consent (where applicable)

You must seek additional consent by including check boxes or requesting additional signatures for the following:

1. Audio recording

I consent to the audio-recording of my interview(s).