

Informed Consent Form: Focus Groups

Date: April 24th, 2024

Study Name: Interrogating Canadian Identities/ Les identités canadiennes — une interrogation (ICI)

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Purpose of the Research:

The Canadian Identities/Les identités canadienne -- une interrogation (ICI) Partnership Development Grant will interrogate anachronistic and persistent images and ideas about Canadian identity that date back to 1967 and the celebration of Canada's hundredth anniversary. These conceptions, however, are often rooted in the historical conceptions of settler communities and this country's first one hundred and fifty-five years. We are interested in the continued impact of that past on contemporary views of what it means to be a Canadian now.

Our objectives are to examine:

- (a) what images of being Canadian are being presented today in these different media and whether they have evolved since 1965;
- (b) whether media policy should continue to have a nation-building mandate;
- (c) if so, what images of being Canadian should underpin media policy in an era of Black Lives Matter and the Truth Reconciliation Commission; and
- (d) how these images are received and contextualized by lived experiences of Canadians.

What You Will Be Asked to Do in the Research:

You will participate in a 45-to-60-minute discussion as part of a focus group. The focus groups will consist of groups of approximately four to twelve people. They will be held on Zoom and in person. If held on Zoom, you will be instructed on how to make your name display as a pseudonym before you enter Zoom. You may leave your camera on or off. You will be sent a consent form by email or a link to the consent form will be put in the chat. The consent form will be provided on the grant website in advance of the focus group and during the focus group. You must complete and sign a consent form to be part of the focus group. If participating in an in-person focus group, you can choose whether to disclose your name in the discussion. Similarly, consent forms will be distributed in print form if you did not complete a form downloaded from the website and emailed prior to the focus group in person. Focus group discussions will be based on broad questions about Canadian identities and living in Canada, available on the grant website.

Risks and Discomforts: Although we do not foresee any risks or discomfort from your participation in the research, there may be minor risks of psychological or emotional discomfort that may result from participation. Risks are minimal. Additionally, there are some possible social risks such as a loss of confidentiality upon anonymity being waived due to the discussion taking place in a group setting. If any discomfort occurs due to these risks, participants may choose to stop participating at any time.

Benefits of the Research and Benefits to You:

This research will give you a chance to contribute to research about Canadian identities and living in Canada. You will have a chance to make your opinion known and learn what others think.

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. Should you wish to withdraw after the study, you will have the option to also withdraw your data up until the analysis is complete.

Confidentiality: Unless you choose otherwise the data or the recording of the participant will not be associated with identifying information. All information you supply during the research will be held in confidence and unless you specifically indicate your consent, 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 as audio recordings and transcribed. Your data will be safely stored in a locked facility and only research staff/research team members will have access to this information. The data will be stored in a locked filing cabinet with password protection and it will be retained indefinitely. Confidentiality will be provided to the fullest extent possible by law.

The data collected in this research project may be used – in de-identified 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 Dr. Anne MacLennan by e-mail (amaclenn@yorku.ca) 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.

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 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, Kaneff Tower, York University (e-mail ore@yorku.ca).

Legal Rights and Signatures:

I _____, consent to participate in Interrogating Canadian Identities/ Les identités canadiennes — une interrogation (ICI) conducted by Dr. Anne MacLennan. 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

For online consent, please add your electronic signature here.

Participant

Signature

Date

Principal Investigator

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).

I _____ consent to the use of images of the audio and its transcriptions in:

In academic articles, chapters, books	N	Y
In print, digital and slide form	N	Y
In academic presentations and publications	N	Y
In media and teaching	N	Y
Podcasts, blogs, and other public research	N	Y

2. Consent to waive anonymity

I _____, consent to the use of my name in the publications arising from this research.

3. Consent to use of quotes

I _____, consent to the use of quotations without your name in any final reports/ publications of the research? Y / N

I _____, consent to the use of quotations in any final reports/ publications of the research? Y / N