

Fielding Graduate University
Informed Consent Form

Being Seen: Self-concept development in highly gifted adults

You have been asked to participate in a research study conducted by Tracy Winter, a doctoral student in the School of Human and Organization Development at Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, CA. This study is supervised by Judith Stevens-Long, Ph.D. This research involves the study of highly gifted adults with and is part of Tracy's Fielding dissertation. You are being asked to participate in this study because you meet these qualifications.

Before you agree to participate in this research study, it is important that you read and understand the information provided in this informed consent form. If you have any questions, please ask the researcher for clarification.

Why Is This Study Being Done?

Gifted children face unique social and emotional challenges due to their advanced cognition and unusual intensity. These challenges can manifest as developmental difficulties that may not be resolved in childhood. Like anyone else, gifted adults may look for resolution for the effects of those childhood developmental snags. However, little research has been done about the unique social and emotional challenges gifted adults may face, leaving gifted adults, their families, and their counselors bereft of guidance. Although one study cannot hope to provide understanding of all of the developmental problems gifted adults may face, this study will contribute one piece to filling that need.

In interviews, gifted children have indicated that they became aware of their difference early in life. Like other children, they observe the reflections they receive from those around them, which contribute to their identity formation. Unlike other children, they begin noticing and internalizing this information when they are younger than other children. They become acutely aware that the way they see themselves differs from the way the rest of the world sees them. The reflections they receive often do not align with their own self-understanding, impairing their identity formation. As children grow, they may become gifted adults who struggle with conflict in their self-understanding.

Accurate reflections are hard to come by when one differs from the majority of the population, as is the case for gifted people. Others more often receive the accurate reflections they need in childhood and adolescence. Gifted children, as outliers, may not find their accurate reflections at the appropriate time of their development; however, gifted adults may discover reflections that fill the void left in childhood.

This study is an investigation of how gifted adults experience resolution of childhood identity gaps. Because of their differences, gifted children can have a difficult time finding reflections that align with their self-concepts. Lack of accurate reflections in childhood can impede identity development, leading to potential challenges in adulthood. In this study, you and the researcher will explore the adult experience of finding true reflections and how those experiences affect development in gifted adults.

How Many People Will Take Part In The Study?

Approximately 20-30 people will take part in the study.

What Is Involved In The Study?

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to schedule a Skype or FaceTime interview with me. This interview should last approximately 15-20 minutes. Each interview will be digitally recorded, and I will transcribe the recording.

You then will be asked to complete a questionnaire. Participants will write short answers to a few open-ended questions about your experience. The questionnaire will also include basic factual questions (e.g., age, region where you live, educational level, etc).

There is a small chance that the researcher will request a follow up interview of no more than 60 minutes after reviewing the questionnaires. Interviews will take place in-person or via Skype, depending your preference and agreeable logistics. Each interview will be digitally recorded, and I will transcribe the recording. To schedule the interview, you will be contacted via phone or email.

How Long Will I Be In The Study?

The study involves a short interview, completing a short answer questionnaire, and a possible follow-up interview. The initial interview should be 15-20 minutes. You may spend as long as you like on the questionnaire, though I would estimate it will take 30-45 minutes. Any follow-up interview will last no longer than 60 minutes.

What Are The Risks Of The Study?

The risks to you are considered minimal, but there is a small chance that you may experience some emotional discomfort during or after your participation. Should you experience such discomfort, the researcher can help you find appropriate counseling services and/or therapists.

What Are The Benefits To Taking Part In This Study?

By participating in this study, you may develop greater personal awareness of how you have come to understand yourself in adulthood. Your participation will benefit gifted children and other gifted adults who experience challenges in their identity development.

What about Confidentiality and Protection?

Study-related records will be held in confidence. Your consent to participate in this study includes consent for the researcher and supervising faculty to see your data. Your research records may also be inspected by authorized representatives of the Fielding Graduate University, including members of the Institutional Review Board or their designees. They may inspect, and photocopy as needed, your records for study monitoring or auditing purposes. In addition, parts of your record may be photocopied.

The information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. The informed consent forms and other identifying information will be kept separate from the data. All materials will be kept locked in the researcher's home office. Any digital materials will be kept under encryption and password protection on the researcher's personal computer and an on-line backup service. The recordings will be listened to only by the Researcher and possibly supervising faculty. Any records that would identify you as a participant in this study, such as informed consent forms, will be destroyed by shredding and digital erasing approximately three years after the study is completed.

You will be asked to provide a different name for any quotes that might be included in the final research report. Any future publication or presentation may use direct quotes under your pseudonym.

The results of this research will be published in my dissertation, in a class paper, and possibly published in subsequent journals, books or presentations

The security of data transmitted over the Internet cannot be guaranteed; therefore, there is a slight risk that the information you send to me via email will not be secure. The collection of such data is not expected to present any greater risk than you would encounter in everyday life when sending and/or receiving information over the Internet. All responses will be confidential as allowed by the communication or delivery method used.

Participation In Research Is Voluntary:

You are free to decline to participate or to withdraw from this study at any time, either during or after your participation, without negative consequences. Should you withdraw, your data will be eliminated from the study and will be destroyed.

The researcher is also free to terminate the study at any time.

Compensation:

No compensation will be provided for participation.

Study Results:

You may request a copy of the summary of the aggregate final results by indicating your interest at the end of this form. Summaries of the study results will be sent electronically unless otherwise requested.

Additional Information:

If you have any questions about any aspect of this study or your involvement, please tell the Researcher before signing this form. You may also contact the supervising faculty if you have questions or concerns your participation in this study. The supervising faculty has provided contact information at the bottom of this form.

You may also ask questions at any time during your participation in this study.

If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, contact the Fielding Graduate University IRB by email at irb@fielding.edu or by telephone at 805-898-4033.

Two copies of this informed consent form have been provided. Please sign both, indicating you have read, understood, and agree to participate in this research. Return one to the researcher and keep the other for your files. The Institutional Review Board of Fielding Graduate University retains the right to access to all signed informed consent forms and study documents.

I have read the above informed consent document and have had the opportunity to ask questions about this study. I have been told my rights as a research participant, and I voluntarily consent to participate in this study. By signing this form, I agree to participate in this research study. I shall receive a signed and dated copy of this consent.

NAME OF PARTICIPANT (please print)

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT

DATE

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Summaries of the study results will be sent electronically unless otherwise requested.

Yes, please send a summary of the study results to:

NAME (please print)

Email