Behavioural Application

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UnivRS Internal ID:
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PART 1: KEY INFORMATION

Title*: **Choosing to Wait: Experiences and Meanings of Sexual Abstinence**

Level of Risk: * Minimal risk

Expected Start Date: * 2018-01-12

Expected End Date: * 2019-04-30

If applicable, explain why this application is time sensitive: **NA**

Applicants

Principal Investigator

Name:	NSID:	Email:	Phone:	Organization (Department):
Karen Lawson		karen.lawson@usask.ca	1-306-966-2524	Dept. of Psychology, Arts & Science,

Sub-Investigator(s)

Name:	NSID:	Email:	Phone:	Organization (Department):
Melanie Bayly		melanie.bayly@usask.ca	1-306-966-8255	Dept.Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture, College of Medicine

Student(s)

Name:	NSID:	Email:	Phone:	Organization (Department):
Madeleine Froehlich	mnf117	mnf117@usask.ca	NA	Dept. of Psychology, Arts & Science

Primary Contact

Name:	NSID:	Email:	Phone:	Organization (Department):
Instructor				

Secondary Contact

Name:	NSID:	Email:	Phone:	Organization (Department):

Sponsor(s)

Sponsor:	Pending / Awarded
NA	

Agency(ies)

This project is funded: * ☐ Yes ☒ No

The funding supporting this project will be administrated at the University of Saskatchewan: ☐ Yes, complete Part A ☐ No, complete Part B

Part A: For Grants and Contracts administered by the U of S:

Project Application(s) Directly Associated with the Fund(s) Supporting this Project.

Specify the UnivRS internal ID# (for pending grants or contracts): **NA**

Project(s) Directly Associated with the Fund(s) Supporting this Project

Specify the UnivRS internal ID# (for awarded grants or contracts): **NA**

Part B: For Grants or Contracts not administered by the U of S:

Agency:	Pending / Awarded
NA	

Location(s) Where Research Activities Are Conducted

Enter every location where this research will be conducted under this Research Ethics Approval: *
University of Saskatchewan

Country(ies):* List all countries where you will be conducting your research under this Research Ethics Approval. **Canada**

If this project will be conducted within schools, health regions, or other organizations, specify how you will obtain permission to access the site. Submit a copy of the certificate or letter of approval when obtained. **NA**

If you do not plan to seek approval, provide a justification: **NA**

Other Ethics Approval

This project has applied for/received approval from another Research Ethics Board(s) * ☐ Yes ☒ No

If 'yes', identify the other Research Ethics Board(s): **NA**

Conflict of Interest

Confirm whether any member of the research team or their immediate family members will:

Receive personal benefits over and above the direct costs of conducting the project, such as remuneration or employment: *	☐ Yes ☒ No
Receive significant payments from the Sponsor such as compensation in the form of equipment, supplies or retainers for ongoing consultation and honoraria: *	☐ Yes ☒ No
Have a non-financial relationship with the Sponsor such as unpaid consultant, board membership, advisor or other non-financial interest: *	☐ Yes ☒ No
Have any direct involvement with the Sponsor such as stock ownership, stock options or board membership: *	☐ Yes ☒ No
Hold patents, trademarks, copyrights, licensing agreements or intellectual property rights linked in any way to this project or the Sponsor: *	☐ Yes ☒ No
Have any other relationship, financial or non-financial, that if not disclosed, could be construed as a conflict of interest: *	☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes was answered to any question(s), explain the personal benefit(s) and how the conflict will be managed: **NA**

Part 2: PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Overview

Summarize this project, its objectives and potential significance: * **The primary purpose of the research is to educate the student-researcher in the methods of behavioural research. I am studying the experiences and meanings surrounding sexual abstinence for emerging adults. Using a phenomenological approach through sexual script theory, this will allow for an improved understanding of how sexual decision making can affect various dimensions of life, and the development of the individual. Due to the small amount of qualitative research focusing on Canadian, emerging adult women, this study hopes to receive a better understanding of how personal sexual choices change and develop over the lifecourse.**

Provide a description of the research design and methods to be used: * **A PAWS bulletin and snowball sampling using the ad content (Appendix C) will be used to recruit individuals. Data will be collected during two separate interviews. The first will be a life history interview and a demographics form, while the second will be a semi-structured interview. In the first interview, participants will be asked to fill out a demographics form which will provide basic information about the participant. Additionally, a life history interview will be conducted, asking participants to describe their life history as it relates to their sexual abstinence (Appendix E).**

Following the life history narrative provided by participants, the second meeting will involve a semi-structured interview (Appendix F). The semi-structured interview will allow for a deeper investigation of particular topics of interest to the researcher and

provide participants an opportunity to be more descriptive about their experiences discussed during the previous interview.

Two tape-recorded interviews, lasting between 30-75 minutes each, will be conducted with each participant at a muturally agreed upon time and location on campus. Interviews will be conducted within five to seven days of one another and transcribed on an ongoing basis.

Duration and Location of Data Collection Events

Outline the duration and location of data collection for the following, if applicable:
Audio/Video Recording(s): YES

Ethnography: No

Focus Group(s): No

Group Interview(s): No

Home Visit(s): No

Individual Interview(s): Yes

Non-Invasive Physical Measurement(s): No

Participant Observation: No

Questionnaire(s): No

Secondary Use of Data or Analysis of Existing Data: No

Other: **NA**

Internet-Based Interaction

Confirm whether this project will involve internet-based interactions with participants, including e-mails: *	☒ Yes ☐ No

If a third party research or transaction log tool, screen capturing or website survey software or masked survey site is used, describe how the security of data gathered at those sites will be ensured: **NA**

Describe how permission to use any third party owned site(s) will be obtained: **NA**

If participants may be identified by their email address, IP address or other identifying information, explain how this information will remain private and confidential: **All emails from participants will be permanently deleted following their participation in the research.**

Anonymity and Confidentiality

Confirm whether participants will be anonymous in the data gathering phase of the project: *	☐ Yes ☒ No

If 'No' was answered to the previous question, explain how the confidentiality of participants and their data will be protected, and include whether the research procedures or collected information may reasonably be expected to identify an individual: **The confidentiality of participants and their data will be protected through the use of pseudonyms. Due to the use of snowball sampling, individuals may be introduced to the research project by other participants,**

however, no identifiable markers will be during the interview process or collected information.

Identify any factors that may limit the researchers' ability to guarantee confidentiality:

Limits due to the nature of group activities, such as a focus group where the project team cannot guarantee confidentiality:	☐ Yes ☒ No
Limits due to context: individual participants could be identified because of the nature or size of the sample:	☐ Yes ☒ No
Limits due to context: individual participants could be identified because of their relationship with the project team:	☐ Yes ☒ No
Limits due to selection: procedures for recruiting or selecting participants may compromise the confidentiality of participants, such as those referred to the project by a person outside the project team:	☒ Yes ☐ No

Other confidentiality limits: **NA**

Risks and Benefits

Explain the psychological, emotional, physical, social or legal harms that participants may experience during or after their participation: **No above-minimal risks of any kind.**

Describe how the above risks will be managed. If appropriate, identify any resources to which they can be referred: **NA**

Describe the likely benefits of the research that may justify the above risk(s): **There may be no tangible benefits for participation.**

Part 3: Community Engagement

Aboriginal Peoples and Community Engagement

Aboriginal communities, peoples, language, culture or history is the primary focus of this project: *	☐ Yes ☒ No
Aboriginal people will comprise a sizable proportion of the larger community that is the subject of research even if no Aboriginal-specific conclusions will be made: *	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable
There is an intention to draw Aboriginal-specific conclusions from this project: *	☐ Yes ☒ No
This project will involve community-based participatory research: *	☐ Yes ☒ No
There will be a research agreement between the researcher and community:	☐ Yes ☒ No

Aboriginal Engagement and Community-Based Participatory Research

If 'yes' was answered to any of the above questions, complete the following:

Outline the process to be followed for consulting with the appropriate community: **NA**

Describe the organizational structure and community processes required to obtain approval within the specific community(ies): **NA**

Describe any customs and codes of research practice that apply to the particular community(ies) affected by the project: **NA**

Describe how the research plan will consider mutual benefit to the participating community(ies), support capacity building through enhancement of the skills of community personnel and the recognition of the role of elders and other knowledge holders: **NA**

Describe how the community representatives will have the opportunity to participate in the interpretation of the data and the review of research findings before the completion of any reports or publications: **NA**

Describe how the final project results will be shared with the participating community(ies): **NA**

PART 4: RECRUITMENT AND CONSENT

Participant Recruitment

Indicate the expected number of participants and provide a brief rationale for the number: * **Seven to ten individuals who are sexually abstinent, between the ages of 18 and 28, will be interviewed for this study. This number of participants was determined to be appropriate given the time restraints and deeply involved nature of the project. All participants will have chosen to be sexually abstinent prior to the research project. Only women will be sought out to participate in the study, due to perceived gender differences when it comes to sexual abstinence. The focus of the study is not a comparison between two genders, but rather it is looking to better understand the experiences and sexual decision making of women.**

Describe the criteria for including participants: * **Those who self-identify as female and sexually abstinent, and are between the ages of 18-28**

Describe the criteria for excluding participants: * **Those who self-identify as male and do not identify as sexually abstinent, and those who fall outside of the desired age group.**

Provide a detailed description of the method of recruitment, such as how and whom will identify and contact prospective participants: * **Participants may be selected by the researcher from several different sources. First, participants may be recruited from a PAWS bulletin (Appendix C) which will state that an honours research project is interested in interviewing 18-28 year old women who are choosing sexual abstinence. The second method of recruitment will be snowball sampling. Participants will email the researcher if they are interested in signing up for the study. The researcher will then send more information on the study (Appendix A) and after the participants have read a description of the study interview times will be determined.**

If the project involves vulnerable, distinct, or cultural groups, or if the project is above minimal risk, describe the research team's experience or training in working with the population: **NA**

Explain any relationship between the researchers and the participants, including any safeguards to prevent possible undue influence, coercion or inducement: * **Participants will self-identify after seeing a study ad or invitation, so at no point will the researcher ask them to participate.**

Provide the details of any compensation or reimbursements offered to the participants: **NA**

Consent Process

Describe the consent process: **Participants will be first informed about the purpose and procedures of the study. Participants will then be given a consent form that they will be asked to read and sign. A copy of the consent form may be found in (Appendix B). The student researcher will answer any questions aout the study before proceeding. Participants will be debriefed verbally and through a written debriefing form once participation is complete. A copy of the debriefing form is attached (Appendix H).**

Specify who will explain the consent form and consent participants: * **The student researcher**

Explain where and under what circumstances consent will be obtained from participants: * **Prior to the beginning of the study.**

Describe any situation where the renewal of consent might be appropriate and how it may be obtained: * **NA**

If deception of any kind will be used, justify its use, describe the protocol for debriefing and re-consenting participants upon completion: * **NA.**

If any of the participants are not competent to consent, describe the process by which their capacity or competency will be assessed, identify who will consent on his/her behalf (including any permission or information letter to be provided to the person or persons providing alternate consent), as well as the assent process for participants: **NA**

Describe how and when participants will be informed about their right to withdraw, including the procedures to be followed for participants who wish to withdraw at any point during the project: * **The consent form clearly indicates that participants have the right to withdraw from the study at any time and for whatever reason without penalty. After signing the consent form, participants will be reminded of their right to withdraw. When participants decide to withdraw, data collection will be stopped immediately and they will be thanked for their participation. A copy of the debriefing form will be provided and each participant will be asked if there are any questions or concerns about the nature of the study. The participant will receive the same compensation as others who complete the study. All data collected from the participant will be destroyed beyond recovery. Regarding withdrawal of data, participant's data may not be withdrawn after March 20th, 2019.**

PART 5: SECURITY AND STORAGE

Data Security and Storage

Identify the research personnel responsible for data collection: * **The student researcher(s)**

Specify who will have access to raw data, which may include information that would identify participants: * **The student researcher(s) and faculty supervisors.**

Describe the data storage plans, including the arrangements for preventing the loss of data: * **Data will be stored securely on Cabinet for 5 years by Dr. Karen Lawson.**

Confirm whether the Principal Investigator will be responsible for data storage: *	☒ Yes ☐ No

If no, specify the reasons and indicate who will be responsible for data storage: **NA**

Specify how long data will be retained: * 5 years minimum as per University of Saskatchewan Guidelines

If other, specify duration and provide justification: **NA**

Explain how the collected data is intended to be published, presented, or reported: * **The data will be used as the basis for a research paper, presentation and/or conference poster assignment for the course. The data may also be published in an academic journal and/or presented at a professional conference.**

Describe the final disposition of research materials: * **Hard copies will be shredded and electronic data will be deleted permanently using file Eraser software.**

State whether data will be transferred to a third party: *	☐ Yes ☒ No

Organization(s) where data will be transferred: **NA**

Indicate how data will be transferred to the third party: NA

If other, please specify: **NA**

PART 6: DECLARATION OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

By submitting this application form, the Principal Investigator (PI) attests to the following:

- the information provided in this application is complete and correct.
- the PI accepts responsibility for the ethical conduct of this project and for the protection of the rights and welfare of the human participants who are directly or indirectly involved in this project.
- the PI will comply with all policies and guidelines of the University and affiliated institutions where this project will be conducted, as well as with all applicable federal and provincial laws regarding the protection of human participants in research.
- the PI will ensure that project personnel are qualified, appropriately trained and will adhere to the provisions of the Research Ethics Board-approved application.
- that adequate resources to protect participants (i.e., personnel, funding, time, equipment and space) are in place before implementing the research project, and that the research will stop if adequate resources become unavailable.
- any changes to the project, including the proposed method, consent process or recruitment procedures, will be reported to the Research Ethics Board for consideration in advance of implementation.
- will ensure that a status report will be submitted to the Research Ethics Board for consideration within one month of the current expiry date each year the project remains open, and upon project completion.
- if personal health information is requested, the PI assures that it is the minimum necessary to meet the research objective and will not be reused or disclosed to any parties other than those described in the Research Ethics Board-approved application, except as required by law.

- if a contract or grant related to this project is being reviewed by the University or Health Region, the PI understands a copy of the application, may be forwarded to the person responsible for the review of the contract or grant.

DOCUMENT(S)

Please provide a list of documents that are being submitted along with this application: e.g. Consent forms, questionnaires, interview questions, data collection sheets, recruitment materials. **Letter of Invitation, Consent form, Recruitment Material, Instruments (demographics, interview scripts and Debriefing form.**