

The research is being carried out by the following researchers:

Dr Jennifer Power, Dr Andrea Waling, Professor Gary Dowsett, Professor Jayne Lucke, Professor Anne-Maree Farrell, Dr Alexandra James, Lily Moor and Nicole Shackleton

Role	Name	Organisation
Chief Investigator	Dr Jennifer Power	ARCSSH – La Trobe University
Co-Investigator	Dr Andrea Waling	ARCSSH – La Trobe University
Co-Investigator	Prof Gary Dowsett	ARCSSH – La Trobe University
Co-Investigator	Prof Jayne Lucke	ARCSSH – La Trobe University
Co-Investigator	Prof Anne-Maree Farrell	Queens University, Belfast
Research Officer	Dr Alexandra James	ARCSSH – La Trobe University
PhD Candidate	Lily Moor	ARCSSH – La Trobe University
Research Assistant	Nicole Shackleton	ARCSSH – La Trobe University
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1. What is the study about?

You are invited to participate in a study of the use of technology for sexual connection and experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to learn about how, if and why, people might be using online sources for sexual intimacy while experiencing social distancing and isolation measures.

2. Do I have to participate?

Being part of this study is voluntary. If you want to be part of the study we ask that you read the information below carefully.

You can read the information below and decide at the end if you do not want to participate. If you decide not to participate this won't affect your relationship with La Trobe University or any other listed organisation.

3. Who is being asked to participate?

You have been asked to participate because:

- You have expressed interest in participating by clicking on the survey link
- You are currently residing in Australia
- You are aged 18 years or over

4. What will I be asked to do?

If you want to take part in this study, we will ask you to complete a survey with multiple choice and open text response options. It will take 20 mins of your time to be part of this study.

5. What are the benefits?

The benefit of you taking part in this study is that it provides an opportunity to reflect on your own experiences during the pandemic and share your story. The expected benefits to society in general are to gain insight into the ways that technology can and cannot facilitate sexual connection during unprecedented social conditions.

6. What are the risks?

With any study there are (1) risks we know about, (2) risks we don't know about, and (3) risks we don't expect. If you experience something that you aren't sure about, please contact us immediately so we can discuss the best way to manage your concerns.

Name/Organisation	Position	Telephone	Email
Dr Jennifer Power	Chief Investigator	03 9479 8721	Jennifer.power@latrobe.edu.au

We have listed the risks we know about below. This will help you decide if you want to be part of the study.

- There is a potential risk of emotional harm and embarrassment in thinking about techno-sexual experiences during a period where social distancing measures may be causing stress.

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7. What will happen to information about me?

By clicking on the 'I agree, start questionnaire' button, this tells us you want to take part in the study.

We will **collect** information about you in ways that will not reveal who you are.

We will **store** information about you in ways that will not reveal who you are.

We will **publish** information about you in ways that will not be identified in any type of publication from this study.

We will **keep** your information for 5 years after the project is completed. After this time we will destroy all of your data.

The storage, transfer and destruction of your data will be undertaken in accordance with the [Research Data Management Policy](https://policies.latrobe.edu.au/document/view.php?id=106/) <https://policies.latrobe.edu.au/document/view.php?id=106/>.

The personal information you provide will be handled in accordance with applicable privacy laws, any health information collected will be handled in accordance with the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic). Subject to any exceptions in relevant laws, you have the right to access and correct your personal information by contacting the research team.

The data collected through this server will be stored securely on the La Trobe University Server. The data will be stored in a format that de-identifies it. This means that any information that has potential to identify a participant, such as postcode, place or other identifying details, will be removed.

8. Will I hear about the results of the study?

We will publish a summary of results from this study on this website once the data has been collected and analyzed, as well as links to any media articles or publications that result from the study.

Links to publications resulting from this study will also be posted on the mailing list of the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS) at La Trobe University. You can join this mailing list to keep track of updates from this study and other studies being run by ARCSHS. You will not be identified as a study participant by joining this list. The ARCSHS mailing list database is not connected to this study so joining this mailing list will in no way identify your answers to the survey. This link will simply take you to the subscription page for the mailing list so you can sign up if you chose to. (<https://us4.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=afcc3338bb6bc28b8bf0e0950&id=83d9e28293>)

9. What if I change my mind?

If you no longer want to complete the questionnaire, simply close the web browser. If you change your mind after clicking on the 'Submit' button, we are unable to withdraw your responses because we cannot link who you are with your questionnaire responses.

Your decision to withdraw at any point will **not** affect your relationship with La Trobe University or any other organisation listed.

10. Who can I contact for questions or want more information?

If you would like to speak to us, please use the contact details below:

Name/Organisation	Position	Telephone	Email
Dr Jennifer Power	Chief Investigator	03 9479 8721	Jennifer.power@latrobe.edu.au

11. What if I have a complaint?

Participant Information Statement and Consent Form

Innovative use of technology for sex and intimacy during the COVID-19 pandemic

If you have a complaint about any part of this study, please contact:

Ethics Reference Number	Position	Telephone	Email
HEC20130	Senior Research Ethics Officer	+61 3 9479 1443	humanethics@latrobe.edu.au

Consent Form – Declaration by Participant

I (the participant) have read understood the Participant Information Statement, and any questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate in the study, I know I can withdraw at any time until [four weeks] following the collection of my data. I agree information provided by me or with my permission during the project may be included in a thesis, presentation and published in journals on the condition that I cannot be identified.

I would like my information collected for this research study to be:

Only used for this specific study;

I agree, start questionnaire