CONSENT FORM

The Yin & Yang of Identity and Relationships: The Queer Korean Adoptee Experience

You are invited to be in a research study of adult (ages 23-42-years old) Korean adoptees that identify as heterosexual or lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) and their experiences in consensual, monogamous, romantic relationships from an attachment perspective. You were selected as a possible participant because you are a Korean adoptee between the ages of 23-42-years old (adoptees older than 42 are encouraged to participate), identify as heterosexual or LGBTQ, and were contacted by either the researcher or through other individuals or organizations by way of the sampling methodology. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

This study is being conducted by: Shawyn Lee, MSW, LGSW from the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota

Background Information

The purpose of this study is: To contribute to the growing body of research related to adoption – more specifically, international adoption from South Korea. While attachment research with respect to adopted individuals is continuing to emerge, there currently exists no published research on how lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) identities may impact an adoptee’s experience – even more specifically in terms of navigating romantic relationships.

The three research questions for this study are: (1) Do adult Korean adoptees that identify as LGBTQ score higher on measures of anxiety and avoidance with respect to romantic relationships than their heterosexual Korean adoptee counterparts? (2) What specific affects do LGBTQ identities have on the overall attachment process for Korean adoptees compared to their heterosexual counterparts? (3) To what extent do adoptive family characteristics and dynamics affect LGBTQ Korean adoptees' experiences in romantic relationships that are different from their heterosexual counterparts?

Procedures:

If you agree to be in this study, we would ask you to do the following things:
Follow the link to an anonymous online survey. You will be prompted to re-read this informed consent information and agree to the terms and conditions if you wish to proceed. Once you agree, you will be directed to the actual survey.

Risks and Benefits of being in the Study

The study has several risks: First, the study will be asking you some questions pertaining to your adoption that will require you to recall some specific information and/or contact adoptive parents if necessary and agreeable for you to do so; Second, this study will be asking you about your sexual orientation and/or gender identity, including coming out processes, self-acceptance, and social support; Third, this study will be asking you to self-assess your functioning in a romantic relationship context. It is important to know that collecting this sensitive information may be challenging for some subjects to disclose, even in anonymity. Please know you are free to terminate your participation in this study at any time without notifying the researcher.

There is no direct benefit to subjects who participate in this study.

Confidentiality:

The records of this study will be kept private. In any sort of report we might publish, we will not include any information that will make it possible to identify a subject. Research records will be stored securely and only researchers will have access to the records. Study data will be encrypted according to current University policy for protection of confidentiality.

Voluntary Nature of the Study:

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with the researcher or the University of Minnesota. If you decide to participate, you are free to not answer any question or withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships.

The researcher conducting this study is: Shawyn Lee, MSW, LGSW. You may ask any questions you have now or later. Please contact Shawyn with any questions you may have at 612-508-7965 or hage0523@umn.edu. Since Shawyn is a doctoral student, you may also contact Shawyn’s advisor, Jeff Edleson at 612-624-8795 or jedleson@umn.edu.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this study and would like to talk to someone other than the researcher(s), you are encouraged to contact the Research Subjects’ Advocate Line, D528 Mayo, 420 Delaware St. Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455; (612) 625-1650.

You may print a copy of this information from the survey website to keep for your records.

Statement of Consent:

I have read the above information. I have asked questions and have received answers (if applicable). By clicking ACCEPT, I am giving my consent to participate in the study.