



Informed Consent Form for: Former methamphetamine users in New Zealand

Research Project Title: *Pathways into and out of P.*
Principle Investigator: Dr Trent Bax, Associate Professor, Sociology Department.
Organisation: Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea

Purpose of Research:

This research project seeks to study former users of methamphetamine or 'P' in New Zealand. This research is specifically interested in trying to better understand when, how and why you *started* to use methamphetamine and, more importantly, when, how and why you *stopped* using (including whether or not you *relapsed*).

In between the '*onset*' and '*cessation*' of your methamphetamine use I am also interested in learning about how your usage '*progressed*' – i.e., how your use and life changed over time.

In order to try and identify the pathways or '*turning points*' into and out of methamphetamine use I wish to place your drug use within a larger *life course setting* (i.e., I wish to learn about your *life history*).

I am therefore interested in how your *social roles* (say as a student, worker, husband/wife, father/mother) and your *social bonds* with others influenced changes in your drug use.

And I would like to gain a deeper understanding about the level of *control* you felt you had over your methamphetamine use – and how that changed over time.

To be precise, this research aims to:

Identify turning points in the onset, continuation, and cessation of methamphetamine use throughout the life course.

With greater knowledge of the processes that underlie turning points in methamphetamine use, it is hoped this research can assist in developing better prevention, intervention, and treatment programs for New Zealand's meth users.

In this study a '**former methamphetamine user**' is defined as:

"someone who used methamphetamine for at least six consecutive months sometime in the past but who has not used in the past year or longer."

The Interview Process

If you decide to participate in this research you will be asked to:

- 1. Complete a 'Life Satisfaction Chart'.**
- 2. Complete a semi-structured interview.**

The interview will take approximately 2-3 hours. In the first part, I will ask more openly about your life from the beginning to the present, including your family relations, school life, work experience, friendships, romantic relationships, marriage, children, and your health situation. In the second part, I will ask specifically about your meth use, such as how and why you started to use, how meth impacted on your life, how your control over your use changed, why and how you stopped using, and how your life has changed after you stopped using.

Due to the difficulty of simultaneously dictating and conducting the interview, the interview will be recorded. Only you will be recorded. The recording will begin after receiving your signed consent, and it will end when you finish answering the last question. Only your answers to the questions will be recorded. The recordings will be transcribed as analysable data, after which they will be stored and later deleted pursuant to Institutional Review Board (IRB) regulations.

The records of your personal information will be protected as secret, and they will continue to be protected even after the results of the research have been published.

Interviewees

In total, 40- 50 in-depth semi-structured interviews will be conducted. All interviewees will be New Zealand citizens. As a general reflection of the demographic composition of New Zealand society, approximately half of the interviewees will be males and the other half females, while approximately 15% will be Maori.

Minimizing Risk and Harm

As participants are recalling emotional events from their past, then there is a minimal risk that the interview process may negatively impact on participant's emotional state. If in the unlikely event the interviewee wishes to see seek some form of counselling, therapy or treatment as a result of the interview process, the principal investigator will arrange for access to any mental health services the interviewee requests.

Protecting Personal Information

The materials related to this research, including the recordings of your interview and any personal information that was collected, shall be stored for a mandatory 3-year period following the completion of the research pursuant to the article 15(2) of the Enforcement Rule of the Bioethics and Safety Act. The research materials that are subject to storage shall be stored in safe locations where access is generally limited, or in a location that is equipped with a security lock (such as in the researcher's office).

The person in charge of managing and storing the research and the person authorized to access the documents and materials related to the research shall be restricted to Trent M. Bax.

Should you withdraw your consent to participate in the research, all the materials and data that were collected during your participation shall be destroyed immediately, and they shall not be used in the analysis of the research materials either.

Pursuant to the criteria and the procedures set forth in the "Article 16 of the Enforcement Decree of the Personal Information Protection Act", any personal information in electronic forms whose retention period has expired shall be permanently erased to make it impossible to restore the data, and other paper documents containing personal information whose retention period has expired shall be shredded or incinerated.

The research materials shall never be used for purposes other than this research, and they shall never be provided to other researchers. Interviewees will receive one copy of the informed consent form.

If you have any questions about this research, I, Trent M. Bax, can be contacted via email: trentbax@hotmail.com

This research has been approved by Ewha Womans University's Institutional Review Board. If you have any questions regarding the ethics and/or the responsibility of rights regarding this research, you can contact the university's Institutional Review Board at: irb@ewha.ac.kr

Please tick the appropriate boxes	Yes	No
I have read and understood the purpose of the research		
I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the project.		
I agree to take part in the project. Taking part in the project will include being interviewed and recorded.		
I understand my personal details will remain confidential and my name will remain anonymous.		
I understand that my taking part is voluntary; I can withdraw from the study at any time and I do not have to give any reasons for why I no longer want to take part.		
I understand that my words may be quoted in publications.		

Signature of Interviewee

Date

Researcher Signature

Date