

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET
(Interviews with Pregnant Women/Mothers-Fathers)

Project Title: Gender Bias in Ethnic Communities
Principal Investigators: Rachel Simon-Kumar and Janine Paynter

Background

We are a team of researchers at the University of Auckland investigating sex-based disparities in-utero and in childhood among ethnic and migrant communities. Our research builds on reported trends in countries like the US, UK, and Canada that note observed imbalances in sex-ratios at birth and childhood as a result of sex-selective abortion, greater incidence of neglect, differential health practices and outcomes for female children compared to males. International research attributes these gendered practices to cultural norms that undervalue girls in favour of son preference.

Our study, which is funded by the Health Research Council (HRC no. 19/730) seeks to explore whether, or not, similar patterns of gender inequities at birth and infancy are prevalent among ethnic communities in New Zealand. As part of our study, we are looking to conduct interviews with new mothers and fathers from the ethnic community in order to explore cultural norms and practices around gender especially in relation to pregnancy and childbirth.

Invitation to Participate

We would like to invite you to participate in a face-to-face interview on pregnancy, childbirth and gender among ethnic and migrant communities. Our questions will cover your experiences and reflections on the role of traditional values, impact of migration, perceptions of pregnancy and childbirth, and what might be some of the gendered barriers to accessing health care.

Who can participate?

Women from New Zealand's Ethnic community (i.e., people from Asian and MeLAA communities) who are currently expecting or have recently had a baby are invited to participate in the study.

If you are a student of the researchers we give our assurance that your participation or non-participation in this study will have no effect on your grades or relationship with the University and that you may contact your academic head should you feel that this assurance has not been met.

Your participation

Participation in this study is voluntary and involves participating in an interview of approximately 60-90 minutes with the researcher and her assistant. The interview can be organised in a location that is suitable for you and at a time that is convenient. The interviews will be audio recorded. You may ask for the audio recorder to be turned off at any point and may also decline to answer any questions; you can withdraw participation at any point in the interview itself. Data can also be completely withdrawn from the project up to 14 days after the interview.

Your data and its use

A copy of the interview transcript will be made available to you upon request within six weeks of the interview. To ensure accuracy, changes can be made up to four weeks after the transcript is received. A summary of the research will be made available to participants upon request, which can be indicated on the consent form.

The information obtained from the interviews will be used to complete this research project and may be used in presentations and scholarly publications arising from the research. Details will not be made available to anyone else,

shared with any third parties, or used for any other purpose. Information provided in interviews will not be shared with anyone. Every effort will be made to ensure that you are not identified in our publications, unless you agree to be identified on the attached consent form. You may choose a name that you wish to be identified by in this research.

Data Storage

The storage plans for this research are as follows:

- *Recordings*: these will be stored safely at the servers of the University of Auckland and only be used for purposes stipulated in this research. Only members of the research team and appointed research assistants will have access to the recordings. The research assistant will sign a confidentiality agreement before undertaking any work on the study. To ensure privacy, all recordings and transcripts obtained will be digital copies and will be kept on a password protected computer. All references and identifying characteristics will be deleted but the recordings and the transcripts will be stored indefinitely.
- *Consent Forms*: The forms you sign and any identifying data will be securely and separately stored in a locked cabinet at The University of Auckland for six years, and will be destroyed at the end of that period.
- *Other Identifying features*: all other information about you (such as names on lists, etc.) both digital and on hard copy will be stored for six years and destroyed at the end of that period.

Findings

At the completion of the study a summary of findings will be produced. You can indicate whether you would like to receive the summary of findings on the attached consent form.

It is your choice to take part in this research. If you wish to participate please complete the attached consent form. If you have any queries or wish to receive further information about this research project, please use the contact details below:

A/Prof. Rachel Simon-Kumar
Principal Investigator
Social and Community Health
School of Population Health
University of Auckland
Private bag 92019
Phone: (09) 923 7645
r.simon-kumar@auckland.ac.nz

Dr. Janine Paynter
Co-Investigator
General Practice and Primary Health Care
School of Population Health
University of Auckland
Private bag 92019
Phone: (09) 923 7645
j.paynter@auckland.ac.nz

A/Prof David Newcombe, Head of Section
Social and Community Health
School of Population Health
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Phone: (09) 9236557
d.newcombe@auckland.ac.nz

For any concerns regarding ethical issues you may contact the Chair, the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee, Office of Strategy Research and Integrity, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142. Telephone 09 373-7599 ext. 83711. Email: humanethics@auckland.ac.nz

APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND HUMAN PARTICIPANTS ETHICS COMMITTEE ON 7th August
2020 for (3) years, Reference number UAHPEC2540.

