THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND

Reference Number.....

University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee (UAHPEC)

RESEARCH PROJECT APPLICATION FORM (2007)

Important Information

- Applications will only be accepted on forms dated for the current year.
- Please complete this form in reference to the **UAHPEC Users' Guide 2007,** and **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** available on the University of Auckland website under Research and Ethics and Biological Safety Administration.
- Submit one **unstapled**, **single sided, signed** copy of the form and all accompanying documentation to the Research Ethics and Biological Safety Administration, Room 005, Alfred Nathan House, 24 Princes Street.
- All Participant Information Sheets (PISs) and Consent Forms (CFs) must be submitted on University of Auckland departmental letterhead which has the full contact address for the department. These may be on electronic letterheads. Letterheads are available from the applicant's department.
- **Note:** Some faculties have an earlier closing date for the agenda as there are special requirements, for example, the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences requires a signed Dean's Signature Sheet, the Faculty of Education has an earlier closing date as it requires Ethics Advisor sign off.
- Applicants will receive an email acceptance letter with the reference number included. **It is essential to quote this reference number with all communication to UAHPEC and participants, in their PISs and CFs.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **PROJECT TITLE:** Sexual discrepancies in dating relationships

2. **APPLICANT/PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (P.I.)**
(This will be the supervisor for a Masters student. Doctoral students submit in their own names but the Supervisors must sign the form.)

Name: Melanie Ann Beres
Address: Department of Psychology, University of Auckland
Email address: melanie.beres@ualberta.net
Phone number: ext. 86309

3. **NAME OF STUDENT:**
(If applicable)
Address:
Email address:
Phone number:
Name of degree and Department:

4. **OTHER INVESTIGATORS:**
Names: Dr. Charlene Senn
Organisation: University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
Is ethical approval being applied for from another institution? **YES**

(If YES, indicate name of the institution and attach evidence.) ... University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

5. **AUTHORISING SIGNATURES:**

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: .....Date:…...

HOD name printed: .....Department……..

6. **APPLICANT'S DECLARATION**
The information supplied is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate. I have read the current University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee User's Guide 2007. I clearly understand my obligations and the rights of the participants, particularly in regard to obtaining freely given informed consent.

Signature of P.I. /Supervisor…..…… Date: ……..……

Signature of Student:…….…… Date: ……..……
If a student project, including doctorate, signatures of both the Supervisor and the student are required.

SECTION A: PROJECT

1. AIM OF PROJECT:

a) What is the hypothesis / research question(s)? (State briefly)

The major aim of this project is to explore and test the validity of what the authors describe as the "miscommunication hypothesis" or the idea that men and women often misunderstand one another during sexual relations leading to experiences described as sexual assault or coercion. This project builds on a pilot study conducted in Canada in 1993 and includes a Canadian and New Zealand component.

Specific research questions include:

How do young adults in Canada and New Zealand characterize communication between men and women during sexual relations?

How do men's and women's narratives of heterosexual dating and sex compare with one another?

How do students' perceptions of heterosexual dating and sexual vary across New Zealand and Canada?

b) What are the specific aims of the project?

In particular, the project will ask young adults to produce narratives of heterosexual dating situations under several circumstances. These narratives will be analyzed for evidence that supports or refutes the miscommunication hypothesis. This project will contribute to broader understanding of the ways that young adults perceive heterosexual relations with particular emphasis on their perception of potential for miscommunication to lead to sexual coercion.

2. RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Provide sufficient information to place the project in perspective and to allow the significance of the project to be assessed.

In a 1993 MA thesis (later published in 1998), a Canadian graduate student Jodee McCaw and Dr. Charlene Senn (her supervisor) set out to test whether a widely disseminated "story" about sexual assault, the Miscommunication Hypothesis (i.e., the assumption that most acquaintance rape and coercive sex follow from miscommunication between men and women) is valid. The study was a pilot investigation that called into question the validity of this hypothesis, because "gender differences in the meanings of behavioural cues for sexual interest, nonconsent, and coercion, were not associated with [male and female students] perceptions or descriptions of coercive sex" (McCaw & Senn, p. 609). They intended to follow up this pilot investigation (n=40) with a larger study however Dr. McCaw chose a different topic for her dissertation and went into a clinical practice that does not include research. The current application is the much belated follow up to that study with a larger sample.

The present study therefore is an investigation (using similar methodology to that used in the previous study) of the behavioural cues that men and women use in heterosexual interactions, to communicate their own desires and to make inferences about the other person's desires. Rather than using a formal and structured vignette or story in which the researchers vary the cues and participants respond and evaluate the situation, we use a qualitative methodology in which men and women are asked to imagine themselves in a situation that is outlined, and write what they think happened between the beginning and the end (when sex happened). This was shown to be an extremely sensitive and productive method for exploring participants' experiences, thoughts, and views.

This project will be conducted concurrently across two international sites: University of Windsor, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada and the University of Auckland. Data collection will occur through the use of online questionnaire with open-ended qualitative responses.

3. Describe and discuss the ethical issue(s) arising from this project. **(UAHPEC expects applicants to identify the ethical issues in the project and explain in the documentation how they have been resolved. A "Not Applicable" response is not acceptable. The application will not be considered if this is not answered adequately.)**

It is possible that writing about dating and sex may bring up memories of past sexual experiences, including negative or harmful experiences. This may cause discomfort or distress. Pages of local and online resources will be provided to all participants.

SECTION B: PARTICIPANTS

1. What types of people are participating in the research? (Delete those who do not apply).

Normal Adults

2. Explain how many organisations, or departments within the organisations, and individuals you wish to recruit. (Attach any letter of support you may have had from an organisation.)

Approximately 100 in each location but ensuring gender balance (sufficient numbers of men) may require over-recruitment

3. How will you identify your potential participants? (If by advertisement or notice, attach a copy)

The project will begin by looking for students. Participants must be fluent in English.
The participants will be identified differently depending on which country they live in and which university they attend due to different set ups for research recruitment in Windsor and Auckland. In Windsor, participants will be recruited from the Department of Psychology participant pool in one of two ways: the study will be posted and students may self-select into the study, and random lists of male and female participants will be contacted by phone to invite their participation.

In Auckland, identification will be through self-selection. the standard method of recruitment is through posters posted around campus, through the Department of Psychology's Research Participation Scheme and through presentations to classes and tutorials.

4. How and where will potential participants be approached? Explain how you will obtain the names and contacts of participants. (For example by email, by advertisement, through an agency holding these details.)

Advertisements will be posted around campus (See Appendix A) and in the central Auckland area. Short presentations will be made to classes and tutorials inviting people to participate. The course coordinator for Stage 1 Psychology classes has given permission to make a presentation in his class. Further permission will be requested if another lecturer is lecturing when we wish to make the presentation. We will wait for a time that is convenient for the class.

In Windsor, participants will be recruited from the Department of Psychology participant pool in one of two ways: the study will be posted and students may self-select into the study, and random lists of male and female participants will be contacted by phone to invite their participation.

5. Who will make the initial approach to potential participants? (For example, will the owner of the database send out letters on behalf of the researcher?)

In Auckland, advertisements will be placed around the University of Auckland and University of Windsor campuses (see Appendix A) Snowballing technique may be employed. Psychology students will be recruited

through the Research Participation Scheme and through short classroom presentations. Participants may end up referring friends or acquaintances. Participants may hear about the study through word of mouth.
The information will include the web address to access the questionnaire as well as the researcher's contact information.

In Windsor the Department of Psychology Participant Pool will be asked to provide a randomly chosen list of males and females. Those students will be invited by telephone and/or email to participate in the study (see recruitment blurb in Appendix B). In addition, posters will be placed around campus (See Appendix A).

6. Is there any special relationship between participants and researchers? (For example, student or teacher. If YES, explain.)

NO

7. Are there any potential participants who will be excluded? **YES**
(If YES, explain, and state the criteria for excluding participants.)

People who are not proficient in English.
People under the age of 18.
People who express an interest to participate when data collection procedures are finished.

SECTION C: RESEARCH PROCEDURES

There is a need here to fully inform the Committee about all factors relating to the research including, where appropriate, the researcher's qualifications to conduct this work (investigation).

1. PROJECT DURATION (approximate dates): **From…01/01/08. to …01/01/11…**

2. Describe the study design. (For example, longitudinal study)

The study is a qualitative study that will be conducted in two different sites internationally: the University of Auckland and the University of Windsor in Canada. Students interested in participating will contact the researcher in their local area. In Auckland, all recruitment methods will include the web address where the survey can be accessed. Once online participants will receive a web address which directs them first to a brief letter of information (see Appendix C). If they wish to continue, they will advance forward to a secure web site and will read the consent form (see Appendix C) and asked to agree or not agree. If they do not consent, they will be directed to a page which thanks them for their interest. For those who do consent to participate, the first page of the survey will appear when they 'agree' to participate. They will complete the demographics first (to allow different computer branching by the computer for male and female versions of the scenarios), then the qualitative questions (counterbalanced order). All questions are found in Appendix D. Once they have completed the survey measures, they will be thanked and provided with an explanation of the study (Appendix E) and resource list by country (Appendix F) with internet links to other resource sites related to sexual violence and coercion (Appendix G). They will then be directed to a site that is not linked to the database where their answers are entered and asked to provide information to allow bonus points to be assigned (for Canadian participants) or to enter the draw (New Zealand participants).

For participants who ask to come to the computer lab on campus (in Windsor), an appointment will be made, and the research assistant will greet them, ensure that sufficient information is obtained to assign bonus points, and sit them at a computer separated from other participants, with the introductory page of the study up on the screen. Participants will proceed from this point as they would if they were online at another location. However, at the end, the research assistant will thank them in person.

3. List all the methods used for obtaining information. (Attach questionnaires, research instruments, interview schedule to this application).

Questionnaire with open ended qualitative questions, administered online (University of Auckland and University of Winsor) or in computer labs (University of Windsor).

4. Who will carry out the research procedures?

In Auckland Melanie Beres will carry out the majority of research procedures including recruitment, interviewing, analysis and dissemination. It is possible that a research assistant or postgraduate student may help with the data collection and/or analysis.

In Windsor Charlene Senn will carry out the majority of the research procedures. A research assistant or postgraduate student will also participate in the recruitment and analysis procedures.

5. a) Where will the research procedures take place? (Physical location or setting.)

In Auckland, the primary site for the research will be a location of the participants' choosing where they have access to the internet.

In Windsor, should time and resources allow the research may take place at the university in a computer lab with sufficient space (and sight line blocks if necessary) to ensure privacy.

b) If the study is based overseas, which countries are involved? (Provide local contact information on the PIS(s).

Canada and New Zealand

c) If the study is based overseas, explain what special circumstances arise and how they will be dealt with? Explain any special requirements of the country and / or the community with which the research will be carried out.

The research will be carried out in Canada and New Zealand with a research team in each location. Each team will handle any special circumstances in their own country in consultation with the overseas research partners.

6. How much time will participants need to give to the research? (Indicate this in the PIS.)

It is expected that the questionnaire will take between 45 minutes and 1 hour.

7. Does this research include the use of a questionnaire / email? (If YES, attach a copy to this application.)

YES

See Appendix D

8. Are you intending to conduct the research in (University) class time? (If YES, include advice from the Course Coordinator giving approval for this to occur.)

NO

9. Is deception involved at any stage of the research? (If YES, justify its use, and describe the debriefing procedure.)

NO

10. Will information on the participants be obtained from third parties? (For example, from participant's employer, teacher, doctor etc. If YES, explain, and indicate in the PIS(s).

NO

11. Will any identifiable information on the participants be given to third parties? (If YES, explain, and indicate in the PIS).

NO

12. Provide details on any compensation or reimbursement of expenses, and where applicable, level of payment to be made to participants. (If payment/koha is offered, explain in the PIS.)

New Zealand participants will be entered in a draw for a chance to win one of either $150 and $75 voucher.

13. a) Does the research involve the administration of any substance (For example, eye-drops or food) **to participants?**

NO

b) Does this research involve potentially hazardous substances? (For example, radioactive materials)

NO

SECTION D: INFORMATION AND CONSENT

1. By whom and how, will information about the research be given to participants? (For example, in writing or verbally – a copy of the information given to prospective participants in the form of a PIS must be attached to this application.)

Most participants will learn of the study through posters, the research participation scheme or a class presentation. From there they will be directed to a website where they can read the PIS. See Appendices C for the PIS. Researcher contact information will be provided in case they have any further questions.

2. a) Will the participants have difficulty giving informed consent on their own behalf? (Consider physical or mental condition, age, language, legal status, or other barriers.)

NO

b) If participants are not competent to give fully informed consent, who will consent on their behalf? (For example, parents / guardians)

3. Consent should be obtained in writing. Explain and justify any alternative to written consent.

Data collection will take place online therefore we cannot get signatures. Website will have a consent page at beginning asking participants to agree & they will be reminded of consent (and their option to not submit the questionnaire) prior to submitting completed survey.

4. UAHPEC requires that access to the Consent Forms be restricted to the researcher and/or the Principal Investigator. Confirm that you intend to do this otherwise, please explain.

N/A

No, there will be no separate forms as consent is embedded within the online questionnaire.

5. Will Consent Forms be stored by the Principal Investigator, in a locked cabinet, on University premises?

NO

No, there will be no separate forms as consent is embedded within the online questionnaire.

6. It is required that Consent Forms be stored separately from data and kept for six years. Confirm that you intend to do this otherwise please explain.

N/A

SECTION E: STORAGE AND USE OF RESULTS

1. Will the participants be audio-taped, video-taped, or recorded by any other electronic means? (If YES, explain in the PIS and the CF. Consider whether recording is an optional or necessary part of the research design, and reflect this in the CF.) **NO**

2. a) How will data, including audio, videotapes and electronic data be handled and stored to protect against unauthorised access? (Explain this in the PIS with details of storage, possible future use and eventual destruction.)

Any hardcopies will be stored in a locked cabinet on university premises. Electronic copies will be stored on a password protected computer or network. Only the research team will have access to the electronic copies

b) If the tapes are being transcribed or translated by someone other than the researcher, explain what arrangements are in place to protect the confidentiality of participants. (Attach any Confidentiality Agreements to this application.)

c) If recordings are made, will participants be offered the opportunity to edit the transcripts of the recordings? (In either case, the PIS must inform the participants. Where participants are asked to make a choice, this should be shown on the CF.)

N/A

d) Will participants be offered their tapes (or a copy thereof)? (In either case, the PIS must inform the participants. Where participants are asked to make a choice, this should be shown on the CF.)

N/A

e) Will data or other information be stored for later use?

YES

If YES, explain how long the data will be stored and how it will be used. Indicate this in the PIS. The period data is to be kept will be commensurate to the scale of the research. For peer reviewed publication or research that might be further developed, the UAHPEC expects six years.

Data will be stored for 6 years as long as safe storage can be ensured and that work on the project continues. It is possible that the data will be used to answer other research questions. Additionally, it may be possible that the data are removed from the University of Auckland campus in the event that Melanie Beres changes positions within the next 6 years. In this case, the data will continue to be stored in a locked cabinet at the new location. The consent forms will remain at the University of Auckland campus with Dr. Virginia Braun (Melanie's postdoctoral supervisor).

f) Describe any arrangements to make results available to participants, including whether they will be offered their tapes. Explain this in the PIS. Where participants are asked to make a choice, this should be shown on the CF.

None. They will not be offered transcripts.

3. a) Are you going to use the names of the research participants in any publication or report about the research? The PIS must inform the participants, and be part of the consent obtained in the CF.

NO

b) If you don't use their names, is there any possibility that individuals or groups could be identified in the final publication or report? If YES, explain, and describe in the PIS. This is a problem either when one is dealing with a small group of participants known to a wider public or when there is to be a report back to participants likely to know each other.

NO

SECTION F: TREATY OF WAITANGI

1. Does the proposed research impact on Māori persons as Māori? If YES, complete all questions in this section and attach evidence of consultation from the nominated Māori Advisor within your Faculty. If NO, go to Section G.

NO

2. **Explain how the intended research process is consistent with the provisions of the Treaty of Waitangi.** Refer to the User's Guide 2007 for further information.

3. **Identify the group(s) with whom consultation has taken place, describe the consultation process, and attach evidence of the support of the group(s).**

4. **Describe any on-going involvement the group(s) consulted has / have in the project.**

5. **Describe how at the end of the project information will be disseminated to participants and the group(s) consulted at the end of the project.**

SECTION G: OTHER CULTURAL ISSUES

1. **Are there any aspects of the research that might raise any specific cultural issues, other than those covered in Section F?** If YES, explain. Otherwise go to Section H. **NO**

2. **What ethnic or cultural group(s) does the research involve?**

3. **Identify the group(s) with whom consultation has taken place, describe the consultation process, and attach evidence of the support of the group(s).**

4. **Describe any on-going involvement the group(s) consulted has / have in the project.**

5. **Describe how information will be disseminated to participants and the group(s) consulted at the end of the project.**

SECTION H: CLINICAL TRIALS

1. **Is this project a Clinical Trial?** (If YES, complete section, otherwise go to Section I. If YES, attach ACC Form A or B – see Guidelines **NO**
2. **Is this project initiated by a Pharmaceutical Company?** **YES / NO**
3. **Are there other NZ or International Centres involved?** **YES / NO**
4. **Is there a clear statement about indemnity?** **YES / NO**
5. **Is Standing Committee on Therapeutic Trials (SCOTT) approval required?** **YES / NO**
6. **Is National Radiation Laboratory approval required?** (Attach) **YES / NO**
7. **Is Gene Therapy Advisory Committee on Assisted Human Reproduction (NACHDSE) approval required?** **YES / NO**

SECTION I: RISKS AND BENEFITS

1. **What are the possible benefits to research participants of taking part in the research?**

Participants will not personally benefit from the study with the exception of learning about methods for gathering data that go beyond the standard surveys they normally are asked to complete, being provided with a list of resources that they may not have had access to, and being provided with more information on sexual assault and sexual coercion than they might otherwise have received. (See Appendix E for the debriefing information).

2. **What are the possible risks to research participants of taking part in the research?** Make sure that you have clearly identified or explained these risks in the PIS.

The risks of completion of questions asking about sexual coercion history are minimal, as demonstrated by other studies of men's and women's experiences of healthy and coercive sexuality, and my own research with the questions used here and other questionnaires in other studies that require even more detail.

There is a possibility that some participants may be uncomfortable with the sexual content of the stories they are asked to tell. It is possible that for some women and men, the coercion questions and the stories they are asked to write, particularly the ones related to their own experience, may bring up memories of their own victimization or perpetration that may be upsetting. In our experience, women who have had these experiences often value the opportunity to share

these experiences and have them heard. While men do not usually express the same enthusiasm about sharing their experiences, they do not generally report being upset by the questions. None of the studies which have been done by us or in this field previously have reported any ill effects of participation. Moreover, since a sizeable proportion of the women and men will have experienced or perpetrated sexual coercion or sexual assault by the time they attend university and in the first years of university, participation in the study provides a list of support services and resources that may be helpful.

Being reminded of one's victimization or perpetration is a common experience that can not be avoided in every day life when watching television, reading magazines and newspapers, etc. This study provides more safeguards than those everyday experiences.

If participants choose to enter the draw after submitting their form they will be required to submit their name and an email address. However, there is no risk that their name will be able to be linked to their data. Questionnaires will be completed anonymously and names will be collected only for the purposes of the draw.

3. a) Are the participants likely to experience discomfort (physical, psychological, social) or incapacity as a result of the procedures? If YES, describe, and explain them clearly in the PIS(s).

YES

b) What other risks are there? N/A

c) What qualified personnel will be available to deal with adverse consequences or physical or psychological risks? Explain in the PIS.

A list of community resources will be provided to all participants to refer both women and men to appropriate support services. The educational materials provided in web links also provide further information on consent and non-consent. None of the studies which have been done by us or in this field previously have reported any ill effects of participation. Participants leave with more information and better resources than they would have if they had not participated.

SECTION J: FUNDING

1. Do you have or intend to apply for funding for this project? If YES, complete this section and acknowledge it in the PIS, otherwise proceed to Section J. **YES**

2. From which funding bodies?

All of Dr Senn's research is currently funded under an Ontario Women's Health Career Award ORS Application Number: 840276

3. Is this a UniServices Ltd project? If YES, what is the project reference number? **NO**

4. Explain investigator's and /or supervisor's financial interest, if any, in the outcome of the project.

None

5. Do you see any conflict of interest between the interests of the researcher(s), the participants or the funding body? If YES, explain them.

NO

SECTION K: HUMAN REMAINS, TISSUE AND BODY FLUIDS

1. Are human remains, tissue, or body fluids being used in this research? If YES, complete this section otherwise go to Section L. *The current Human Tissues Act is currently under review and will be changed.*

NO

2. How will the material be taken? For example at operation, urine samples, archaeological digs, autopsy.

3. **Is the material being taken at autopsy?** **NO**
If the response to Section J. is YES, provide a copy of the information to be given to the Transplant Coordinator, and state the information that the Transplant Coordinator will provide to those giving consent. Indicate how the material will be stored/disposed of, and explain how the wishes with regard to the disposal of human remains of the whanau (extended family) or similar interested persons will be respected.

4. **Is material derived or recovered from archeological excavation?** If YES, explain how the wishes of Iwi and Hapū (descent groups), or similar interested persons, or groups, have been respected? **NO**

5. **Will specimens be retained for possible future use?** If YES, explain and state this in the PIS.
NO

6. **Where will the material be stored, and how long will it be stored for?**

7. a) **Will material remain after the research process?**
YES / NO

   b) **How will the material be disposed of?** If applicable.

   c) **Will material be disposed of in consultation with relevant cultural groups?**
YES / NO

8. **Is blood being collected?** **YES / NO**
If YES, what volume at each collection, how frequent are the collections, and who is collecting it?

   a) **Explain how long it will be kept and how it will be stored.**

   b) **Explain how it will be disposed of.**

SECTION L: OTHER MATTERS

1. **Have you made any other related applications?** If YES, supply approval reference number(s).
NO

2. **If there is relevant information from past applications or interaction with UAHPEC, please indicate and attach.**

3. **Are there any other matters you would like to raise that will help the Committee review your application?**

----END OF APPLICATION FORM----