

## Information on the processing of personal data

In connection with the project *Sexualised self-injury in NSSI e-communities*, SDU wants to collect information about people. The University of Southern Denmark (SDU) is responsible for the protection of personal data collected for the use in research projects. Participation in the project is voluntary. Collection takes place online via Surveyxact.

### Purpose of processing information for the project

The purpose of the study is to examine experiences, motives, and thoughts related to sexualised self-injury in a context of non-suicidal self-injury (self-harm). We wish to examine when sexual behaviour becomes self-injury and how different factors are related to sexualised self-injury and other types of non-suicidal self-injury. Such factors include exposure to potentially traumatic events, mental health, social and sexual interactions, thoughts, emotions, motives, consequences, and how best to help.

Through this study we hope to be able to gain knowledge on how we best conceptualise and understand sexualised-self-injury, including risk factors, consequences, and the best ways to help. The main aims of the study are to:

1. To advance the understanding of sexualised self-injury by generating new knowledge about its nature, risk factors, and consequences, specifically in the context of other types of non-suicidal injury.
2. To enhance conceptualisation of sexualised self-injury: how we best define and describe it.
3. To share this knowledge broadly in a way that maximises its positive impact for those struggling with the behaviour.

The information being processed is:

- E-mail address (only used to share your personal respondent key; deleted within 24 hours; not linked to any of the data below)
- Sociodemographic information (including age, gender, ethnicity, employment status, etc.)
- Information on self-injury, sexualised self-injury, and other sexual behaviour, including
  - Behaviour
  - Motives
  - Triggers
  - Functions
  - Thoughts and feelings
  - Consequences
- Exposure to potentially traumatic events including sexualised violence and rape
- Mental health (including trauma, personality disorder, suicidal thoughts, dissociation, emotion regulation, self-worth, and others)
- Gender identity and sexuality
- Social interactions, support, and experiences with therapy

- Any information related to these topics that you choose to share in response to our open-ended questions

### **How we use the information**

SDU handles personal data with confidentiality in accordance with applicable law. Your e-mail address will be collected to send you a personalised response key to access the questionnaire so that you may re-enter within 48 hours of first opening the questionnaire. Your e-mail address will be deleted within 24 hours, and we will not at any time be able to link it to your other data, ensuring your anonymity. Your remaining data will only be used for research purposes. We will make sure to keep the data secure so that only trusted individuals directly involved in analysing the data will have access to it. The information will be deleted or anonymised, which will be done within five years of completion of the project. This will be on or prior to August 31<sup>st</sup> 2031.

### **Will to participate**

When using personal data for a research project, there are some specific provisions in the legislation that allow the collection and use of personal data without the consent of the participant. This can be found in the Danish Data Protection Act § 10 and the General Data Protection Regulation art. 6 (1)(e).

These provisions allow us to use your personal data for research without your consent, but also prohibits the use of the information for purposes other than research and statistics. **The data may be used in a non-personally identifiable (anonymized) form for teaching purposes. In such cases, it will never be possible to identify you based on the information.**

These provisions also allow us to pass the information on to other research projects, but it will continue to be research on self-injury, sexualised self-injury, sexual behaviour, trauma, and mental health.

Therefore, you must decide whether you want to participate in the project, in order for us to be able to use your information. By agreeing to participate, we will collect the information mentioned above and use it within the project. Should you, at some point in the process, no longer wish to participate, you can withdraw from the project. As a result, we will no longer collect new information about you, but we are still allowed to use the information we have already received. In special cases you can get your data deleted.

### **Additional information**

If you have any questions about the study, you can contact project leader Dorte M. Christiansen at any time by calling +45 65 50 83 43 or emailing to [dochristiansen@health.sdu.dk](mailto:dochristiansen@health.sdu.dk).

If you have any questions regarding data protection or your rights, you can contact our Data Protection Officer Simon Kamber by calling +45 65 50 39 06 or sending an email to [dpo@sdu.dk](mailto:dpo@sdu.dk).

If you wish to appeal about the processing of personal data, you can contact the Danish Data Protection Agency via [www.datatilsynet.dk](http://www.datatilsynet.dk)