

Appendix A

Application Form

**Request for Review by the CSUS Committee
for the Protection of Human Subjects**

Project Title: Between the Boys: Peer Socialization in the Gay Community

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of Researchers: _____

Mailing address (or Department and CSUS mail code): Department of Sociology - 6005

_____ Telephone and e-mail address for researcher	<u>June 2004</u> Anticipated starting date
_____ Name of faculty sponsor (for student research)	_____ E-mail address of sponsor

1. Who will participate in this research as subjects (e.g., how many people, from what source, using what criteria for inclusion or exclusion)? How will their participation be recruited (e.g., what inducements, if any, will be offered)?

Participants for this study will be members of a gay men's support group from the Lambda organization's Sacramento, CA chapter. Approximately 30 participants will participate in this research. Any members who participate in the support group will be welcomed into the study with their consent. The researcher will attend a meeting and explain the purpose and procedures of the research to all members. The members will then be asked if they would like to participate in the project. There are no compensations for participation.

2. How will informed consent be obtained from the subjects? Attach a copy of the consent form you will use. If a signed written consent will not be obtained, explain what you will do instead and why. (See Appendix B for examples of consent forms and a list of consent form requirements. Also see *Informed Consent* earlier in this manual.)

Upon entry into the group, the researcher will make an announcement to all group members of the goal and design of the research project. The researcher will review, step-by-step, the written consent form, and welcome any questions which may clarify the project, the consent form, their role in participation, or any other line of questioning. The researcher will stress their participation is voluntary. Also, throughout the course of the project, the participants are free to end their involvement with the study.

3. How will the subjects' rights to privacy and safety be protected? (See *Level of Risk* earlier in this manual.)

Pseudonyms will be used in place of participant's real names. The researcher will promptly destroy any audiotapes and any other material, which might identify the participants, after analyzing the relevant information. The only identifiers will be the signed consent form. They will be kept separate from the data, and securely stored in a locked cabinet in the researcher's home. The researcher will make these facts known to all participants. In addition, the researcher will stress the confidentiality of the research as to avoid incurring embarrassment, harm, compromising the participants' reputations in business/social groups, loss of employment, or criminal prosecution. Finally, the researcher alone will use data for academic purposes. Data will not be shared with other researchers or anyone else.

4. Summarize the study's purpose, design, and procedures. (Do not attach lengthy grant proposals, etc.)

This study will be conducted as part of the researcher's master thesis. It will examine the process by which gay men become members of a support group. Specifically, the focus will be on the interaction process of friendship identity formation. The research design will be qualitative. The researcher will attend group sessions as both an observer and participant. The data gathered from these interactions will be in the form of the researcher's notes on observations and interviews with voluntary group members.

5. Describe the content of any tests, questionnaires, interviews, etc. in the research. Attach copies of the questions. What risk of discomfort or harm, if any, is involved in their use?

Given the area of interest and design of this research, the content of the interviews will derive from interactions and observations of the group. Generated questions (see attachment) indicate areas of interest. Participants may experience a minimal level of discomfort as some might feel sexual orientation is a sensitive topic. Also, discomfort may arise as a result of discussing unpleasant occurrences from previous or current friendships.

6. Describe any physical procedures in the research. What risk of discomfort or harm, if any, is involved in their use?

There are no physical procedures involved in this study.

7. Describe any equipment or instruments and any drugs or pharmaceuticals that will be used in the research. What risk of discomfort or harm, if any, is involved in their use?

None.

8. Taking all aspects of this research into consideration, do you consider the study to be “exempt”, “no risk”, “minimal risk”, or “at risk”? Explain why. (See *Level of Risk* earlier in this manual.)

According to the Policies and Procedures of the CSUS Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, this research project would be classified “at risk” due to the recruitment of participants based on sexual orientation. Although the participants in the research were selected because of sexual orientation, this project does not examine sexual behaviors but rather the process of becoming a member of a support group. The research emphasis specifically rests on friendship identity formation. For some participants, discussing sexual identity and orientation may be uncomfortable. However, the research participants have made efforts to openly identify their sexual orientation to a support group; therefore they have demonstrated their comfort in discussing this topic with others.

Signature of Researcher

Date

Signature of Faculty Sponsor
(for student research)

Date

Consent to Participate in Research

You are being asked to participate in research, which will be conducted by [REDACTED], a sociology graduate student at California State University, Sacramento. This study will examine the process of becoming a member of gay support group and the formation of friendships. This study will include approximately 30 participants.

The researcher will be observing interactions between participants, as they relate to processes and formations of relationships between group members. The interviewer will draw questions from these interactions and conduct interviews. Each interview will be roughly half an hour to an hour and be tape-recorded. These interviews will be conducted individually. You and other voluntary participants are free to disclose information or opinions as you see fit on the subject matter. You are at liberty to end interviews, or remove yourself from the observation part of the study at any time during the course of the research. The gathering of this data will take several months.

If you feel uncomfortable with certain questions or discussions, you are free to end that interaction. If you experience psychological discomfort as a result of the study, and wish to seek help during the course of the study, or any time after, you may request to a referral to a mental health professional. You may also find counseling at the Lambda center at 916-442-0185.

Your participation may facilitate your progress within the support group or in your personal relationships outside of the group. Since this research is examining friendships between gay men, you may increase you awareness of what makes for good friendships. However, you may not benefit from this research. Group facilitators may benefit in applying heightened awareness of such processes and formations in mediating future groups.

Maintaining your confidentiality is of the utmost importance. Therefore, you and all participants will be given pseudonyms. Once research has begun, all records will bear pseudonyms, not real names. These consent forms and all records will be kept in a locked file cabinet in the researcher's home. Any reports or publications that result from this study will bear the pseudonyms. All audio recordings will be destroyed after the researcher has analyzed relevant data. The data collected will not be shared with other researchers. Only the researcher will have access to the data. The results of your participation in this study will appear in a Master's thesis, and will be available to the public.

If you have any questions about this research project, please feel free to ask before signing this form. If at any time questions arise during the research project, your questions are welcomed. researcher may be reached at or by e-mail at @csus.edu.

Your participation in this research is voluntary. During your participation in this study, please retain your copy of this form. Your signature below indicates you have read and understand the content of this form and acknowledges your participation in this research project.

Signature of Participant

Date

Signature of Investigator

Date

Interview Questions:

**What processes/resources facilitate experiences in becoming a member of the gay community?
Are they helpful or beneficial?**

How important are social networks in the gay community? How important are they to you?

How important is it to have other gay male friends?

What (if anything) makes gay male friendships unique?

What creates and encourages stable gay male friendships?

What elements are unhealthy in gay male friendships?

What have been sources of tension or conflict in your gay male relationships?

In what settings or situations do you feel gay male friendships comfortably enacted or discouraged? Do these have an effect on the quality of the relationships?

Do you act differently among straight friends/family members than you do with your gay friends?

Do you and your gay male friends routinely interact on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis?



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROJECTS

May 28, 2004

03-04-127 (May)

TO:



FROM: John Schaeuble, Chair
Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects

RE: **Between the Boys: Peer Socialization in the Gay Community**

The IRB Committee conditionally approved or approved with a request for changes(s) your protocol at its meeting on May 20, 2004. With the additional information you have provided, your protocol is now fully approved as **At Risk**. The approval applies to the conditions and procedures described in your protocol. Your approval expires one year from this date.

Approval carries with it the understanding that you will inform the Committee promptly should an adverse reaction occur, and that you will make no modification in the protocol without prior approval of the Committee.

If you need any further information about the use of human subjects, please contact me at 278-6666 or the Office of Research & Sponsored Projects at 278-7381.

Thank you.

JS:

6000 J Street, Sacramento, California 95819-6111 • (916) 278-7381 • (916) 278-6163 FAX

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