

# Millennials in a Digitally Connected World.

## A Hermeneutic Phenomenological Examination.

**Are you aged between of 18 and 30, from any social, political, cultural or economic background, have access to a device (ie smartphone, tablet, etc) and engage with social media and social networking sites for two hours or more each day?**



**My name is Garry and I'm a research Masters student at QUT.**

**The purpose of my research is to explore the nature of relationships formed by young adults, aged between 18 and 30 years old, who regularly use the internet, communications technologies, social media and social networking sites.**

**If you're keen to have a chat with me, get in touch for an interview. You can call me to discuss the project further or send me an email with your details and I'll get back to you.**

**Garry Bagnell 0420 529 826**

**[garry.bagnell@hdr.qut.edu.au](mailto:garry.bagnell@hdr.qut.edu.au)**



School of Nursing, Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology  
QUT Ethics Approval Number 180000235

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### RESEARCH TEAM

Principal Researcher:	Mr Garry Bagnell	Master's Student
Associate Researchers:	A/Professor Carol Windsor	Principal Supervisor
	Dr Jennifer Mays	Associate Supervisor

**School of Nursing, Faculty of Health  
Queensland University of Technology (QUT)**

### DESCRIPTION

This research project is being undertaken as part of a research Master's study by Garry Bagnell.

This aim of this project is to discover the nature of relationships formed by young adults, aged between 18 and 30 years old, using the internet, communications technologies, social media and social networking sites.

You are invited to participate in this research project because you are a student currently enrolled at a university. You are between the ages of 18 and 30, are of any gender, from any social, political, cultural or economic background, you are able to read and write English, have access to a device (ie smartphone, tablet etc) and engage with social media and social networking sites for two hours or more each day.

### PARTICIPATION

Your participation will involve an audio recorded interview at the Library at Kelvin Grove campus or other agreed location that will take approximately 60 minutes of your time.

Questions will include:

- What have you experienced in terms of connecting with people through social media?
- Do you find social media useful in terms of connecting with people?
- Are your relationships made online, offline or both?

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT.

### CAN I WITHDRAW FROM THE STUDY?

If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from the research project at any time without comment or penalty. If you withdraw after your interview, upon request, any identifiable information already obtained from you will be destroyed.

### EXPECTED BENEFITS

It is expected that this research project will not benefit you directly. However, it may benefit a greater understanding about being a millennial in a digitally connected world. It is a locally based project but the outcomes will be useful in a global context.

## **RISKS**

There are minimal risks associated with your participation in this research project. Apart from the inconvenience of being interviewed in a particular place at a particular time, there may be a potential for you to have some positive or negative feelings, desires or memories which may be triggered in the process of the interview.

If you experience discomfort or distress as a result of your participation in the research, QUT provides limited counselling services. Should you wish to access this service please call the Clinic Receptionist on **07 3138 0999** (Monday–Friday only 9am–5pm), QUT Psychology and Counselling Clinic, 44 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove, and indicate that you are a research participant. Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call **13 11 14** for 24-hour telephone crisis support. For people aged up to 25, you can also call the Kids Helpline on **1800 551 800**.

## **PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

All comments and responses will be treated confidentially unless required by law. The names of individual persons are not required in any of the responses.

As the research project involves an audio recording:

- The recording will be destroyed 5 years after the last publication.
- The recording will not be used for any other purpose.
- Only the named researchers will have access to the recording.
- It is not possible to participate in the research project without being recorded.

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy.

Please note that non-identifiable data from this research project may be used as comparative data in future research projects or stored on an open access database for secondary analysis.

## **CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE**

If you agree to participate, you are invited to sign the attached consent form.

## **QUESTIONS / FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT**

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact one of the listed researchers:

Garry Bagnell	04-2052-9826	<a href="mailto:garry.bagnell@hdr.qut.edu.au">garry.bagnell@hdr.qut.edu.au</a>
Carol Windsor	07-3138-3837	<a href="mailto:c.windsor@qut.edu.au">c.windsor@qut.edu.au</a>
Jennifer Mays	07-3138-4612	<a href="mailto:j.mays@qut.edu.au">j.mays@qut.edu.au</a>

## **CONCERNS / COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT**

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. However, if you do have any concerns or complaints about the ethical conduct of the research project you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on 07-3138-5123 or email [humanethics@qut.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@qut.edu.au). The QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team is not connected with the research project and can facilitate a resolution to your concern in an impartial manner.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH THIS RESEARCH PROJECT.  
PLEASE KEEP THIS SHEET FOR YOUR INFORMATION.**