

Digital dating experiences of young people from Brasil and Australia

QUT Ethics Approval Number 5413

Research team

Principal Researcher:	Gisella Lopes Gomes Pinto Ferreira	PhD student
Associate Researchers:	Dr Laura Vitis	Principal Supervisor
	Dr Angela Higginson	Associate Supervisor
	Dr Bridget Harris	External Supervisor

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Why is the study being conducted?

This research project is being undertaken as part of PhD study for Gisella Lopes Gomes Pinto Ferreira.

The purpose of this research project is to understand young people's digital dating experiences. This study aims to identify digital dating behaviours and their impacts on young people and understand young women's perceptions of these behaviours.

You are invited to participate in this research project because:

- ⇒ You are a young woman aged between 18 and 21 years
- ⇒ You are currently living in Queensland, Australia
- ⇒ You have been in a heterosexual intimate relationship between the ages of 12-19 years where a male partner has used technology (e.g. mobile phone, social media, computer, GPS, apps, etc.) in a way that made you feel uneasy, uncomfortable, unsafe, afraid or worried. This relationship might be casual or serious, short or long-term, hooking up or unofficially dating.
- ⇒ You are comfortable in speaking in English or Brazilian Portuguese.

What does participation involve?

I am interested in hearing your story. Your participation will involve **an audio recorded interview at a private study room at QUT Gardens Point or QUT Kelvin Grove campus**. The interview might be conducted via Zoom, if the in-person interview is not possible. The interview will last approximately 90 minutes and will be conducted by Gisella, a female PhD student.

You will be asked to discuss:

- How a male partner had used technology like a mobile phone or social media in a way that made you feel unsafe, afraid, or uncomfortable?
- Whether a male partner has restricted your access mobile phones, social media, or e-mails.
- How these experiences affected you?

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from the research project without comment or penalty. You can withdraw anytime during

the interview or within two weeks of the interview. You can also skip any questions you don't want to answer. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT.

What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?

It is expected that this research project will not benefit you directly. The outcomes of the research, however, may benefit our understanding of young women's experiences of digital dating from Brasil and Australia.

A brief summary of the outcomes of the study will be available at the QUT research webpage (<https://www.qut.edu.au/research/our-research/participate-in-research/digital-dating-experiences-of-young-people-from-brasil-and-australia>).

To recognise your contribution, you will receive a \$20 online gift voucher. The voucher will be sent to your email after the interview.

What are the possible risks for me if I take part?

There are risks associated with your participation in this research project. Specifically, there is a risk that you may feel upset while undertaking the interview. During the interview you can skip questions, take breaks or end the interview at any time. Some topics discussed during the interview might be subject to reporting. However, whether you want to report it or not, it's your choice and it will be respected. Where relevant, I will make you aware of any reporting pathways. The interviewer will work with you to make sure you are comfortable before, during and after the interview.

QUT provides for limited free psychology, family therapy or counselling services for research participants of QUT research projects who may experience discomfort or upsetting feelings as a result of their participation in the research. 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. Please note that while face-to-face appointments may only be accessible to those in the South East Queensland area, the clinic offers telehealth appointments which may be more appropriate depending on your needs. For more information, please access their website: [QUT Health Clinics - Psychology & Counselling](#) Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call **13 11 14** for 24 hour telephone crisis support. You can also call 1800Respect on **1800 737 732**. As you are aged up to 25, you can also call the Kids Helpline on **1800 551 800**.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

Your privacy and confidentiality are important. As the research project involves an audio recording:

- Your name will not be included in or connected to the recording in any way.
- You will not have the opportunity to verify your comments and responses prior to final inclusion.
- Only the named researchers will have access to the recording.
- It is not possible to participate in the research project without being recorded.

The interviews will be transcribed, and all identifying information will be removed from the transcriptions. Interviews might be transcribed with the assistance of automated services like Otter.ai, a software that uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to generate transcriptions. Otter.ai, is considered an accurate and safe tool, with Two-factor authentication and Server Side Encryption. Otter.ai does not access customers' transcripts or audio recordings unless they explicitly consent to troubleshoot specific product support issues.

Transcriptions and audio recordings are stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy. Data will be stored indefinitely and can be disclosed if it is to protect you or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body such as the ethics committee requests it. Transcripts of interviews could be used in future projects by the current research team. These transcripts may be used in extensions of this project like journal articles, books or conference presentations.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the data you provide cannot be traced back to you in reports, publications and other forms of presentation. For example, I will only include the relevant part of a quote, I will not use any names, or names will be changed, and/or details such as dates and specific circumstances will be excluded.

How do I give my consent to participate?

You may provide written consent on the consent form provided to you before the interview. You may send the form back via email or sign a physical copy in the interview room.

Alternatively, you may choose to provide verbal consent. In this instance, the researcher will talk through the consent form with you and ask for verbal affirmation of consent.

What if I have questions about the research project?

If you have any questions or require further information please contact the Principal Researcher and her Principal Supervisor:

Gisella Lopes Gomes Pinto Ferreira
Dr Laura Vitis

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What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on +61 7 3138 5123 or email humanethics@qut.edu.au.

Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.