

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
**Ethics Review for Human Research
APPLICATION**

2007.22

TITLE OF PROJECT: Peer processes and adolescent behaviour

Name of applicant: James Pope

Address: 17 Aurora Terrace, Hamilton

Phone/Email: 07) 8569368

jgp2@waikato.ac.nz

Supervisor (where applicable): Dr James McEwan

Professor Mary Foster

Other people involved:

Project (select appropriate): MSocSc.

Other, please specify:

☐ Course requirement (course number:)

☐ Renewal of previously approved project

Proposed starting date:

Important Note: Please download the *Guidelines* from the Psychology webpage and read them **BEFORE** you proceed. For the questionnaire, you may press F1 for brief advice. Hard copies of this Application form and the Guidelines are available at the Psychology secretaries' office K1.26.

Psychology Research and Ethics Committee Decision:

☐ Exempted ☒ Approved ☐ Reapproved ☐ Rejected

Convenor signature: 

Date: 28.6/07

I request ethics approval and have provided

- ☒ a detailed description of the procedure that involves the participants
- ☒ the completed questionnaire (attached), and
- ☒ a copy of the consent form which will be used or reason why a consent form is considered unnecessary (questionnaire).
- ☐ Other:
- ☒ I will bring any changes in methods or procedures as well as any unanticipated consequences which pose potential risks to the participants immediately to the attention of the Research and Ethics committee.

If first year Psychology students are your participants, please provide

- ☐ a copy of the sign-up sheet which will be displayed on the departmental research sign-up board. Only PSYC102/103 students can receive course credit for participation.

If children are your participants (16 years and below), please provide

- ☒ for school children - letter to be sent to the principal, board of trustees, and parents/caregivers explaining the research and asking for permission. If your study involves preschool children, please include the correspondence to the relevant preschool personnel asking for permission.
- ☒ Information sheet for the parents/caregivers.

If employees from an external organisation are your participants, please provide

- ☐ a copy of the letter and any information to be sent to the relevant manager(s)/supervisor(s) explaining the research and asking for permission.

Applicant's signature: _____

Date: 19/06/07

I have read this ethics review application, and in my opinion, this research is ethically sound. I consider that this student and any other people involved have the necessary background and experience to carry out this research ethically and competently under my supervision.

Supervisor's signature (if applicable): _____

Date: 19/06/07

IMPORTANT: Staff members/supervisors carry full responsibility at all times for the ethical appropriateness of all graduate and undergraduate research under their supervision, even when such research has been approved by the Research and Ethics committee. They should work closely with the students to anticipate the ethical issues of any research.

Are you willing to have the content of this application used for a review of the Psychology Department's ethical review procedures (no names will be associated with the information)?

Yes ☒ No ☐

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Ethics Review for Human Research QUESTIONNAIRE

The following questions address specific aspects of the research method related to ethical considerations, based on the Principles in the *Guidelines document* (download as pdf file). Please read these Guidelines **BEFORE** you fill out the questionnaire.

Before you answer this questionnaire make sure you have provided a complete description of your research procedure that involves the participants. Attach interviews, questionnaire or survey items. If interviews are to be interactive, based on grounded theory, or open-ended, include the major broad areas of questioning to be covered in the interview. Participants should be made aware of all the broad areas to be covered so they can decline to answer any questions.

- ☐ Tick this box if the research procedure that involves participants is outlined on extra sheet.

Alternatively, you may outline the procedure below:

After initial contact with the school principals through third parties, letters will be sent to the principals who show interest in the research project. The schools will act as the main point of contact for the participants by giving out and receiving back consent and information forms.

Forty students from both schools will be randomly selected from all of the students in year 10. The schools will give information and consent forms to the selected students. Consent is required from both the child and at least one parent/guardian. Completed consent forms are to be returned to the school.

Once informed consent is gained from the participants and their parents, these will be returned to the school. Part of the study requires the target adolescent to select a peer that they spend most of their time with to take part. The selected peer will be given consent and information forms by the school. After consent is received, the target youth and peer will be brought in to take part in the peer interaction task (PIT).

The PIT will take place in an unused room at each of the high schools. Target youths and their selected peers will come during periods of the school day that were specified by the school principals so that the youths will miss no class time. The room will be set up so the video camera faces a table with the stimulus materials on it and two chairs. At the beginning of the task the activities will be explained to the participants by the researcher. The confidentiality statement and the right to withdraw at any time without penalty will be read aloud to the participants. The participants are then reminded to remain seated for the duration of the task.

The PIT involves video taping the pairs of adolescents for 30 minutes as they discuss planning activities and solving problems that they were facing at school and at home. The discussions begin with a question being read aloud, the researcher then leaves the room and closes the door. After five minutes, the researcher knocks, enters the room and reads the next question until all of the five questions had been answered.

This concludes the procedures involving the participants.

1. *The value of the research (Please check the guidelines or press F1 for an abbreviated version)*

1.1. Please state the research goals, what is trying to be achieved.

The value of this research is its potential for the results to be used in developing interventions with young people in crisis. These interventions should be able to reduce adolescent crime rates and the cost these crimes present for society. Interventions of this sort will also improve the quality of life for the young people that take part in them.

The goal is to measure the strength of the relationship between problem behaviour and rule breaking talk in a conversation between friends.

1.2. What provision is there to give participants information about these research goals?

All participants will be provided an information sheet after the study is completely outlining the key issues that are targeted in the research.

1.3. How will the research results be clearly and simply communicated to participants (or stakeholders) afterwards in a way that is easily understood and accessed?

An executive report of the result will be provided to the staff in the schools where the research will be carried out. What information will be provided to a participants will be decided in consultation with the staff.

2. *Risk should be minimised (Did you check the guidelines?)*

2.1. Does your research procedure involve interacting face to face with participants in some way?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes please provide details about where this will take place:

Face to face interaction will take place at the participants' high schools.

- 2.2. Are there any potential risks or discomfort to participants?
Yes ☐ No ☒ If Yes, please provide details in the box below.

The study requires participants to have a conversation with a close friend about general topics provided by the researcher, typical topics include how to organise a party or the best place to go on holiday. It is not envisaged that this will be the source of any harm.

3. ***The informed consent of participants should be obtained, without coercion***

- 3.1. a. Who will be the participants? How many?

The participants will be 14-16 year olds, attending a local high school. An initial forty young people are expected to take part in the study

- b. Will some of them be known to you?

None of the participants will be known to me.

- c. Will you be in a position of authority or power over any of them?
Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please provide details in the box below.

3.2. How will the participants be selected and recruited to take part?

The participants will be randomly selected by the researchers from the school role. The school will then recruit the participants by giving them information and consent forms to take home.

3.3. Describe how and when the participants will give their consent to take part? Who will be present?

Participants will take consent forms home with them. Consent will be given by both the parents and the participants.

3.4. How will the participants be informed of the right to withdraw from the research at any stage, for any reason, without penalty or loss of benefits to which the participant would otherwise be entitled?

The parents and the participants will be informed on the information sheets that they receive either from the participants or by mail. Confidentiality and the right to withdraw at any time without penalty will also be communicated to the participants at the beginning of the peer interaction task.

3.5. Will participants receive material benefits as an incentive to participate in the research? Such benefits might include: monetary payment, lottery tickets, prizes, etc.
Yes ☐ No ☒ If Yes, please specify the nature and amount of benefit, plus the justification.

3.6. Will participants receive any payment for their time or reimbursement of expenses?
Yes ☐ No ☒ If Yes, please explain.

- 3.7. If the participants are younger than 16 years, will you get the consent from their parents or caregivers as well as from participants?
Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐ If No, why not?

- 3.8. If the participants are adults but are unable to give consent on their behalf what provision is being made to obtain consent? N/A ☒

4. *Privacy and confidentiality should be respected*

- 4.1. a. What steps have been taken to preserve confidentiality?

Any personal information that links participants to the data they provide will be kept secure. Numerical codes will be used to identify data for the purposes of coding and analysis.

- b. What will happen to data (e.g., audio tapes, filled in questionnaires) that identify participants after completion of the research?

The data that identifies participants will be destroyed after the completion of the study.

- 4.2. Who else will see any information provided by participants which is linked to participants' names?

The only people who will see information from the participants that are linked to their names are the researcher and the supervisors.

5. *Deception should be minimised*

- 5.1. Does the research involve any concealment of information or deception?

Yes ☐ No ☒ If Yes, please answer the following:

- a. What is the justification for the use of such procedures on scientific grounds?
Include an explanation of why non-deceptive procedures could not be used.

- b. How will you obtain consent from participants to waive their right to prior information on the nature and purpose of the study?

- c. How will you ensure that all participants are given a full explanation of information withheld and the reasons it was withheld as soon as practicable?

- d. How will participants be debriefed about the deception?

6. *Research goals and methods should be socially and culturally responsive*

- 6.1 Will people be selected as participants on the basis of their ethnicity, culture, gender, sexuality and/or in other ways which will target specific collectivities?

Yes ☒ No ☐

- 6.2 If Yes, describe the group and explain how the selection process ensures that no person or group will feel offended by either their inclusion in or their exclusion from the research.

Only male students will be recruited. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, the research that this thesis is replicating only studied males. In the interest of comparing our findings with previous ones we intend to only sample male adolescents. Secondly it has been shown in numerous studies that males exhibit more problem behaviours and are more at risk of aversive outcomes related to these. Because resources are limited, we intend to focus on the more at-risk members of the population.

The intention is to draw a random sample of participants from across each setting. Obviously, the final make up of the group will be influenced by what parental consent is provided

- 6.3 What has been done to ensure that the research procedures are not likely to be insensitive, inhibit participation or cause offence (e.g., to specific ethnic, gender or age groups)?

- 6.4 Will the research focus on participant's culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religion?

Yes ☐ No ☒ If Yes, please answer the following:

- a. What steps have been taken to ensure that neither the conduct of the research, nor its outcomes, will unfairly affect the participants or their collectivities?

- b. If the participants as a group differ from the researcher in terms of culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation or other significant ways relevant to the research, what procedures will be used to ensure that involvement in the research is culturally safe and non offensive for the participant?

Responsiveness to Māori

The University and the Psychology Department has an explicit commitment to ensuring that Treaty of Waitangi is acknowledged and responded to as part of the ordinary life and activities of the institution (Goal 1.2 of the University of Waikato Charter). The Treaty of Waitangi has implications for all psychological research. In some instances, the implications may be quite small (eg. ensuring that samples of participants include Māori). At other times, the implications may be major (eg. requiring careful consultation and obtaining informed consent from Māori stakeholders and collectivities, as well as from individuals).

Whatever the research, we are asking you to demonstrate that you have given thought to the Treaty and its implications for research. For background information, please refer to section 6 of the Guidelines (attached to Application form).

6.5 Will the proposed research have actual or potential implications for, or impacts upon Māori?

Yes ☒ No ☐

(Please explain your response).

In the long term the results of this study could have some positive effects in reducing out of school placements and arrest rates for young Māori. This would come about when this research is used as a base for developing an intervention. Previous research has suggested that reducing rule breaking talk may be a valid goal in order to reduce problem behaviour. If this is the case, it is important that Māori interests are kept in mind so that any benefits can be shared in a responsive manner.

If you have answered 'yes' to this question, please also respond to those questions that follow.

a. Does your research require consent from or consultation with any specific Māori groups or individuals?

Yes ☐ No ☒

b. If yes, what were the outcomes of any necessary consultation or consent seeking activities you engaged in?

c. Where necessary, how will Māori stakeholders or advisers have an ongoing role in your research?

- d. What steps have you taken to recognise and protect the cultural and intellectual property rights of M-ori individuals or collectives?

7. *Exploitation of researcher-participant relationship should be prevented*

- 7.1. Are you associated with the participants in any way that might influence the ethical appropriateness of you conducting this research (e.g., employer/employee, supervisor/worker, personal relationship, or lecturer/student)?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, please describe the steps you have taken to protect the participants including any limits placed on the use of the information.

8. *Property rights should be respected*

- 8.1. Is there any risk that the research findings may exploit the participants? Refer to the Guidelines.

Yes ☐ No ☒ If Yes, please explain the potential risk and how you will prevent

it.

- 8.2. In the case of “qualitative case studies” or interviews will you show draft transcripts to participants for comments and corrections?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒ If No, why not?

9. *Any conflict of interest should be declared*

- 9.1. Do you get sponsorship for your project?

Yes ☐ No ☒ If Yes, please answer the following:

How will the nature of commission or sponsorship be declared both to participants and in public findings?

(Letter to parents of target child)

Dear Parent

This letter is to give you information about a study running at your child's school this term.

We would like to ask your permission to have your child be part of a study examining how young people talk about various topics.

Please read the information below, if you have other questions please contact me (James Pope).

If you are happy to give permission please sign both copies of the consent form at the back of this letter. We suggest that you keep one signed copy for your records and ask that you return the other copy to the school.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this.

Information Sheet for Parents and Caregivers

What is this about?

We would like to ask permission for your child to participate in a study examining how young people talk with their friends. The purpose of this study is to see if there is a relationship between how your child talks with his friends, and how he behaves.

What will participation involve?

Your child will be asked to take part in a 30 minute discussion with one of their friends. This discussion will be video taped so that the information can be examined carefully.

In addition to this, one of the researchers will make a telephone call to you at a time that is convenient. The purpose of this phone call is to gather information about your child's behaviour at home. It is expected that this phone call will take 15 minutes to complete.

Similar information will be collected from one of your child's teachers at school.

In addition to this, we ask that you and your child both list the three children that your child spends most of his time with. We need to gather consent from one of your child's friends, so they can take part in the taped conversation with your child.

Will it cost me anything?

There is no monetary cost.

Can we withdraw from the study?

You may withdraw your child from the study at anytime for any reason. All information gathered about your child will be removed from the study and destroyed.

What will happen to the information collected during the study?

At the end of the research all information collected will be destroyed.

What about those Videos?

The video records made will only be seen by the researchers. At the completion of the study all videos will be deleted.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like your child to be part of this study, or have any further questions either contact me, James Pope, or my supervisor James McEwan.

James Pope

Ph. 07 8569368

Mobile. 021 0408461

Email. jgp2@waikato.ac.nz

Dr James McEwan

Department of Psychology

University of Waikato

Private Bag 3105

Hamilton

New Zealand

Ph. +6478562889

Mobile +6421463512

Email. jmcewan@waikato.ac.nz

Thank you.

CONSENT FORM

Parent Copy

Research project: Peer processes and adolescent behaviour

Researcher: James Pope

I have received an information sheet about this study. I have had the chance to ask any questions and discuss my child's participation with other people, where I had any concerns. Any questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

I agree to have my child participate in this study and I understand that I may withdraw my child at anytime. If I have any concerns about this project, I may contact the convenor of the research and ethics committee (Dr Robert Isler, phone: 838 4466 ext 8401, email. r.isler@waikato.ac.nz).

Date _____

Parent's/Caregiver's Name _____

Parent's/Caregiver's Signature _____

Child's Name _____

Child's Signature _____

CONSENT FORM

School Copy

Research project: Peer processes and adolescent behaviour

Researcher: James Pope

I have received an information sheet about this study. I have had the chance to ask any questions and discuss my child's participation with other people, where I had any concerns. Any questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

I agree to have my child participate in this training study and I understand that I may withdraw my child at anytime. If I have any concerns about this project, I may contact the convenor of the research and ethics committee (Dr Robert Isler, phone: 838 4466 ext 8401, email. r.isler@waikato.ac.nz).

Date _____

Parent's/Caregiver's Name _____

Parent's/Caregiver's Signature _____

Child's Name _____

Child's Signature _____

For the parents/caregivers to fill in:

The three friends my child spends most of his time with are:

For the child to fill in:

The three friends I spend most of my time with are:

(Letter to principals)

Dear

The purpose of this letter is to outline the basic aims and procedures of the research and what potential role your school can play.

The methodology for my thesis is based on procedures used extensively by researchers from the Oregon Social Learning Centre (Dishion, McCord, & Poulin, 1999; Dishion, Nelson, & Bullock, 2004; Dishion, Spracklen, Andrews, & Patterson, 1996).

The aim is to do a correlational study. This means that measures of certain reference variables will be compared with measures of a target variable for each participant. For this study, measures of problem behaviour will be compared to the rate of rule breaking talk in a conversation.

The first phase of the study involves recruiting participants and gathering data on problem behaviours. With the cooperation of two high schools, a sample of 40 participants will be selected and recruited from all of the year 10 students. After consent has been given, information will be gathered from the families, the teachers and the school. This data collection will focus on problem behaviours, such as cruelty to others, disobedience and stealing. These various data will form a base for comparison across the sample.

The second phase of the study will be measuring rule breaking talk. To measure rule breaking talk, pairs of adolescents will be video taped having discussions. Part of the initial information gathering will involve the selection of a partner to participate in the recorded discussion. A sample of the topics the participants will be able to discuss are planning a party, and how best to deal with problems at home and problems at school.

The third phase involves coding the recorded conversations. The video tapes of these conversations will be coded according to what type of content is being discussed and how the adolescents react to it. The content will be coded as normative when the participants discuss things that are considered normal for their age group. Alternatively, rule breaking talk is coded when the discussion involves offensive language, violence, and the breaking of laws, rules and social norms.

The final phase will be analysing the coded data. Given the findings of numerous previous studies, it is expected that adolescents who have higher scores on the measures of problem behaviour will react more positively to rule breaking talk and engage in it more often during conversation. This will be tested by calculating a correlation coefficient for the sample. This will demonstrate the strength of the expected relationship.

It is hoped that your school will be able to cooperate on three tasks. The first is giving out and receiving back consent forms from participants and their families. The second task is having staff members fill out questionnaires about the participants' behaviour. The questionnaires take about 15 minutes to complete and one is required for each participant. The final task is to provide a space for video tapes of conversations to be made. This requires an unused room at your school. As mentioned above, the conversations last 30 minutes. It is our intention that they take place at a time of the day that involves the least amount of in class time missed.

At the completion of the study an executive summary of the findings of the research will be sent to your school.

Thank you very much for considering this proposal. If you have any questions or need further clarification of the details please feel free to contact me

James Pope

Ph. 07 8569368

Mobile. 021 0408461

Email. jgp2@waikato.ac.nz

References

- Dishion, T. J., McCord, J., & Poulin, F. (1999). When interventions harm: Peer groups and problem behaviour. *American Psychologist*, 54(9), 755-764.
- Dishion, T. J., Nelson, S. E., & Bullock, B. M. (2004). Premature adolescent autonomy: Parent disengagement and deviant peer process in the amplification of problem behaviour. *Journal of Adolescence*, 27, 515-530.
- Dishion, T. J., Spracklen, K. M., Andrews, D. W., & Patterson, G. R. (1996). Deviancy training in male adolescent friendships. *Behaviour Therapy*, 27, 373-390.

(Consent and information for peer)

Dear Parent

This letter is to give you information about a study running at your child's school this term.

We would like to ask your permission to have your child be part of a study examining how young people talk about various topics.

Please read the information below, if you have other questions please contact me (James Pope)

If you are happy to give permission please sign both copies of the consent form at the back of this letter. We suggest that you keep one signed copy for your records and ask that you return the other copy to the school.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this.

Information Sheet for Parents and Caregivers

What is this about?

We would like to ask permission for your child to participate in a study examining how young people talk with their friends. The purpose of this study is to see if there is a relationship between how children talk with their friends, and how they behave.

What will participation involve?

Your child will be asked to take part in a 30 minute discussion with one of their friends. This discussion will be video taped so that the information can be examined carefully. Your child's role would be to act as the friend in the interaction. Consent has already been received from one of your child's peers and their parents to participate. Your child was selected by one of the participants as a friend who they spend most of their time with. It is important for the study that young people are having conversations with their friends.

Will it cost me anything?

There is no monetary cost. It will take half an hour of your child's time, but this will happen during the school day at a time so that the participants will miss no time in class.

Can we withdraw from the study?

You may withdraw your child from the study at anytime for any reason. All information gathered about your child will be removed from the study and destroyed.

What will happen to the information collected during the study?

Any information collected about a child will be destroyed at the completion of the study.

What about those Videos?

The video records made will only be seen by the researchers. At the completion of the study all videos will be deleted.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like your child to be part of this study, or have any further questions either contact me, James Pope or my Supervisor James McEwan.

James Pope

Ph. 07 8569368

Mobile. 021 0408461

Email. jgp2@waikato.ac.nz

Dr James McEwan

Department of Psychology

University of Waikato

Private Bag 3105

Hamilton

New Zealand

Ph. +6478562889

Mobile +6421463512

Email. jmcewan@waikato.ac.nz

Thank you.

CONSENT FORM

Parent Copy

Research project: Peer processes and adolescent behaviour

Researcher: James Pope

I have received an information sheet about this study. I have had the chance to ask any questions and discuss my child's participation with other people, where I had any concerns. Any questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

I agree to have my child participate in this study and I understand that I may withdraw my child at anytime. If I have any concerns about this project, I may contact the convenor of the research and ethics committee (Dr Robert Isler, phone: 838 4466 ext 8401, email. r.isler@waikato.ac.nz).

Date _____

Parent's/Caregiver's Name _____

Parent's/Caregiver's Signature _____

Child's Name _____

Child's Signature _____

CONSENT FORM

School Copy

Research project: Peer processes and adolescent behaviour

Researcher: James Pope

I have received an information sheet about this study. I have had the chance to ask any questions and discuss my child's participation with other people, where I had any concerns. Any questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

I agree to have my child participate in this training study and I understand that I may withdraw my child at anytime. If I have any concerns about this project, I may contact the convenor of the research and ethics committee (Dr Robert Isler, phone: 838 4466 ext 8401, email. r.isler@waikato.ac.nz).

Date _____

Parent's/Caregiver's Name _____

Parent's/Caregiver's Signature _____

Child's Name _____

Child's Signature _____

Ethics Review for Human Research CHECKLIST

(Confidential - Should not be shown to the applicant)

Date Sent

1. Psychology Secretary (for numbering)

☒ 20.6.07

2. To Convenor of Research and Ethics Committee

☐ _____

3. To Reviewer 1 Name: Neville Patsa
(Please complete within 4 days of receiving application)

☒ 21.6.07

- ☐ Application is incomplete (see feedback form)
☒ Application is complete
☐ I have raised points for the applicant just to think about.
☐ I have raised points on the feedback sheet that must be given a response or acted upon before approval can be given.

I am happy for the applicant(s) to know my name: YES/NO

Signature: [Signature] Please sign only when approved.
(PLEASE PASS DIRECTLY ONTO REVIEWER 2)

4. To Reviewer 2 Name: Linda Wikora
(Please complete within 4 days of receiving application)

☐ _____

- ☐ I have raised points for the applicant just to think about.
☐ I have raised points on the feedback sheet that must be given a response or acted upon before approval can be given.

I am happy for the applicant(s) to know my name: YES/NO

Signature: [Signature] Please sign only when approved.

5. Back to Convenor of Research and Ethics Committee

☒ 27.6.07

Please sign when both reviewers have approved.

Signature: [Signature]

6. To Psychology Secretary for processing (photocopying)

☒ 27.6/07