



Autistic-led participatory doctoral research: Qualitative life story research on care, trauma and identity among late diagnosed autistic women with experience of sexual assault

**What is the purpose?**

* This research will explore life history and narrative expressions of autistic life experiences. It is conducted by a late diagnosed autistic woman with personal experience of sexual assault.
* The aim is to contribute to an emerging visibility and understanding on the consequences of living with sexual trauma as an autistic woman. It will consider to what extent perspectives on trauma change following a late autism diagnosis. It may influence future policy and research.
* The study considers the differences between autistic and non-autistic experiences and ways to improve trauma-focused support. Its proposed contribution will be to provide recommendations for policy changes and guidelines to increase awareness and address un-met needs.

**Who can participate?**

Anyone who are:

* Aged 25 years or over
* Have received a diagnosis or self-identify as autistic in adulthood
* Female, or identify and live as a woman
* Have experienced sexual assault or trauma
* Have received some form of trauma support (for safeguarding)

**What would be involved?**

* Participation will involve a life story interview to discuss your lived experiences. It will be guided by yourself and there are no requirement to discuss any particular aspect. It can be in person, via video or audio call, in writing and allow for required accommodations. To review changes in narrative, a follow-up interview and reflective diary entries would be ideal, but are not required.

**Things to know**

* Participation is completely voluntary, and you can pause or withdraw for any reason during data collection/participation.
* As difficult life experiences and trauma may be discussed, there is a risk of psychological distress. To mitigate risks, a distress protocol is in place and individual requirements will be accommodated.
* You will be in control of what information you provide as part of your narrative life story.
* Your information is completely confidential, will be anonymised and encrypted for storage with no identifying information in the data, doctoral thesis or publications.
* You may provide your email address to be informed of the results of this study.
* If you wish to provide any feedback, please use the contact information below.

Contact Information:

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SSPSSR-LSSJ Research Ethics Committee (lssjethics@kent.ac.uk)

Visit XX to have the results of this study sent to you.

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This study has been approved by the SSPSSR-LSSJ Research Ethics Committee at the University of Kent