

Department of Counseling

9201 University City Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28223-0001

**Consent to Participate in a Research Study**

Attribute of a Counselor that Impacts a Client’s Selection and Trust

Principal Investigators: Amy Biang LCMHC, CEDS, UNCC

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Clare Merlin-Knoblich, NCC, UNCC

You are invited to participate in a research study. Participation in this research study is voluntary. The information provided is to help you decide whether or not to participate. If you have any questions, please ask.

**Important Information You Need to Know**

* The purpose of this study is to explore a specific attribute of a counselor and if it impacts a client’s selection and trust of that counselor. To avoid bias we are not fully disclosing the attribute being studied. However, once you start the survey you will know the attribute. You may choose to quit the survey at any time.
* No identifying information will be collected. Your answers are completely confidential and cannot be identified to you specifically.

* We are asking participants to complete a survey about their beliefs related to the ability to trust, follow advice, and select a counselor based on a specific attribute. Demographics will be collected then you will complete a 36- question measurement. This study can be done in 10-15 min on any device with access to the internet. The survey begins after you click the “Begin Survey” button that gives your consent to participate.
* Please read this form and ask any questions you may have before you decide whether to participate in this research study.

**Why are we doing this study?**

The purpose of this study is to better understand if this undisclosed attribute of a counselor impacts a client’s choice to work with them. A sub-population being studied are those with eating disorders. Results may help alleviate perceived ideals about counselors or they will reinforce them.

**Why are you being asked to be in this research study.**

You are being asked to be in this study because you are an adult age 18 or older. You do NOT need to have or have had an eating disorder or any other disorder to participate.

**What will happen if I take part in this study?**

If you choose to participate you will complete an online survey. There are no other requirements. We will collect your demographic information (age, gender, Height/ Weight and if you have ever been to a counselor or if you have ever had an eating disorder), and then you will complete the survey. Your total time commitment if you participate in this study will be 10-15 minutes.

**What benefits might I experience?**

You may become more aware of any bias you might hold. There are no other benefits to participation. However, research will contribute to the understanding of counselor selection and trust.

**What risks might I experience?**

This study has minimal foreseeable risks. Questions and statements may increase self-awareness about how you feel about some attributes of people. As it is a sensitive topic, you may be offended by the questions on the survey. If you feel uncomfortable you may quit the survey at any time.

**How will my information be protected?**

There is no identifying information. When you access this survey, we will not collect any information that can identify you as the survey taker. However, once data collection is complete, the data will be downloaded from Qualtrics and stored in files on a two-step protected UNCC google drive.

**How will my information be used after the study is over?**

After this study is complete, study data may be shared with other researchers for use in other studies without asking for your consent again or as may be needed as part of publishing our results. The data we share will NOT include information that could identify you.

**Will I receive an incentive for taking part in this study?**

There is no monetary incentive for taking part in the study.

**What are my rights if I take part in this study?**

It is up to you to decide to be in this research study. Participating in this study is voluntary. Even if you decide to be part of the study now, you may change your mind and stop at any time.

**Who can answer my questions about this study and my rights as a participant?**

For questions about this research, you may contact Amy Biang, [abiang@uncc.edu](mailto:abiang@uncc.edu)

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or wish to obtain information, ask questions, or discuss any concerns about this study with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact the Office of Research Protections and Integrity at 704-687-1871 or [uncc-irb@uncc.edu](mailto:uncc-irb@uncc.edu).

**Consent to Participate**

By Clicking “Begin Survey”, you acknowledge that you are at least 18 years old, have read this consent form, have understood the above information, and agree to voluntarily participate in this research.

Survey Link:  <http://uncc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bD8ehlnGjKHrnQW>

If you would like a copy of this form for your reference, you may print this out or contact Amy Biang for a copy.