

CALL FOR THESIS PARTICIPANTS:

Masking in Autistic Adolescent Girls

How do Autistic Middle-Late Adolescent Females Make Sense of their Masking Behaviours?: A Thematic Analysis

Introduction

I am a Second-Year Trainee Clinical Psychologist on the University of Southampton's Doctorate in Clinical Psychology course.

I am interested in exploring masking in autistic middle-late adolescent females.

Objective

The study aims to explore how you make sense of your camouflaging behaviours, including:

- your awareness and understanding of masking
- how and why you mask
- and the impact of masking (both positive and negative)

With the aim of helping our understanding of masking behaviours and future research.

Who can take part?

I am looking for participants who:

- Are biologically female
- Are aged 13-19
- Have a diagnosis of, or are awaiting an assessment for, Autism.

You will be given a £15 voucher as a thank you for your time.

Process

If you are interested in taking part, you will have a brief phone call with Anna (lead researcher) to find out more about the study and ask any questions.

If you choose to take part (and you meet the criteria for the study), you will then take part in a discussion with Anna, lasting about 60 minutes to answer some questions about masking. You can have as many breaks as you like, or you can split the session up. We can send you the questions in advance, if you would like to prepare (although there is no expectation to prepare). You do not have to answer anything you do not want to!

The discussion will take place either in-person (at your home, or the University of Southampton), or virtually. You can have your parent/carer with you, if you choose to.

Data

The only data collected will be your name, autism diagnosis status and school status.

Once your interview has been transcribed, you will be allocated a participant number to ensure confidentiality in the final write up of the study. This means that you will not be able to be identified. All data will be stored securely and in accordance with the University of Southampton and Solent NHS Trust data procedures. The interview will be audio recorded to allow for the researcher to transcribe the interview afterwards.

What now?

If you are interested in taking part, please email: asn1n22@soton.ac.uk

