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Consent to Participate in a Research Study

Title of the Project: Social Media in Society Study

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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 how people react to important events on social media, including the police shooting of Keith Lamont Scott protest. We are interested in how people made meaning of the situation and unfolding events. We are also examining how people reacted to it by engaging or disengaging from social media and choosing to post or not post on their own social media accounts.
- We are inviting people, ages 20 and older to participate in an interview for an hour and a half to discuss their reactions and social media use in response to the Keith Lamont Scott protest in Charlotte in 2016. We will also discuss your opinions about examples of social media protests or rallies in other time periods. At the conclusion of the interview, you'll receive a \$40 Amazon gift card.
- Some of the questions we'll ask you may feel personal or sensitive and you are free to skip any you are uncomfortable answering or withdraw from the study at any time. For example, we'll ask you your feelings about social media posts during time period after the Keith Scott shooting in Charlotte, including your own social media posts and motivations for posting or not posting. We will also ask you to share with your reaction to examples of tweets from others related to protests and events. Discussing your reactions to the Keith Lamont Scott shooting and other

protests that have been in the news might cause mild emotional discomfort. You will not personally benefit from taking part in this research, but our study results may help us better understand how people respond to and use social media in the wake of unexpected news events and why information spreads on the internet.

- 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 how individuals respond to and use social media in the wake of shocking events to understand how this connects to larger social movements or protests.

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

You are being asked to be in this study because you are age 20 or older and had an active social media account at the time of the Keith Scott shooting/protest. You also met other screening criteria related to how often you post on social media, the number of friends or followers on social media, and your opinions about the Black Lives Matter movement.

What will happen if I take part in this study?

If you decide to participate in this study, you will meet me at my office in Colvard or another reserved room on campus. You will fill out consent forms, take a short survey, and participate in a discussion to answer questions about social media use during the Keith Scott protest. We will also ask your views on social media use in other protest events. You will be asked to bring examples of your own social media posts (you can choose any of them you feel comfortable using), or you can email me a few screenshots of posts, and I will print and bring them.

We will talk through this form and you will have the opportunity to ask questions before deciding whether to sign the form. After signing the consent form, you will complete a form about your demographics, your social identity, and your social media use to help us describe the diversity of our participants in our report. Then, you will respond to questions about your response to the Keith Scott shooting/protest and other protests or marches in the interview. At the conclusion of the interview, you will receive a \$40 Amazon gift card. We will ask you if we may contact you with follow-up questions via phone or email, which is entirely optional. We will also ask you if you would like to receive an executive summary of the results with an invitation for feedback, which is also entirely optional.

What benefits might I experience?

You will not benefit directly from being in this study. Others might benefit because it is important to understand how people respond to and use social media during unexpected news to understand why and how information spreads on the internet.

What risks might I experience?

Some of the questions we'll ask you may feel personal or sensitive but you are free to skip any you are uncomfortable answering and you may withdraw from participating at any time. For example, we'll ask you your feelings about social media posts during time period after the Keith Scott shooting in Charlotte, including your own social media posts and motivations for posting or not posting. We will also ask you to share with your reaction to examples of tweets from others related to protests and events. Discussing your reactions to the Keith Lamont Scott shooting and protests as well as protests that have been in the news might cause mild emotional discomfort.

How will my information be protected?

You are asked to provide your name, email address, and demographic information as part of this study, which will not be shared with any parties beyond the university researchers who are conducting this study, with the potential exception of UNC administrators, the U. S. Army Human Research Protections Office, or other agencies when required by law or permitted by federal regulations. This information will be stored electronically, and only the research team will have access to it through their individual university log-in credentials. None of this information will be stored on personal computers. The consent forms will be stored in Dr. Gallicano's locked office on campus, and only the research team will have access to the forms, with the potential exception of UNC administrators, the U. S. Army Human Research Protections Office or other agencies when required by law or permitted by federal regulations.

When the interview is transcribed, your real name will be replaced with a pseudonym or alphanumeric subject ID to protect your privacy. A code list linking your real name to the pseudonym/ alphanumeric subject ID will be stored in a separate file in an encrypted drive in a locked file cabinet in the researcher office, and only the research team will have access to it through their university log-in credentials. The code list linking your real name to the pseudonym/ alphanumeric subject ID will be destroyed at the conclusion of the study.

At the conclusion of the interview you will have the opportunity to give permission for a de-identified copy of your transcript to be included in a research database as a historical record. Whether you would like a copy of your transcript to be included, or not, is entirely up to you and there are no negative consequences to choosing either option.

The research staff will protect your data from disclosure to people not connected with the study. However, complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed because officials of the U. S. Army Human Research Protections Office are permitted by law to inspect the records obtained in this study to ensure compliance with laws and regulations covering experiments involving human subjects.

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 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 be paid for taking part in this study?

You will receive a \$40 Amazon gift card at the conclusion of the interview. This incentive payment is considered taxable income. Therefore, we are required to give the University's Financial Services division a log/tracking sheet with the names of all individuals who received a gift card. This sheet is for tax purposes only and is separate from the research data, which means the names will not be linked to your interview responses.

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. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to answer.

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

For questions about this research, you may contact Dr. Gallicano at tgallica@uncc.edu or at 541-543-0955. You may also contact the main study email,

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 Compliance at 704-687-1871 or uncc-irb@uncc.edu.

☐ I agree to be audio recorded, which is a requirement of participation.

☐ I agree to be contacted via email/phone (circle one) one time in case follow-up questions arise. (Optional). List preferred phone if phone is circled:

☐ I agree to receive an executive summary of results via email/phone (circle one) one time. (Optional). List preferred phone if phone is circled and if not already indicated:

Consent to Participate

By signing this document, you are agreeing to be in this study. Make sure you understand what the study is about before you sign. You will receive a copy of this document for your records. If you have any questions about the study after you sign this document, you can contact the study team using the information provided above.

I understand what the study is about and my questions so far have been answered. I agree to take part in this study.

Name (PRINT)

Signature

Date

Name

Name and Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

Date