

LETTER OF INFORMATION

Dear Potential Participant:

My name is John Cappucci and I am the Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Religion and Conflict at Assumption University in Windsor. You are asked to participate in a research study that I am conducting entitled, *Progressives and Purists: A Study of Religiosity in a Canadian-Jewish Community*. If you have any questions or concerns about this research, please contact me at Assumption University, 400 Huron Church Road, Room 206, Windsor, Ontario N9C 2J9, 226-345-8481, jcappucci@assumptionu.ca. The funding for this research is provided from the Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Religion and Conflict at Assumption University.

The purpose of this study is to measure religiosity in the Jewish community of Windsor by determining the degree to which individuals espouse traditional beliefs, practice sacred rituals, and adhere to established customs. If you volunteer to participate in this study, you will be asked to take part in a one-on-one interview with me at the Windsor Jewish Community Centre, Temple Beth El, Shaar Hashomayim, or another mutually convenient location. The interview will take approximately 45-50 minutes to complete. It is expected that there will be only one point of contact between the researcher and participant. However, if the researcher requires clarification on a response, a second, brief follow-up interview may be requested. You are of course able to decline a follow-up interview.

There are a few potential risks in taking part in this study.

Psychological/Emotional Risks – It is possible that in discussing any aspect of your religion, you might feel a sense of nostalgia or longing for a time when you may have practiced your faith with a deceased member of your family. In addition, you may feel a sense of guilt for no longer adhering as closely to your beliefs as you previously did in the past. If you feel uncomfortable answering a question, then you are free to decline to answer with no consequence to yourself. If the researcher notices that you are showing signs of emotion to a question, then you are welcome to take a short break. Finally, the researcher can also redirect to another question that would likely elicit a less emotional response.

Social Risks – It is possible that during the interviews, you may be seen by another member of the Jewish community who may question you as to why you are taking part in this study. To reduce social risks, the interviews will be conducted during a quiet or “down-time” at the Jewish Community Centre, Temple Beth El, and Shaar Hashomayim. The researcher will endeavour to coordinate the times of the interviews with the venues in order to find quieter times. Moreover, depending on space, the researcher will endeavour to conduct the interview in a private or quiet space. . Finally, depending on the case, the researcher is willing to conduct the interview in your home.

Dual/Multiple Roles Risks – The researcher may have attended religious services, classes, committee meetings, and community events with some of the potential participants. It is therefore possible that you may know the researcher on an acquaintance level and feel a sense of obligation to take part in this research. This risk will be mitigated by having the Jewish Community Centre and other organizations send out the call for participants poster and letter of information. In addition, the letter of information, letter of consent, and call for participants poster all include the researcher’s name. It will be your decision as to whether you would like to participate given the researcher’s potential dual-role.

Data Security Risks – It is possible that as the researcher transports the interview notes from the research site to the car to the locked safe, the notes can be misplaced or possibly stolen. To mitigate this risk, the interview notes will be sealed in a binder with a zipper rather than an open folder where material can easily fall out. Also, after the interview takes place, the interview notes will immediately be transferred and deposited in the locked safe.

The benefits in take part in this study is for the participant to have a better understanding of their community's religious beliefs and practices. For taking part in this study, participants will receive an \$18.00 gift card.

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission. The information collected will be retained for a period of 3 years in a locked safe to which only the researcher has access. After a period of 3 years, the information will be destroyed. If a specific response is referenced or quoted in the study, a one-name pseudonym will be used. Otherwise, personal and contact information will not be published.

The participant may withdraw at any time before or during the interview. The participant will still receive the gift card even if they have not completed the entire interview. The researcher may withdraw you from this study if circumstances arise which warrant him to do so. The participant may have his/her responses removed from this study by contacting the researcher provided that the researcher has not submitted material for publication. Once material has been submitted for publication, participant responses cannot be withdrawn.

A summary of results will be posted on the Assumption University website at www.assumptionu.ca. The Jewish Community Centre will send an email to the membership that includes the summary of results. Temple Beth El and Shaar Hashomayim will also be offered this opportunity to send the results to their members. Also, a summary of results will also be included on the REB website via www.uwindsor.ca/reb. A summary of results should be available in late-2019.

The data may be used in subsequent studies, publications, presentations, and class discussions. The participant's confidentiality and anonymity will be maintained.

This study is being conducted under the auspices of Assumption University. This study has been cleared by the University of Windsor Research Ethics Board. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, contact: Research Ethics Coordinator, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario N9B 3P4; Telephone: 519-253-3000, ext. 3948; e-mail: ethics@uwindsor.ca.

These are the terms under which I will conduct research.

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