PhD Research- Decorative Tattooing and Scars

Participant Information

You are invited to take part in research for the qualification of a PhD taking place at the University of the West of England, Bristol. Please read the following information carefully and if you have any queries or would like more information, please contact Kieran Moulton.

Researcher Contact Details (Main Contact):
Kieran Lane Moulton
Dept. Centre for Appearance Research
Email; Kieran.moulton@uwe.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Details:
Professor Diana Harcourt
Dept. Centre for Appearance Research
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Research Aim:
Tattooing has increased in popularity over recent decades, and the use of decorative tattooing now has the potential to be used in a variety of different ways. This research looks at the use of decorative tattooing to both cover and decorate scars on the human body. To do this, this research will be looking at gaining an insight into the different ways in which individuals engage with tattooing and their scars. This will involve looking at individual thoughts, ideas, and motivations for engaging with decorative tattooing.

To answer these questions the researcher will be conducting interviews with individuals who have used tattooing to either cover or decorate their scars. The results of this study will be analysed and used in a report. The anonymised results may also be used in academic papers.
Who has Approved This Research?

The project has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences Research Ethics Committee at the University of the West of England. Any comments, questions or complaints about the ethical conduct of this study can be addressed to the Research Ethics Committee at the University of the West of England at: Researchethics@uwe.ac.uk

What if I Have More Questions or do not Understand Something?

If you would like any further information about the research, please contact Kieran Lane Moulton (contact details provided at the top of this information sheet).

Please also refer to the accompanying privacy notice that should be read in conjunction with this information sheet and consent form before you agree to take part in the research.

Why Take Part?

This research will add to current literature on the subject. This is an opportunity for you to share your experiences and have your voice heard.

Do I Have to Take Part?

You do not have to take part in this research. It is up to you to decide whether or not you want to be involved. If you do decide to take part, you will be given a copy of this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign a consent form. If you do decide to take part, you can change your mind at any time and choose not to be part of the study. This can be at any time before the interview and up to two weeks after the interview, without having to give a reason. The withdraw from the study all you need to do is to contact the researcher on the provided email address, stating that you wish to withdraw, you do not need to provide a reason for this. The researcher will confirm that they have received your request and inform you that all of your data will be securely removed. The researcher will then contact you again to let you know that this has been completed, and to offer to answers any further questions that you may have about the process.
What do I Have to do in the Study?

If you agree to take part, you will be asked to take part in a one-to-one interview. The interview will allow you to talk about your experiences and share your thoughts. The interview will likely last for 1 hour and will be recorded on a voice recorder, but the recording will not contain your name. Interviews will be carried out in a setting that is convenient to you, for example, a quiet location in a public space or at your own home. Alternatively, interviews can be carried out on Microsoft Teams, Zoom, or by telephone. As part of these interviews, you can provide a photograph of anything relating to your experience, for example, your tattoo. They will allow the researcher to further understand the meaning and importance of your experience. The photograph that you provide could be of your scar or tattoo itself, or even an object or location that has meaning to your motivation and experience. The photographs that you provide may be used in written reports or at public events, but only if you consent to this. The researcher will be happy to answer any questions and discuss this with you further.

Interviews will be conducted by Mr Kieran Moulton. Any answers you give will be fully anonymised. Being interviewed about a personal experience can be distressing for some people. Should you yourself feel distressed during the interview, you can ask the researcher to pause the interview and continue after a short break, stop the interview and re-arrange for an alternative time, or to stop the interview completely. Your well-being is the main priority in all instances. Some support contacts can be found at the bottom of this information sheet which may be useful to you should you feel any level of distress during or after the interview.

Are There Any Benefits for Taking Part?

If you take part, you will be helping us to gain a better understanding of why people choose to use decorative tattooing as a form of scar camouflage or decoration. There will be the benefit of expressing your thoughts on the topic, which may be of interest to others.

Are There Any Risks?

The researcher does not believe that taking part in this study poses any risks. However, if you feel uncomfortable at any time you can ask for the interview to stop.
What Will Happen to Your Information?

Participation in this research is strictly confidential and false names will be used unless you would like your actual name to be used. All research data will be stored on secure devices and all data will be encrypted, and password protected to prevent public or unauthorised access. Only the researcher and the supervisor contact will have access to this. Any personal data collected will only be accessible to the researcher (Kieran Moulton). Should the research be published, no personal information of yours will be shared. The contents of the interviews and the photographs that you provide will be used for research purposes only. Hard copies of research material will be kept in a locked and secure filing cabinet to which only the researcher will have access in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation requirements.

What Will Happen to my Photographs?

Should you consent to having the photographs used in the interview only, any photographs provided will be either returned to you after the interview has finished or destroyed by the researcher if you have provided digital copies.

Should you consent to the photographs being used within the researcher and for purposes related to the research (i.e., visual displays at public engagement events) then your photographs will be stored securely by the researcher and used in this way. Any personal information will not be shared by the researcher. However, when giving consent for the photographs to be used outside of the interview, you should understand that people may be able to recognise you from the photographs that you provide.

Contacts for Support:

Changing Faces Charity Support & Information Line- 0300 012 0275

British Association of Skin Camouflage- +44 (0) 1254703107

Should you have any concerns about your scar, you should contact your GP.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. Please contact Kieran Moulton on Kieran.moulton@uwe.ac.uk for further information or to express your interest in participating in this research.

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