

Invitation to Participate in Psychological Research/Information Sheet

Research title: Late-onset Problem drinking in older people (50+):

Psychosocial Characteristics and the Role of Meaning and Purpose in Life.

My name is Kevin McNerney, I am undertaking a research degree (PhD). Before deciding if you would like to participate, it is important that you understand the purpose of this research and what participation involves.

What are the objectives of the study?

The study investigates the psychological and social characteristics of older adults who begin drinking problematically later in life, referred to as 'late-onset'. Late-onset drinkers account for one-third of all older problem drinkers and typically, they begin drinking problematically, approximately around the age of 50. The research also compares them with their early-onset counterparts (people who begin drinking problematically, much earlier in life). Moreover, the research posits the notion that late-onset problem drinking in older adults is associated with a *lack of meaning and purpose in life*, resulting from major events that occur later in life, and investigates the role that *meaning and purpose in life* plays in both late- and early-onset problem drinking.

Who is eligible to participate in the study?

To take part in the study you must be:

1. 50 years-old or older
2. A *late-onset* drinker in recovery. That is, someone whose drinking became problematic at the age of 50 or later

OR

An *early-onset* drinker in recovery. That is, someone whose drinking became problematic earlier in life.

What does taking part involve?

Participating in the study involves completing two brief online questionnaires and a participant information form (age, gender, personal characteristics, etc.). **A QR code (and link) to the questionnaires is given at the end of this document.** The questionnaires are the *Purpose in Life Test (PIL)* and the *Meaning in Life Questionnaire (MLQ)*. Additionally, some people from both groups (i.e., late- and early-onset) will be invited to take part in an interview with myself. The duration of the interviews will be between 30 and 45 minutes, and will be conducted online (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Facetime etc.).

The interview will be recorded and later transcribed, analyzed, and interpreted. During the interview I will ask several ‘open-ended’ questions, meaning that you can answer the questions fully, rather than just giving “yes” “no” answers. If you decide that you would like to participate, your anonymity will be protected and you will be assigned a pseudonym, agreed prior to the interview. The assigned pseudonym will be used throughout the interview and will appear on the interview transcript.

What are the benefits of taking part?

By participating in the study, you will be contributing to a better understanding of how late-onset problem drinking develops in older adults, and how they recover from a problem that has seriously adverse consequences to their physical, psychological, and social well-being.

What if there is a problem?

If you have any concerns or complaints about anything to do with the study, please speak to the research team in the first instance (myself and my supervisors); we will do our best to answer your questions. Our contact details are available at the end of this information sheet.

Will the information I give in this study be kept confidential?

Yes, information collected from you will be kept confidential. This means that no one outside of the research team will see any of the information that has been generated by you. However, anonymised verbatim quotes from the interviews may be used as part of the research findings in the final written thesis and may be published. Each person taking part in the study will choose a unique participant code to store their data anonymously. In any subsequent material, including anything published; your identify is pseudonymized.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The information you give us will be analyzed, and written up; this will form part of my PhD thesis and may consequently be published and/or presented at academic conferences.

Has the research been ethically approved?

This study has been reviewed and approved for its ethical standards by the University of Derby, College of Business, Law and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee, in accordance with the ethical guidelines of the British Psychological Society; a professional body of psychologists in the UK who overview research to ensure that it protects the safety, rights, well-being, and dignity of anyone who participates in research.

Can I withdraw from the research?

Should you so wish to withdraw from the research you may do so at any point, up to ten days after participation, you do not have to give a reason. To withdraw your data, simply contact the researcher quoting your unique participant code (you will be instructed to create at the beginning of the survey), stating that you wish to withdraw; we will destroy any information you have given us, including data collected during the study.

If I decide to participate, what do I do now?

If you have decided to take part in the questionnaire component of the study, thank you very much. All you need do now, is to scan the QR code below on your phone to access the study.



Alternatively, type this link into your browser:

https://derby.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezYtCDqPnTRrpVc

Research Team Contact Details

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Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.