

Research on Emotional Memories *Information Sheet*

You are invited to take part in a research study about emotional memories. The researchers want to find out how people from different cultural backgrounds tell their story about an emotional event in their lives.

Research team

This research is carried out by a research team from the Faculty of Law at VU University Amsterdam, led by [name researcher].

What will happen today

After reading this information and signing the Informed Consent Form, the researcher will ask you to **tell him or her about an emotional event** you have experienced. S/he will first let you tell your story and then ask you some follow-up questions. You may also be asked to repeat your story.

You can choose what emotional event you want to tell the researcher about, but there is one exception: please **do not talk about any crimes** that you have committed in the past or plan to commit in the future. If you tell us about any events that could put you or others in danger, we may be obligated to report this to the authorities.

Once we finish the interview, you will be asked for some **information about your personal background, culture and ethnic origin**. We need that information to investigate how people from different cultures report about emotional events.

Time commitment and compensation

The study will take about **one hour** and you will be **paid €20** for your participation.

What will happen to your information

Your interview will be **audio-recorded** so that after the interview, we can **write out** exactly what you told us. Only members of the research team will listen to the audio-recordings. Nobody else will see or hear any information that could identify you.

When we write out the interviews, we will **pseudonymise** the transcripts. This means that we will remove any information that could potentially identify you, such as your name. The pseudonymised transcripts will be used for further analyses. From that point on, only the leader of the research team, [name researcher], will be able to access your personal details (to allow you to withdraw consent, see below).

In follow-up research, some of the pseudonymised transcripts will be **shown to immigration officials**, who will be asked to evaluate those stories. Because all your identifying data is removed, the immigration officials will not know who told the story.

The pseudonymised transcripts may also be used in **future legal-psychological research**. By agreeing to participate, you give us permission to process the information you provide for scientific research purposes.

Data security

All information obtained in this study will be stored on a **secure server** in the Netherlands, in line with the policy on data storage at VU University Amsterdam. The data will be stored for **at least ten years**, in line with the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice (VSNU, 2014). After this period, the de-identified data will be kept for potential future analyses, but the document linking the pseudonymised transcripts to your personal data will be destroyed.

Benefits and risks

The study is not designed to benefit you directly. But what we learn from the research will be used to **help improve interviewing procedures** for people from different cultural backgrounds, so there is a long-term benefit for everybody.

We do not think that the project involves any physical or psychological risk to you, but there is the possibility that **you might feel upset** from telling your story about an emotional event in your life. After the interview, we will give you a list of contact details for helpful organisations you can contact if you feel any kind of distress.

Participants' rights

You have the right to **refuse to answer** any question that is asked of you, or even to **stop being a part** of the research study entirely. You do not have to explain why and there will be **no negative consequences**. You will still be paid for your participation. You also have the right to **have any questions about the study answered**.

You have the right to **withdraw your consent** at any time. You can do so by simply telling the researcher during the study, or by contacting the team leader after the study (see contact details below). If you do, we will not process your data any further and if you ask us to, we will destroy all data collected from you up to that point.

Want to know what we find out?

If you would like to be **informed about the results** of this study, please note down the website [address]. Once we have analysed all the information obtained in the study, we will describe what we found there.

Questions and contact

If you have any questions at this point, please **feel free to ask** them now!

If you have any questions about the study at a later date, or if you wish to withdraw your consent, please feel free to **contact the leader of the research team**, [name and contact details].

If you have any questions about your rights in this research, or have any other questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints that you do not feel can be addressed by the leader of the research team, please **contact the Data Protection Officer** at VU University Amsterdam, Tom Paffen, LL.M. He can be reached by e-mail at functioarisgegevensbescherming@vu.nl or by phone at 020-5985047.

Research on Emotional Memories *Informed Consent Form*

You are invited to take part in a research study about emotional memories. The researchers want to find out how people from different cultural backgrounds tell their story about an emotional event in their lives.

The research is carried out by a research team from the Faculty of Law at VU University Amsterdam, led by [name researcher].

Declaration of consent

By signing below, you are agreeing that:

1. you have read and understood the Information Sheet,
2. questions about your participation in this study have been answered satisfactorily,
3. you are aware of the potential benefits and risks of your participation,
4. you are taking part in this study voluntarily (without coercion),
5. a pseudonymised version of your story may be shared with immigration officials,
6. the researchers may process your personal data, including the information you provide about your personal background, culture and ethnic origin, to conduct the study as explained in the Information Sheet.

Participant's Name*

Participant's signature*

Date

Name of person obtaining consent

Signature of person obtaining consent

**Participants wishing to preserve some degree of anonymity may use their initials.*