

**Cosplay is Not Consent: A Study on the Movement's Effectiveness in Preventing  
Misbehaviors and Sexual Harassment Against Cosplayers in Pop Culture  
Conventions in the Philippines**

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August 2023

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study examined the effectiveness of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement in preventing misbehavior and sexual harassment towards cosplayers in pop culture conventions in the Philippines. It presented the following questions: 1) “What are the perceptions and extent of awareness of convention attendees on the misbehavior and sexual harassment in pop conventions in the Philippines as well as the Cosplay is Not Consent movement,?” 2) “Considering that misbehavior and sexual harassment still happens at conventions, what is lacking in the communication of the the Cosplay is Not Consent movement in pop culture conventions?”, and 3) “How can anti-sexual harassment campaigns be effectively executed in pop culture conventions to create a safer environment that will also encourage victims of sexual harassment to voice out and report their experiences?”. Data for these were collected through an online survey sent to convention attendees and semi - structured interviews with cosplayers as well as organizers. It discussed the respondents’ awareness, perceptions, and insights on anti-sexual harassment campaigns, specifically the Cosplay is not Consent, in conventions. Findings show that misbehavior and sexual harassment towards cosplayers are major issues in local conventions and that there is a lack of communication and enforcement of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement and related policies in local conventions. The proponents of the study proposed a project that is composed of an informative and interactive website including an online magazine, supplemented by a downloadable brochure, about cosplay in conventions that aims to strengthen the presence of the Cosplay is Not Consent campaign within the

convention-attending community by educating them about convention guidelines and providing them a platform to learn and share experiences with one another.

## CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

Cosplay is defined as the “activity or practice of dressing up as a character from a work of fiction” (Merriam-Webster). The earliest record of cosplaying was in 1939, when New York introduced the world’s first Science Fiction convention, also known as “Worldcon”. Two of the attendees, Forest J. Ackerman and Myrtle R. Morojo Jones arrived wearing costumes, which then led to the rise in popularity of “Fan costuming” in those comic and fictional-media based conventions. Attendees were inspired by the two, and during the second Worldcon, a yearly tradition of holding a small costume masquerade was formed (Culp, 2016). In 1984, Takahashi Nobuyuki, the founder and a writer of the anime publishing company called Studio Hard, attended Worldcon. He was impressed by the fans who wore costumes, particularly those who were competing in the masquerade. Upon returning to Japan he wrote about his experiences at the convention, focusing on the fans wearing costumes and the masquerade, encouraging his Japanese readers to wear costumes at their own local anime and manga conventions. The word “Masquerade” translated into Japanese means “aristocratic costume party”, which was vastly different from how the masquerades functioned at conventions. Due to this Takahashi created the phrase “costume play” instead, which eventually got shortened to “cosplay” (Winge, 2006).

Beginning in the 1990’s, the rapid advancement of technology which led to computers and the internet being available for many people around the world allowed for culture to spread among different countries, allowing “Geek Culture ” including cosplay, to become a popular interest globally (Culp, 2016). As technology has advanced to the point wherein media has easy access due to the creation and

affordability of portable devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptops. The subculture, “Geek Culture” has become part of “Popular Culture” or “Pop Culture” (James, 2020). In sociology, “Pop Culture” is a set of practices, beliefs, or objects that represent the most widely shared meanings and experiences of a social system, and it includes media, entertainment and leisure, fashion and trends, as well as linguistic conventions (Kidd, 2017). In 2001, the first anime convention in the Philippines, called “Anime explosion”, was held at SM Megamall Megatrade Hall, introducing cosplay to a larger audience. In 2001, more conventions focused on anime were created, such as AXN cosplay, Artfarm, and Anime on Ice. Several themed conventions focused on various other genres of Pop Culture such as J-pop, toys, comics, games, etc would be created in the following years, and with it rose the popularity of cosplay which was a hobby that was considered “weird” and unheard of before the 2000’s and “Anime Explosion” (Angelo, 2016).

This rise in popularity of cosplay has also brought many criticisms and controversies to the hobby, and among them is the inevitable issue of how participants get sexualized, due to fictional media often depicting characters, primarily women, with revealing outfits (Furmston, 2017). During conventions, cosplayers also get treated differently, often being viewed and referred to as the character they are dressing up as due to the roleplaying aspect of the hobby. Because of this, one of the biggest issues among the cosplay community and convention spaces is the rampancy of misbehavior which is referring to the lack of etiquette when interacting with cosplayers, as well as sexual harassment of many forms (Culp, 2016). In the United States, a survey called “A psychology of cosplay” created by Dr. Andrea Letamendi and Dr. Robin Rosenberg, 75

percent of the nearly one thousand cosplayers who experienced sexual harassment while cosplaying were female (Culp, 2016). Due to this, a movement called “Cosplay is not Consent” began in 2013, aiming to raise awareness and educate convention attendees on how to interact with cosplayers in a proper way, to combat against the sexual harassment and behaviour that causes discomfort for cosplayers in conventions (Culp, 2016). This issue is common in many countries, causing the movement and phrase to spread world-wide, including here in the Philippines, primarily encouraged by Cosplay.ph, who is known to host events such as Cosplay Mania, Fanfest, and Cosplay Matsuri.

Sexual harassment, defined as “uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature”(Merriam-Webster) is not only limited to these two forms of interactions especially in terms of conventions, as a portion of it also involves the act of taking pictures or videos of someone in a way that makes them uncomfortable, regardless if it was consensual, as there have been reports on cosplay community groups in the Philippines about attendees sexualizing cosplayers by focusing on their chest or other certain parts of their body in their photographs or videos. An example of this issue can be seen on the Facebook page “Catcalled in the Philippines” where a female cosplayer shared their experience during Toycon. The cosplayer said that a man dressed as Mario from Nintendo and his friends asked for a picture with her, when she agreed they took close-up pictures of her breasts, and the “Mario” hugged and touched the cosplayer without asking for her permission (Manilla Standard, 2017). Another experience shared by the article author’s friend detailed that she had dressed up as a character who wore a mini skirt with a rather high slit, near the hip, and asked to take a



picture with her, while posing, she felt a hand slide up her thigh and squeeze her behind twice, her boyfriend upon seeing her discomfort, told the boys the interaction was done, the group of boys left, complaining that the couple were rude and selfish (Manilla Standard, 2017).

Cosplaying's rise in popularity in the latest years is evidenced by the steady increase of members in cosplay groups on social media, with "Cosplay Market PH" currently having 122,000 members, and "Cosplay PH" having 98,000 on Facebook (Facebook, 2023) . Despite the reminders of "Cosplay is not consent" and signs of it being posted around conventions organized by Cosplay.ph, there are little to no records or studies regarding it, and with this, the proponents raise the following questions:

1. What are the perceptions and extent of awareness of convention attendees on the misbehavior and sexual harassment in pop conventions in the Philippines as well as the Cosplay is Not Consent movement?
2. Considering that misbehavior and sexual harassment still happens at conventions, what is lacking in the communication of the the Cosplay is Not Consent movement in pop culture conventions?"
3. How can anti-sexual harassment campaigns be effectively executed in pop culture conventions to create a safer environment that will also encourage victims of sexual harassment to voice out and report their experiences?

Sexual harassment is always the sole fault of the person committing the act, which is why the proponents believe that it is important to address this issue that has been present for the community since the hobby's popularization. And as many are

starting to attend Pop Culture conventions, it is crucial to educate them on the culture and etiquette that can be observed in conventions, such as how to interact with cosplayers in a proper way that does not make them uncomfortable. The goal of the proponents is to also make cosplayers, especially those new to the hobby, aware of the potential dangers they may encounter while cosplaying, and for more convention organizers to contribute in preventing or at least decreasing the rampancy of sexual harassment happening in conventions.

## **CHAPTER 2 - REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND WORKS**

This portion of the study aims to provide a background on the cosplay culture how cosplay is not consent, the sexualization of character designs in media, and the influence of consumption of fictional media on perceptions of reality by reviewing academic and scholarly literature referencing as such. This chapter includes studies that establish significant or similar information to the current study.

### **Cosplay Culture in Conventions**

Pop culture conventions are a way for people who love popular media to indulge more in their hobbies by attending an event wherein they can easily find merchandise of their favorite characters or media, meet guests, and meet new people who share the same interests (Barajas, 2018). There are many types of people in conventions, such as regular non-cosplaying attendees, photographers, videographers, and cosplayers. According to the study, cosplaying on an individual level is about expression and developing skills, while in events, it is a social and group-oriented activity which is used to interact with the convention to express love for things they are a fan of. Cosplay

combines the words “costume” and “play” representing the hobby’s aspect of dressing and acting as a fictional character. Cosplay is most often used for fictional characters and can come in many different forms, from casual wear or other designs made to mimic the look of a character, to extensive and detailed costumes complete with props to recreate the exact appearance of a character. The theme of conventions change who cosplayers might choose to cosplay, despite most fandoms being represented in Pop Culture conventions, a gaming convention will have more cosplayers dressed up as game characters, likewise an anime convention would have more cosplayers dressed characters from anime, however a cosplayer’s group would also impact their decision as they will likely change their plans in order to support the group in order to complete a cast of characters from their chosen media (Barajas, 2018).

In conventions, if a cosplayer is successful in representing the character they are dressing up as, attendees (both cosplayers and non-cosplayers) will often ask to take pictures with that cosplayer (Barajas, 2018). Some cosplayers who want to test their skills will enter a cosplay contest where they will be judged and assessed based on their craft and performance, but these stages are more for professionals and artists rather than the average cosplayer as not all make their own costumes and props or style their own wigs. When someone cosplays, for that moment, they become the fictional character, and while not all cosplayers seek this kind of attention and experience, it is generally what cosplayers want to achieve . Conventions and cosplay are intertwined together, conventions use cosplayers as consumers as they are still part of the attendees, and cosplayers use conventions to show off their skills to market themselves to fellow fans in the community (Barajas, 2018).

Anime was introduced in the Philippines in the 1970's, and gained a rise in popularity during the 1990's (Ramos, 2013). Demands for anime-related products grew in the market and along with this came the rise of cosplay in the country. The first recorded anime convention that featured cosplay was Anime Explosion in 2000, and over the years more Pop Culture Conventions which feature cosplay-related events began being created. In the present at least one cosplay event is held every month in the Philippines, with Cosplay Mania in Pasay City being the largest event annually. Cosplay in the Philippines is primarily participated by females, which is the same case in other countries, potentially due to the skills needed to cosplay, such as sewing, craftwork, wig styling and makeup, which are traditionally associated with women. Despite the assumption that cosplaying is an expensive hobby, those with higher socioeconomic status are not the only ones who cosplay, as the majority of cosplayers in the Philippines are the youth, including students who are dependent on allowances from their parents and guardians (Ramos, 2013).

### **Cosplay is Not Consent**

Several definitions of sexual harassment exist which change over time and are culturally specific. In terms of law, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) states that sexual harassment is “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature” (United Nations, n.d.). From a psychological standpoint, sexual harassment is a subjective phenomenon that constitutes undesired sexual and physical behaviors (Ferrer-Pérez & Bosch-Fiol, 2014). The idea of the act being uninvited is a recurring theme among definitions of

sexual harassment. Consent is therefore crucial in assessing whether an act constitutes sexual harassment.

Consent is generally understood to be an agreement to engage in sexual activity, including but not limited to sexual intercourse, that is expressed in different ways (Beres, 2014). In the context of conventions, while cosplay is a means of expressing one's self (Hill, 2017) and connecting with people of the same interests (Yamato, 2016), men perceive it as an invitation to freely access women's bodies for sexual purposes (Rodriguez, 2015). Thus, "Cosplay is Not Consent" signs are put in place in conventions to serve as reminders to refrain touching and taking photographs of other attendees without asking for permission (Ellsworth, 2018). This common policy among conventions originated from the Cosplay is Not Consent movement as a result of sexual harassment incidents in the community (Lucas, 2018). The Cosplay is Not Consent movement, led by a group on Facebook of the same name in 2013, aims to empower cosplayers in speaking out against misbehavior and sexual harassment that happen in conventions (Lemmons, 2019). Photographs of attendees, mainly cosplayers, with "Cosplay ≠ Consent" or inappropriate statements received by victims were taken as part of the movement (Close, 2016).

**Figure 1**

Photograph of a “Cosplay is Not Consent” sign at the 2014 New York Comic-Con



Source: Cosplay is NOT Consent. (2014). *Cosplay is NOT Consent Sign* [Image]. Facebook.

Conventions have policies regarding anti-sexual harassment (Ellsworth, 2018; Lemmons, 2019; Rodriguez, 2015). However, specific misbehaviors stated in these policies, including Cosplay is Not Consent, vary among conventions. Figure 1 shows a Cosplay is Not Consent sign at the 2014 New York Comic Convention which reminds attendees to respect other attendees' personal space by asking their permission before touching them or taking photos of or with them. Lemmons (2019) examined the convention rules of three big anime conventions in Canada, namely Anime North,

Otakuthon, and AniRevo. A section of the anti-sexual harassment policy of Anime North specifically states that unwanted touching can be considered assault and may result in losing membership and being kicked out from the event (Lemmons, 2019). Anime North also has a policy of asking first before taking pictures of guests, staff, fellow convention attendees (cosplayer or not) or the public. (Lemmons, 2019). Comparatively, Otakuthon has a policy that specified the following behaviors as inappropriate if done without permission: (1) hugging, (2) glomping, which is the act of running up to someone and hugging them, (3) back-slapping, (4) kissing, (5) unwanted physical contact, and (6) unwanted advances or other similar behaviors considered as sexual harassment (Lemmons 2019). In addition, Lemmons (2019) found that AniRevo's guidelines consider the following as acts of sexual harassment and assault: (1) physical assault or abuse, (2) unsolicited comments about a person's appearance, age, religion, race or sex, (3) anything that embarrasses, endangers, or demoralizes a person, (4) unwanted physical contact, and (5) provocative actions.

Cosplayers, mostly female, at conventions are touched and photographed without consent, catcalled, and stalked (Hill, 2017; Lome, 2016; Zarin, 2017). Hill (2017) found that unwanted touching is one of the most prevalent issues faced by cosplayers at conventions. Also, Zarin (2017) claimed that taking unauthorized photos of cosplayers is a privacy concern and that convention rules to address the issue are inadequate. Similarly, according to Hill (2017), taking photos of cosplayers without their permission is against cosplay etiquette and violates their privacy because cosplayers are not mere objects that can be used without their permission. As a result, cosplayers have created their own guidelines as to the proper social etiquette towards them such

as not stalking cosplayers, not taking photographs without permission, and not forcing cosplayers to disclose their personal information (Zarin 2017).

Despite such efforts, sexual harassment remains as one of the major problems in the cosplay community (Lome, 2016). While sexual harassment happens person-to-person, it stems from a societal system that encourages male superiority (Rodriguez, 2015). Rodriguez (2015) argues that sexual harassment of women is a sign of male dominance and an act of resistance against the inclusion of women into conventions, a male-dominated environment. In addition, men's perception of female cosplayers as merely fictional characters, rather than persons, fosters a sense of entitlement to women's bodies which ultimately leads to sexual harassment (Ellsworth, 2018). This relates to the Objectification Theory Fredrickson and Roberts (1997) which postulates that women are treated as mere objects and valued solely for their physical attributes. Media play a role in normalizing behaviors that encourage sexual harassment by showing sexually objectifying portrayals of women in movies, games, comics, and magazines (Cocca, 2014; Galdi & Guizzo, 2020; Stanley, 2022). Galdi and Quizzo (2020) claim that sexually objectifying media enable harassers, convince victims to become tolerant of sexual harassment, and dissuade bystanders from recognizing sexual harassment and intervening to help the victim.

Women have developed various coping mechanisms to prevent being sexually harassed at conventions. A study in Indonesia found that female cosplayers cross-dress as masculine male characters to avoid sexual harassment (Muzdavila et al., 2021; Turk, 2019). In the U.S., the Cosplay is Not Consent movement has helped female cosplayers in dealing with sexual harassment by showing self-confidence, uniting as a community,



and raising awareness around the issue (Lucas, 2018). Lucas (2018) found that women who attend anime conventions do not see such events as dominated by men, contradicting Rodriguez's results that they are male-dominated spaces. This finding demonstrates how women resist stereotyped gender norms. However, substantial concerns around sexual harassment still remain despite efforts to combat the issue. Based on a study conducted by Ellsworth (2018), conventions are not taking sufficient action to combat sexual harassment and rely too much on the Cosplay is Not Consent policy without proper enforcement. In addition, problems with convention staff were identified, including their lack of training in preventing sexual harassment, their condonement of such behavior, and the unease women felt reporting such instances to male staff (Ellsworth, 2018).

### **Sexualization of Character Designs in Media**

Sexualized fictional characters have always been around and could be easily found in varied forms of media. It is a staple for video game characters and comic book characters to have exaggerated body proportions to emphasize unrealistic body types to present sex appeal.

According to Burgess and Stermer (2007), the way men and women are depicted on video game covers vastly differ from one another. It was observed that whenever the female characters were portrayed as a protagonist, more often than not it was accompanied by an element of sexiness or paired up with very muscular male characters. It was examined that the central characters were male and they had bodies designed for the action in the game by being muscular for strength. Meanwhile, for the

action - centric female characters, they would be equipped with unrealistic large breasts partnered with super thin arms and legs which seemed to be a staple for their designs. It puts forward the idea that sexual appeal is a more crucial aspect to consider for their designs (Burgess & Stermer, 2007). They are more prone to being objectified and designed with exaggerated physical assets with skin - tight or revealing outfits (Burgess & Stermer, 2007).

Furthermore, in a more recent study done by Lethbridge (2022), it ventured into the effects of a gameplay accompanied by a sexualized female character and one with a nonsexualized form was investigated. It aimed to analyze the potential effects in the players' sexism, self - objectification, and objectification of women. Through a questionnaire done after playing, the data gathered showed skewed results wherein the participants' average scored highest in the nonsexualized condition in regards to sexism, objectification, and self - objectification. While in the sexualized condition, this scored the lowest but the participants in this condition did make comments on how they were bothered about how unseemly and scantily dressed the characters were. As the gaming community is more diverse now, video game developers are behind in regards to knowing their new target audience's expectations and views (Lethbridge, 2022).

However, sexualized character designs are not only prevalent in video games but also discerned in graphic novels and comic books. Historically, the way female characters have been portrayed in comics is a manifestation of how society regards women (Turberville, 2016). In the 1990s, Wonder Woman had a new look of bigger breasts and started the era that hyper-sexuality supposedly equates to female characters' strength (Emad, 2006, p. 975). Wonder Woman is one example of many

heroine characters that embody how men see women as sexual objects in society and this could be seen through villains as well by having them get power through sexy expressions with manipulation (Turberville, 2016).

It could be seen in numerous comics that women are illustrated with heavily unrealistic feminine assets, impractical poses, and inappropriate suits (Turberville, 2016). The author of “The Broke Back Test” which is a study analyzing the way women are portrayed in mainstream superhero comics from 1993 - 2013, Carolyn Cocca, examined the representation of women in comic books from Marvel and DC wherein it showed how throughout three decades, they are objectified. The poses drawn for male and female characters differed greatly. Majority, the men are facing forward with their muscles emphasized but for women, in addition to being super busty and small-waisted, they are positioned to be impossibly twisted to show off their physical assets or having an uncomfortable arched back pose (Cocca, 2014, p. 411).

With these problematic representations plastered on comic books and graphic novels, this could affect the females in the fan base by being alienated and objectified (Crawshaw, 2015). In a study done by Crawshaw (2015), it surveyed the participants in regards to how powerful women are portrayed as attractive bodies in comic books, and how a social status quo is imposed by the superhero narrative. Specifically, male participants discussed how female characters fall into stereotypical archetypes which are the love interest, the nag, and the slut. Although, the female participants showed more concern about the hypersexualization that “the slut” archetype gets. However, both agreed that women that are considered sexually attractive are the only ones portrayed as powerful in the genre. Furthermore, the study conveys that a divide is

present in the comic book community with how female fans are excluded in a male - centric space (Crawshaw, 2015).

### **Influences of Consumption of Fictional Media on Perceptions of Reality**

In a study by Rain and Mar (2021) aimed to find the correlation of how an adult's attachment style can influence the type of character they most often become attached to. The study stated that an individual's attraction and attachment to a fictional character are dependent on what they emotionally, mentally, physically, and sexually lacking in their everyday life. These individuals can either be in a relationship or self-identify as the character. In another study by Karhulahti and Valisalo (2020), they had studied in-depth coined concepts of *fictosexuality*, *fictoromance*, and *fictophilia* which all refers to a one-sided love and attraction towards a fictional character. It makes mention of individuals who are attracted to fictional characters and most often see it as a substitute to real relationships. It makes mention of the media surrounded by the idea of sexiness having potential influence on sexual attitudes. However, it states that it can still depend on the individual's environment and mental state. This shows that people who see their attachment to fictional characters as real most often substitute it with deeper underlying issues on the individual.

A study that discusses the effects of exposure to sexualized females in video games had the result of their participants having no effect on their usual world views within the time frame of their study (Cross et al., 2022). However, they have stated that it is possible that long-term exposure can have different results. In a literature by Tompkins (2018), they aimed to answer the question of the influence of sexualized

characters through analyzing this phenomenon through psychological theories. The author came to the conclusion that pre-existing ideologies of these sexualized characters are considered when it comes to their influence. An old study by McLean (2015), that aimed to study the influence of violent video games' influence on actual real life crimes concluded that those who are engrossed and exposed to violent video games for a long periods of time and mainly surrounded by violent video games are more likely to be less empathetic to victims. There is the potential that such individuals are not able to differentiate between fiction and reality however, the environment and surroundings of an individual are still important factors of their ability to be influenced by media and potentially, differentiate the ideologies presented in video games to real life.

In cosplay, it is most often that cosplayers roleplay or become a certain character during a certain amount of time (Barajas, 2018). Cosplayers spend their time curating a costume similar enough to the character. With the concept of *fictosexuality* and those who are easily influenced by the ideas presented in game, there is the possibility of enacting their own attachments.

### **The Issues Female Cosplayers Experience While Cosplaying**

According to Jenkins (2020), due to many media within geek culture being male centered and created primarily by men, female characters are often designed with the male gaze in mind, leading these characters to often have revealing clothing and unrealistic bodies. This creates certain issues for female cosplayers because if one decides to cosplay as one of these scantily-clad characters, they can attract unwanted and uncomfortable attention from male convention attendees, which may escalate to

unwarranted physical touch. This occurrence happens so regularly that “Cosplay is Not Consent” began being posted as signages around conventions. Aside from this, the unrealistic body types of such characters also cause female cosplayers to be more subjected to body shaming compared to their male counterparts (Jenkins, 2020).

Research specifically on gender and cosplay exists, however thorough studies of it are limited and fail to fully express the difference in experience between genders when cosplaying, especially in those forms most visible such as social and mainstream media (Hutabarat-Nelson, 2017). In pop culture conventions, personal identity and status are suspended as cosplayers take on the identities of the characters they portray, however similar to “real life” issues, criticism and shaming remain prevalent within the cosplay community. Shame culture in cosplay fixates on the bodies of cosplayers, especially female cosplayers, cosplayers of color, and cosplayers with non-normative body types, which in some cases escalate to dehumanizing those bodies leading to physical and sexual harassment (Hutabarat-Nelson, 2017).

### **Theoretical Framework**

The Uses and Gratification theory supports the information that has been provided in this section of the study. According to this theory, media consumers actively choose, engage, and influence media to fulfill their needs or desires (Liu, 2015). Katz, Gurevitch, and Haas (1973) identified and examined five types of a person’s social and psychological needs that are satisfied through the use of mass media. In addition, McQuail (1983) discovered information-seeking, socialization, personal identity, and entertainment as reasons for media use. Cosplaying and attending pop culture

conventions can be considered as a use of fictional media to gratify a person's needs related to self-expression, social interaction, and entertainment as discussed previously. However, this consumption of fictional media and attachment to fictional characters can blur the lines between fiction and reality in favor of using "cosplayers" to fulfill one's sexual needs, thus leading to sexual harassment. Lamp (2018) claims that cosplayers may be perceived as mere fictional characters and reduced to sexual objects which lead to experiences of objectification. By applying the uses and gratifications theory, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding on the reasons why people choose to attend pop culture conventions.

The Third Space Theory by Homi Bhabha is also used in this study to help explain why misbehavior and sexual harassment of cosplayers are issues in pop culture conventions. Bhabha (1994) suggested an in-between space called third space where a hybrid cultural identity is produced from the continuous interaction and negotiation among cultures in contradictory settings. A third space is a transcultural space that acknowledges cultural differences to recognize plurality and hybridity (Bhabha, 1994). The third space theory has been used by several researchers in different fields of study. Abou-Agag (2021) argued that social media platforms manifest a third space because they facilitate cultural exchange among users of different identities which leads to the formation of a new collective identity. Following this notion, conventions also manifest a third space. Conventions are places of socialization for multiple fan communities (Eng, 2012, as cited in Hill, 2017), including cosplayers who interact within and outside the cosplay community (Barajas, 2018). Moreover, they provide safe spaces for cosplayers to embody alternative identities (Ellsworth, 2018; Rahman et al., 2012). Ellsworth (2018)

mentioned that cosplay is centered on identity fluidity as it involves the transformation of a person. In a sense, pop culture convention attendees enter into a third space where a collective identity is formed by the constant state of identity transformation by cosplayers and the continuous exchange of cultures among different fan communities. However, misbehavior and sexual harassment hinders the hybridity promoted by conventions. Previous studies have found that cosplayers are sexually harassed based on several reasons—men's sense of entitlement to female cosplayers' bodies (Ellsworth, 2018), display of male dominance (Rodriguez, 2015), and perception of cosplayers as fictional characters (Lamp, 2018). Therefore, misbehavior and sexual harassment makes conventions unsafe for cosplayers to express themselves and socialize with others freely.

Currently, there are many gaps in literature on misbehavior and sexual harassment in pop culture conventions (Ellsworth, 2018). Majority of studies are conducted in the United States (Ellsworth, 2018; Lamp, 2018; Lucas, 2018; Rodriguez, 2015), and while a few discussed sexual harassment of male cosplayers, none of them mainly focused on men as victims. Particularly, no study on the Cosplay is Not Consent movement or similar campaigns in conventions was identified in the Philippines. The proponents of this study aim to fill in these gaps by examining the effectiveness of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement in preventing misbehavior and sexual harassment towards cosplayers in pop culture conventions in the Philippines.



## **CHAPTER 3 - METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

The study will use a mixed methods research design to examine the impact of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement on the perception and attitude of cosplayers in pop culture conventions in the Philippines. The purpose of combining quantitative and qualitative methods is to analyze the research problem with sufficient depth and breadth. A mixed methods approach allows both a generalization of findings to a population and a detailed understanding of a phenomenon, view, or concept (Creswell, 2003).

The mixed methods research design that will be used is a combination of a survey and semi-structured interviews to gather insight from the organizers, cosplayers, and general goers of Pop Culture conventions. It seeks to obtain a holistic view on the research problem by gathering data from multiple types of participants. The survey will focus on the participants' experience and how their perception of misbehavior and sexual harassment is affected by the movement. This will provide the proponents a general understanding of the convention attendees' perception of the movement. Similarly, the interviews will focus on the participants' insight about the effectiveness of the movement and their encounter with misbehavior and sexual harassment. The qualitative data from the interviews will aid in analyzing the research problem more thoroughly from different views.

## **Participants and Sampling Technique**

The study will gather information from three types of participants: (1) convention attendees, (2) cosplayers, and (3) organizers of pop culture conventions that are held in the Philippines. In this study, convention attendees refer to individuals who attend pop culture conventions, whether they are cosplayers or not. Pop culture conventions are considered third spaces wherein convention attendees can be more comfortable in expressing their excitement for their hobbies and interests, because of this, certain etiquette has also developed among the community in order to make the convention experience better and safer for everyone attending. For this reason, the targeted demographic for the proponents' surveys are convention attendees. The method of distributing surveys allows for a broader range and higher number of participants, which is necessary for understanding how rampant certain issues are. People who have been attending conventions for a long time are generally expected to know convention etiquette, as well as know the culture and issues within the community, however those who are new to the hobby may not, as these rules are not directly enforced by most conventions, and the culture within these spaces is something that one can only be made aware of through research or experience. Cosplayers are also counted as convention attendees; however, there is a slight distinction to them from others as their costumes make them stand out, leading them to be treated differently from non-cosplaying attendees. The Cosplay is Not Consent movement aims to teach convention attendees of the proper etiquette for interacting with cosplayers. Because of this, all attendees of pop culture conventions are essential in providing data and insights on the current state of the cosplay scene of Pop Culture conventions in the Philippines,

in order to gauge the effectiveness of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement based on the experiences and knowledge they will share on the survey. Additionally, in line with the uses and gratification theory, the survey also aims to collect information regarding the reasons why people attend pop culture conventions.

For the semi-structured interviews, the participants will be cosplayers who experienced sexual harassment and pop culture convention organizers. These interviews will be conducted individually to protect the interviewees' privacy as the topics are either sensitive or potentially confidential. Cosplayers who have experienced sexual harassment will be able to provide a more detailed insight on how they dealt with the unpleasant situation during the convention, their thoughts on the movement, how it is being implemented, and how they hope such matters would be addressed. The convention organizers are selected in order to gain insight on the process of implementing rules and regulations and potentially learn how many reported cases there have been in regards to sexual harassment and misbehavior towards cosplayers. For convention organizers who have or are promoting the Cosplay is Not Consent movement, they can give insight on how they discovered and adapted the movement locally, why they decided to implement it in their convention, and their thoughts on the importance of having this movement promoted in conventions.

### **Research Instruments**

The study will use both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods to provide answers to the following research questions:

1. What are the perceptions and extent of awareness of convention attendees on the Cosplay is Not Consent movement, misbehavior, and sexual harassment in pop culture conventions in the Philippines?
2. Considering that misbehavior and sexual harassment still happens at conventions, what is lacking in the dissemination of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement in pop culture conventions?
3. How can anti-sexual harassment campaigns be effectively executed in pop culture conventions to create a safer environment that will also encourage victims of sexual harassment to voice out and report their experiences?

The survey that will be conducted aims to address the first research question. Participants will be asked to complete an online questionnaire that is divided into three sections with dichotomous questions, short answer questions, and Likert scale questions to a) obtain the demographic data of the participants, b) examine the participants' pop culture convention experiences and their motivations for attending such events and c) inquire about the participants' awareness of convention etiquettes and knowledge of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement. Moreover, in this section, participants will be asked to describe their thoughts and feelings on any incident of misbehavior and sexual harassment that they have heard or witnessed in conventions as well as how they would handle such situations.

Additionally, to address the second and third research questions, the semi-structured interviews will focus on the communication of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement in pop culture conventions to address misbehavior and sexual

harassment incidents. Although the interview questions are pre-determined, the proponents crafted the interview guide to allow deeper probing into the responses of the interviewees if deemed necessary. Cosplayers who have experienced sexual harassment in conventions will be asked about their opinions on the Cosplay is Not Consent movement and its effectiveness in preventing misbehavior and sexual harassment in conventions. In addition, to obtain another perspective on the second research question, convention organizers will be interviewed regarding the purpose and implementation of their anti-sexual harassment campaigns and related policies.

Using surveys and semi-structured interviews, this study aims to achieve a holistic and comprehensive analysis of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement and similar campaigns in relation to misbehavior and sexual harassment incidents in conventions.

### **Data Gathering Procedures**

The study will make use of surveys which will be taken online within Google Forms and shared through online avenues for easier access and easier collection of data. The participants will be presented with a brief overview of the research, the time it will take for them to answer the questions, data privacy policy, and consent in participating within the survey. The participants are informed and should agree to the Data Privacy and Consent Form before proceeding any further to ensure their agreement to participate in the study and the confidentiality of their responses and information.

Additionally, the interviewees are asked to sign the Interview Consent Form, and only after which can the proponents proceed with the semi-structured interview. The medium of interview will depend on the preference and availability of the interviewee if they prefer to have an online interview or a face-to-face interview, and it will be recorded to facilitate transcribing of verbalizations. The disclosure of identity of the interviewees are dependent on whether or not they wish to reveal their identity on paper. Unless given explicit permission to do otherwise, they will be given pseudonyms for safe keeping.

It will take the proponents around two weeks for the entire data gathering procedure of both survey and interview to get adequate and necessary data for the study.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

The study will use cluster coding and descriptive analysis to analyze the gathered data. This method can help identify patterns in the data collected. The data would be divided and categorized into groups that share similar characteristics. The groups will be compared and contrasted to interpret the data. Also, the data from the survey would be analyzed through descriptive statistics as the majority of it would be quantitative.

The proponents would have collected responses from both the survey and interviews for data analysis. The responses from the survey would be summarized by descriptive statistics and have it presented through frequency tables. As for the open-ended questions from the survey it would be analyzed by using cluster coding by

grouping similar data together as mentioned previously and then, labeling the groups after. Similarly, interview responses would be sorted according to the research questions and consequently analyzed through cluster coding.

## **CHAPTER 4 - DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

### **Awareness and Perceptions on the Cosplay is Not Consent Movement, Misbehavior, and Sexual Harassment in Conventions in the Philippines**

Sixty-three respondents who have attended pop culture conventions in the Philippines, participated in the survey conducted by the proponents. As mentioned in the previous chapter of the study, survey respondents are convention attendees, whether they are cosplayers or not. Of the 63 respondents, 37 are female, 21 are male, four are non-binary, and one did not disclose their gender. The ages of the respondents range from 14 to 41 years old, with the age bracket of 20-24 comprising 66.67% of the population. Respondents in their early 20s dominated the population because while pop culture conventions are open to anyone, young people are more likely to be drawn to popular culture hence participate in related hobbies such as cosplay (Luo, 2006 as cited in Ramos, 2013). Forty respondents are cosplayers which comprise 63.49% of the population. As mentioned in previous chapters, pop culture conventions provide a safe space for cosplayers to freely express themselves around people with similar hobbies, hence many convention attendees are cosplayers. The survey responses are the primary basis in answering the first research question, “What are the perceptions and extent of awareness of convention attendees on the Cosplay is Not Consent movement

and misbehavior and sexual harassment in pop culture conventions in the Philippines?”.

The results are as follows:

**Respondents’ awareness and perceptions on misbehavior and sexual harassment in local conventions**

All respondents were asked if misbehavior towards cosplayers (not following convention etiquette such as taking pictures of a cosplayers or touching their costume and props without their permission) is a problem in conventions and a majority of them answered yes while one respondent said no and another stating that they did not know. Similarly, with being asked if sexual harassment (verbal, physical, or digital such as photography or videography) directed at cosplayers is an issue in conventions, 62 out of 63 agreed that it was. It can be interpreted from this data that cosplayers are experiencing incidents of misbehavior as well as being sexually harassed.



**Table 1**

*Distribution of Responses of Cosplayer Respondents on Experiences of Misbehavior or Sexual Harassment in Conventions*

Have you experienced any misbehavior or sexual harassment at conventions?	Female		Male		Non-binary		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Yes	15	50%	2	25%	1	50%	18	45%
No	15	50%	6	75%	1	50%	22	55%
Total	n=30	100%	n=8	100%	n=2	100%	n=40	100%

*Note.* The question only applies to cosplayer respondents. Number of cosplayer respondents = 40; f = frequency; % = percentage

Table 1 shows that 18 out of 40 cosplayer respondents have experienced misbehavior or sexual harassment in local conventions. Catcalling, unwanted touching, groping, Not Safe for Work (NSFW) requests, taking pictures and videos without consent are some experiences that the cosplayers listed. Of the 18 cosplayer respondents, 15 are female. One of them mentioned that she was asked by a photographer to do a slightly NSFW pose when she was still a minor, while two respondents shared that some convention attendees took pictures of their intimate body parts like the chest without permission. The data agrees with the findings of previous studies that mostly female cosplayers experience sexual harassment such as touching and taking pictures without permission, catcalling, and stalking (Hill, 2017; Lome, 2016; Zarin, 2017).

**Table 2**

*Distribution of Responses on Respondents' Knowledge of any Misbehavior or Sexual Harassment Incidents*

Have you heard or witnessed a cosplayer's experience regarding misbehavior or sexual harassment? (Can be experiences shared on social media)	Cosplayer		Non-Cosplayer		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Yes	37	92.5%	18	78.26%	55	87.30%
No	2	5%	4	17.39%	6	9.52%
No answer	1	2.5%	1	4.35%	2	3.18%
Total	n=40	100%	n=23	100%	N=63	100%

*Note.* f = frequency; % = percentage

Table 2 indicates that of the 63 respondents, 55 have heard or witnessed a cosplayer's experience of misbehavior or sexual harassment in conventions. Discomfort, disgust against offenders, and sympathy towards cosplayers are common answers as to their feelings on such incidents. As to their thoughts, some respondents mentioned how inappropriate behaviors towards cosplayers ruin the experience of those who want to express themselves freely and have fun in conventions. Unwanted and inappropriate touching, stalking, pestering for a photo, and filming and taking photographs without permission of cosplayer's intimate body parts specifically the chest,

legs, and buttocks are inappropriate behaviors towards cosplayers that the respondents have heard or witnessed. One cosplayer respondent also mentioned that they have read a lot of stories online about other cosplayers' experiences of a trend in conventions called glomping: *"Basically it was someone running up to a stranger and jump at them to hug them. It started because of Zenitsu cosplayers I think. Because in the anime, Zenitsu loves a character Nezuko much that he jumps at her to hug her. And some Zenitsu cosplayers do that in real life"*.

Conventions are spaces for cosplayers to socialize (Barajas, 2018) and roleplay (Ellsworth, 2018; Rahman et al., 2012). However, despite the intention of conventions to provide a safe environment, female cosplayers are sexually objectified by men in these spaces (Rodriguez, 2015). In addition, other respondents stated that people should realize that cosplayers are people, not the characters that they dress as. Previous studies found that perception of cosplayers as fictional characters, rather than human beings, lead to sexual harassment (Ellsworth, 2018; Lamp, 2018).

It can be inferred from the above data that convention attendees consider misbehavior and sexual harassment as major issues in local conventions because majority of the respondents have knowledge and negative views of the misbehavior towards cosplayers. Also as previously mentioned by Liu (2015), with the understanding of the uses and gratifications theory wherein people choose the media they use with intent to satisfy their wants, this could be related to how cosplayers go to conventions since cosplaying is considered as fictional media. They do this with the desire to experience the communal enjoyment of expressing their hobby in their space as well as being a form of escapism. Moreover in relation to Bhabha's theory, the third space

manifested in conventions that is supposedly open and liberating is interfered with by harassers. This results in the inability of convention attendees to fulfill their desires freely, which eventually undermines the openness and hybridity of a third space within pop culture conventions.

### **Respondents' awareness and perceptions on the Cosplay is Not Consent movement**

As mentioned in a previous chapter, these issues all root from the lack of consent which is not only exclusive to having a general agreement among the parties about sexual intercourse but applies to other circumstances as well (Beres, 2014). This led to conventions installing "Cosplay is Not Consent" signs as a way to remind convention attendees to refrain from touching and taking photographs of others without asking for permission (Ellsworth, 2018).

**Table 3**

*Distribution of Responses on Respondents' Awareness of the Cosplay is Not Consent Movement in Conventions*

	Cosplayer		Non-Cosplayer		Total	
Are you aware of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement in conventions?	f	%	f	%	f	%
Yes	35	87.5%	16	69.57%	51	81%
No	5	12.5%	7	30.43%	12	19%
Total	n=40	100%	n=23	100%	N=63	100.00%
Have you seen any Cosplay is Not Consent signs or guidelines at the conventions you have attended?						
Yes	26	65%	7	30.43%	33	52.4%
No	14	35%	16	69.57%	30	47.6%
Total	n=40	100%	n=23	100%	N=63	100.00%

*Note.* f = frequency; % = percentage

Table 3 presents how much awareness the respondents have towards the Cosplay is Not Consent movement in the conventions that they attend and if they have seen the signs or guidelines of said campaign put in place. It shows that 51 respondents

are informed about the intention behind the movement while 12 are not. Furthermore, more than half of the respondents at 33 out of 63, have said that they have seen “Cosplay is Not Consent” signs or guidelines at conventions. This data shows that even though the campaign is acknowledged by a number of people within the community, it can still be promoted more to reach a bigger audience. As mentioned in one of the interviews conducted with the organizers, they said that compared to the conventions in the U.S., the campaign is not as recognized in the Philippines. This will be further discussed in the latter portions of the study.

Moreover, 62 respondents stated that they are aware of the convention etiquette that should be followed whenever they are attending one. Namely, the convention attendees must ask permission before taking pictures or videos, must ask permission if they can touch the cosplayer or their costume and props, as well as not flirting or sexually harassing the cosplayer, and not giving unwanted suggestions about one’s cosplay. So, they know how to act accordingly towards their fellow convention attendees at the events that they go to.

**Table 4**

*Distribution of Responses on Respondents' Awareness About Convention Etiquette Being Influenced by the Cosplay is Not Consent Movement*

	Cosplayer		Non-Cosplayer		Total	
Is your general awareness on the above aspects of convention etiquette influenced, in some way or another, by the Cosplay is not Consent movement?	f	%	f	%	f	%
Yes	26	65%	14	60.87%	40	63.5%
No	14	35%	9	39.13%	23	36.5%
Total	n=40	100%	n=23	100%	N=63	100.00%

*Note.* f = frequency; % = percentage

Table 4 shows that 40 of the respondents have been influenced one way or another in regards to their general awareness of the convention etiquette by the Cosplay is Not Consent movement. Majority of the respondents who answered no stated that it should be basic human decency and common sense to respect other convention attendees and to act properly in conventions. Some learned about convention etiquette through friends and social media posts about other people's experiences of misbehavior and sexual harassment. These responses are in line with

the qualitative data gathered from the interviews with cosplayers which will be discussed in the succeeding parts of this chapter.

When asked if the Cosplay is Not Consent movement should be promoted more in conventions in the Philippines, 62 out of 63 answered yes. This further proves that there is a need to address the issues of inappropriate behaviors towards cosplayers in local conventions.

**Table 5**

*Distribution of Responses on the Effectiveness of the Cosplay is Not Consent Movement in Preventing Misbehavior and Sexual Harassment in Conventions*

	Cosplayer		Non-Cosplayer		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Do you think that the Cosplay is not Consent campaign is effective in preventing misbehavior and sexual harassment in conventions?						
Yes	22	55%	15	65.22%	37	58.73%
No	8	20%	3	13.04%	11	17.46%
I don't know	3	7.5%	2	8.70%	5	7.94%
Answer is not definite	7	17.5%	2	8.70%	9	14.29%
No answer	0	0	1	4.34%	1	1.59%
Total	n=40	100%	n=23	100%	N=63	100%



*Note.* f = frequency; % = percentage; Respondents were asked to include reasons for their answers. Those who did not have a definite answer responded that the effectiveness of the movement depends on the circumstances or did not answer the question properly.

Table 5 presents that out of the 63 respondents, 37 agree that the Cosplay is Not Consent movement is effective in preventing misbehavior and sexual harassment in conventions for the following reasons: raises awareness on the issue, educates convention attendees about proper convention etiquette, encourages people to speak out and to help victims, and protects cosplayers. On the other hand, 11 respondents think that the movement is ineffective because incidents still occur and there are people who are still unaware of the movement. Also, a few respondents mentioned that some people will act disrespectfully regardless of the movement because 1) physical signs or online posts only serve as reminders of etiquette and can easily be ignored, 2) there is a lack of enforcement of rules regarding misbehavior and sexual harassment, and 3) reports of sexual harassment are not properly handled by the organizers. Nine respondents did not give a definite answer and stated that while the movement may be effective in spreading awareness, specifically to newcomers in the community, it should be implemented and enforced more by stating the consequences to inappropriate behaviors. Of the remaining population, five respondents were unsure, and one respondent had no answer. Five of these respondents have not seen any Cosplay is Not Consent signs or guidelines in the conventions that they have attended, hence they

may not be knowledgeable enough about the movement to comment on its effectiveness.

### **Shortcomings of Anti-Sexual Harassment Messages In Pop Culture Conventions**

Six cosplayers were interviewed to give their insights on the Cosplay is not Consent movement in a much more in-depth fashion. The criteria for choosing the interviewees were for them to be a cosplayer and have experienced sexual harassment during conventions. The interview responses were categorized based on its questions and segmented its data based on similar answers guided by the research questions. An emic perspective was used in approaching the data collected to gain a better understanding of the current state of Pop Culture conventions in terms of protecting cosplayers' comfort and safety against harassers.

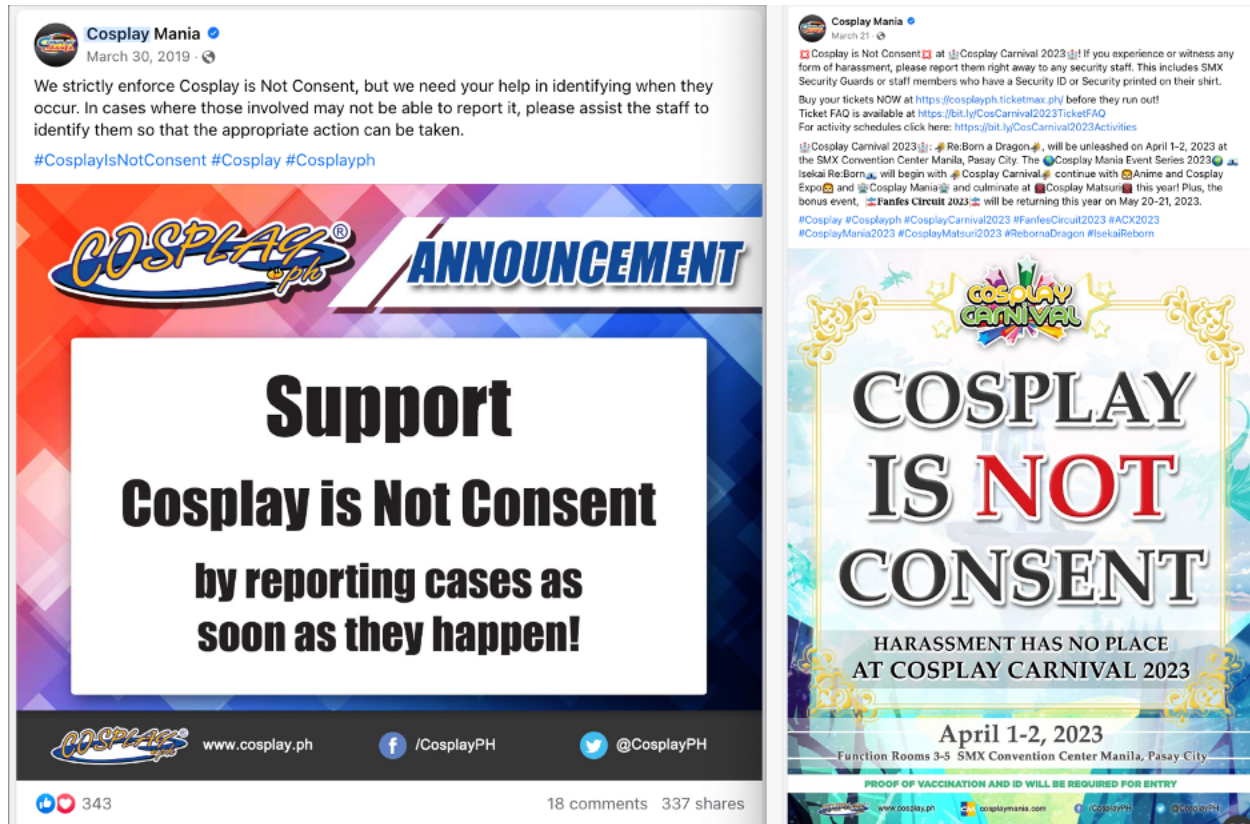
### **Lack of Information in Social Media Posts**

According to some of the cosplayer interviewees, there is a lack of social media reminders. Besides the already existing reminders that convention organizers post, the interviewees have stated that it is not properly posted or does not have enough information. With one stating that they are not posted properly as someone who is a newcomer to conventions. When asked how the message was presented and whether the posts served as guidelines or reminders, one cosplayer responded that they served as mere reminders of the phrase "Cosplay is Not Consent": *"Cosplay is Not Consent. Pak! 'Yun na 'yun. Like one Facebook post. They like design it and then that's the only content in it. Yeah, it's a reminder for sure."* (Skwid). An insight from a cosplayer in the

study's survey has also stated that it is not widely posted unless they dig deeper in social media.

**Figure 2**

Cosplay is Not Consent Reminders on Facebook



*Screenshots by the proponents from Cosplay Mania's Facebook page*

Figure 2 shows examples of the social media posts by a major local convention organizer regarding the campaign. Perhaps the original intention of “Cosplay is Not Consent” with its original meaning of no touching and taking photographs of other convention attendees (Ellsworth, 2018) are not emphasized enough. There is a lack of

specific information in social media posts as to what entails under Cosplay is not Consent and for some, it is a necessary information for newcomers.

### **Lack of Anti-Sexual Harassment Signs and Other Printed Materials Onsite**

Of the six cosplayers that were interviewed, three stated that they have not seen physical signs of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement and only became aware of the movement through social media posts on Facebook. One of them mentioned that there are no physical signs to serve as reminders onsite, but the organizers remind convention attendees through live announcements: *“Although, I’ve seen it being vocally advertised on the event itself. No physical material. They just announce it on stage. Uhh at random times...but that’s it and it’s just in random bursts of time throughout the event so sometimes you won’t even get to hear it unless you’re listening to it cos if you go to a convention, it’s super loud.”* (Mint). The cosplayer added: *“I think they could use a lot more physical material just to have something physical to say ‘Hey! Cosplay is Not Consent.’”* (Mint). In this sense, physical materials onsite can help convention attendees to speak out about incidents that they may witness or experience.

Another cosplayer stated that there used to be printed reminders on the back of the tickets in previous conventions. They also described that the movement began in the Philippines with local cosplayers going to conventions with their own signs and logos of Cosplay is Not Consent written on whiteboards until it eventually developed into a policy promoted in conventions. Based on the cosplayer’s answer, cosplayers wearing these logos may have proven to be effective to remind other convention goers. Also other cosplayers stated only seeing physical signs of Cosplay is not Consent, not on the

ticket itself. However, the cosplayer has stated that they are unsure if organizers have stopped putting reminders in more recent conventions.

### **Lack of Guidelines and Illustrations Regarding Convention Etiquette**

One cosplayer expressed the lack of guidelines and visual examples within conventions. They stated that those within teenage years may not be able to fully identify what constitute as sexual harassment: *“For example, a 13 year old kid might not know that putting your arm around someone’s shoulders is bad because no one gave them that particular visual example that it is sexual harassment”* (Ab bunny). Another cosplayer mentioned that while the “Cosplay is Not Consent” slogan is commonly known within the cosplay community, organizers should still provide specifics on what entails sexual harassment since some may not be well-informed about it: *“Sexual harassment duh pero I mean sa panahon talaga ngayon, medyo- kailangan na talaga-kailangan nang i-spelling sa mga tao”*. (Lulu).

This insight is in line with one of the previous sections in regards to the lack of information on social media posts for potential newcomers who are unaware of the proper etiquette when interacting with cosplayers. It is emphasized that those who are younger may not be able to distinguish what is sexual harassment, thus making them possibly more susceptible to misbehavior and sexual harassment.

### **Lack of Proper Implementation and Enforcement of Convention Rules and Regulations**

The most expressed concern by the survey and interview respondents is the lack of proper implementation and enforcement of rules and regulations. One cosplayer

stated that anti-sexual harassment campaigns in local conventions are implemented, but are not observed well: *"I don't think it's being implemented a lot. Uh or at least actively as what the conventions have been advertising. Uhm yes, they do post about it, but it's not exactly as observed as they think it is"*. (Mint). The cosplayer mentioned that convention organizers should listen to the concerns of the community as a starting point in addressing the issue: *"I think every event I hear people raising concerns about uhh consent issues or harassment issues and I don't think the convention listens enough. Uhh they do things yeah they implement things but it's not exactly sufficient so I think they can start with that."* (Mint). Similar responses were obtained from the online survey with respondents stating that heavy implementation with more signs and reminders are needed.

Another cosplayer that was interviewed stated how guards handle incident harassed reports: *"It's enough in terms of like educating people but once you get harassed in a con and you like tell this guard, the guard will always firstly ask for proof and like how are you gonna know."* (Skwid). They also stated that from their experience and observation, sexual harassment often happens in free conventions (conventions that do not require an entrance fee to enter the venue) due to a stereotype stating: *"They think cosplaying is a kink"*. (Skwid).

There are still mentions of misbehaviors and sexual harassment happening regardless if they are aware or not of Cosplay is Not Consent. One cosplayer stated that the change happens within the self and there will still be harassers regardless of the amount of information given. Another cosplayer mentioned how women are limited in expressing themselves because the cosplay industry is dominated by men: *"...it's kinda*

*sad that it is uhh kind of male-dominated industry that we can't even you know freely or safely express ourselves...*" (Claudia). Rodriguez (2015) claimed that conventions are spaces where men assert dominance over women by objectifying women. This is supported by the objectification theory (Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997) that women are treated as objects and given value due to their physical appearance. It is important to take this into consideration and factor in the types of people when considering the improvement of Cosplay is not Consent or anti-sexual harassment campaigns in conventions in general.

These are due to the lack of adequate information that informs about Cosplay is Not Consent, especially towards new convention attendees and those unfamiliar with convention regulations. This is aided by the uses and gratifications theory (Liu, 2015) where media consumers actively engage with the media they consume to satisfy their desires or needs. Lamp (2018) suggested that cosplayers may possibly be perceived as fictional characters thus leading to objectification. Also, Rodriguez (2015) claimed that sexual harassment in conventions is perpetuated by cosplay.

Additionally, organizers are responsible for protecting the interests of their convention attendees, hence, they should ensure that the implementation and enforcement of their policies are aligned with the concerns of the convention attendees. The organizers that the proponents interviewed recognize their role in keeping a safe environment for all convention attendees: *"...but I think convention organizers can still try to take measures on how to protect not only the cosplayers but also models or regular congoers who may- who may also experience these kinds of harassments in conventions."* (Miss Lizette); *"...whether they are registered cosplayers that's gonna be*

*on the stage or not, they bring value to the event so we have to at least protect their interests as well...” (Gregory).*

### **Recommendations on the Execution of Anti-Sexual Harassment Campaigns**

The survey and interview participants have a lot of suggestions in improving these campaigns, particularly the Cosplay is Not Consent, and some of these were already mentioned in the previous sections. Their answers range from improvement of its promotion, proper implementation and enforcement of rules and regulations, reiteration of what consent is and providing visual examples on what constitutes as misbehavior and sexual harassment, and having physical materials and signages regarding “Cosplay is Not Consent”.

Some cosplayers recommended improving the implemented protocols of the organizers. One cosplayer stated the need to educate convention attendees about the consequences of inappropriate conduct: *“...well also stating yung pinaka-consequences na if nahuli sila na ginagawa ‘to para pwede rin for example, yung mga staff makapag-report and other convention goers”* (Flora). A similar response from the survey mentioned: *“Signs or posts aren't enough because even those do not stop people from acting on their own behavior and/or conscience. It should be something that is physical as well (not violent, of course)”*. Another survey respondent stated: *“I don't think it is effective right now since there are still a lot of incidents of harassment but it shouldn't mean that we should stop advocating for what is the correct etiquette during conventions”*.



A cosplayer suggested adding more guards to monitor and catch the harassers in the act and reiterated that it most often happens in free conventions. There was also another suggestion brought up by another cosplayer that banning known harassers and stalkers is a good move that was already enacted in another convention they had gone to.

Reiterating what is consent is an aspect that almost all of the participants shared with one stating: *“Reiterate what consent actually is, what should be done, what shouldn’t be done, although it’s very repetitive and simple. There’s no harm in reiterating it again to everyone since with every convention happening, the community grows bigger and bigger.”* (Mint). This highlights that it is beneficial to clarify what consent is to convention attendees, whether they are new or regular attendees, as it is still more beneficial in informing the newer people. Another cosplayer stated: *“There are people who don’t understand what “Cosplay is not Consent” means so if the signages have ‘Dos and Don’ts’ it’ll probably be more effective.”* (Flora). Moreover, a lot of the participants have stated that misbehavior and sexual harassment are not just about typical sexual harassment activity. Beres (2014) stated that while consent is generally understood to be an agreement—which can be expressed in different ways—to engage in sexual activity, it is not limited to sexual intercourse. In the context of conventions, Cosplay is Not Consent means that attendees should refrain touching and taking photographs of cosplayers without asking for permission (Ellsworth, 2018). When the cosplayers were asked what their understanding of the Cosplay is Not Consent policies is, they mentioned the following: respecting basic boundaries, no inappropriate touching, no verbal sexual harassment, and asking permission from cosplayers first

before touching or taking pictures. One cosplayer added that there are more to those general guidelines such as asking permission before touching the props of cosplayers and how photographers should not be exempted from such guidelines: *“...when you dwell in further it’s like uhh you should- there’s a lot more “you should not” and “you shoulds”. For example, you should not touch someone’s props without asking or you shouldn’t take pictures of someone without asking. Even though you’re a photographer, even if you’re in the media, you should still ask.”* (Mint). Similarly, an organizer that was interviewed stated that she understands Cosplay is Not Consent as a right to say no to requests: *“Well yun uhh- Cosplay is Not Consent as a movement from what I understand is that they are allowed to say no especially for those who come to cons who are very persistent on taking their photos.”* (Miss Lizette). It can be inferred from the above responses that while there is a general understanding of the movement as implemented by event organizers, the meaning of consent is not definite in the context of cosplay in local conventions. Thus, there is a need for organizers to formulate concrete guidelines to appropriately address the issue.

In an interview with Anime Alliance (organizers of Toycon, Best of Anime, etc.), they stated having already an internal list of people that are known perverts within pop culture conventions and are then shown to their marshals so that they can inform their supervisors when needed. There are cases that police may be involved should the situation escalate further. Another organizer from the same organization stated: *“If there is no actionable complaint from anyone that they can verify, they cannot put them in the list to eject them from the list.”* (Gregory). This shows that there still needs to be appropriate proof of the misbehavior or sexual harassment of a reported person before

the security can take further action. While they have stated that they handle security in other conventions within the Philippines, they cannot speak for all of the convention organizers and their methods in handling sexual harassment.

**Table 6**

*Shortcomings of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Campaigns or Policies and Recommendations by Interviewees*

Shortcomings of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Campaigns or Policies	Recommendations to Improve the Anti-Sexual Harassment Campaigns or Policies
Lack of information in social media posts	Better dissemination through social media
Lack of anti-sexual harassment signs and other printed materials onsite	Addition of physical materials and signages onsite regarding "Cosplay is Not Consent"
Lack of guidelines and illustrations regarding convention etiquette	Providing a clear definition or reference as to what constitutes misbehaviors and sexual harassment
Lack of proper implementation of convention rules and regulations	Proper implementation and enforcement of rules and regulations by organizers

Table 6 summarizes the interviewees' responses regarding the shortcomings of the anti-sexual harassment campaigns and their recommendations on how to improve them.

### **Implications**

With the growing popularity of cosplay and pop culture conventions in recent years, the issue of inappropriate behaviors towards cosplayers, which are mostly sexual in nature, have been brought to light. The proponents have observed that more people, the youth in particular, are getting into cosplay in the Philippines after the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, it is important to understand the potential dangers of the hobby and attending conventions.

The present study contributes to the existing literature on cosplay by examining the Cosplay is Not Consent movement in the context of pop culture conventions. The results provide evidence of the prevalence of misbehavior and sexual harassment of cosplayers in conventions in the Philippines which support similar findings in previous studies (Ellsworth, 2018; Lemmons, 2019; Rodriguez, 2015). According to one of the interviewees who has been handling conventions, this problem was not a concern ten years ago, but has become common in the recent years which led them to adjust their policies to ensure the safety of all convention attendees. Additionally, the study provides insight on anti-sexual harassment policies in conventions and the general awareness of the community on the movement. Moreover, as the perspectives of both the convention goers and organizers were taken into account, the findings of this study are relevant in assessing how to best protect the interests of the parties affected by the issues.

Also, with the study focusing on how this could help convention attendees especially new ones, the uses and gratifications theory can be used to understand further why they cosplay and attend these events. The use of this fictional media (cosplaying & attending conventions) came from the wants of self - expression, identifying with others through their similar hobbies, and obtaining a sense of belonging in a safe space and these are based from responses collected through survey. Thus, through this, the proponents are given insight on the reasons why they utilize such media and see how this can accompany the findings from this study. Additionally, the study extends Bhabha's concept of third space to the context of pop culture conventions. Ellsworth (2018) stated how conventions offer an environment where geeks can openly express their interest for their hobbies without fear of societal judgment. Thus, pop culture conventions establish a third space that allows the evolution of a hybrid identity through roleplay of cosplayers and socialization of various fan communities. However, this open space is without limitations as occurrences of misbehavior and sexual harassment make it difficult for convention attendees—particularly cosplayers—to freely represent themselves.

The study also identified shortcomings in the implementation and enforcement of anti-sexual harassment policies which can help organizers in improving their current policies and programs, as well as developing new ones to make conventions a safer environment. Participants mentioned that the “Cosplay is Not Consent” reminders posted by organizers on social media accounts before events are not enough because the rules of behavior expected in conventions are not explicitly stated, rather only implied in the statement “Cosplay is Not Consent”. The survey and interview responses

also indicate that there is a gap between the knowledge of convention attendees regarding the protocol of the organizers and the actual efforts done by the organizers with regards the issue of misbehavior and sexual harassment.

In line with the MMA Capstone Project, the results are pertinent to the proponents' proposal and development of a multimedia project or communication plan that is suitable in addressing the issue of misbehavior and sexual harassment in local conventions.

### **Conclusion**

The current study aimed to assess the effectiveness of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement in preventing misbehavior and sexual harassment in pop culture conventions in the Philippines. Based on the survey and interviews, convention goers are aware about the said movement. However, they also believe that misbehavior and sexual harassment against cosplayers during pop culture conventions is an issue. More than half of the respondents from the survey, as well as some of the interviewees, stated that the movement is not well-promoted during events as many of the responses mention the lack of printed material such as posters, flyers or signages. A large portion of the survey respondents and interviewees also commented that the posts regarding the Cosplay is Not Consent movement on social media platforms lack details that could thoroughly educate convention attendees, as they only include the catchphrase itself and a reminder that incidents related to sexual harassment should be reported right away to the proper authorities, without stating that such incidents are only actionable if evidence can be presented. This is an issue identified by Ellsworth (2018) in the U.S.

where attendees think that there is a lack in efforts to appropriately address the issues of sexual harassment and assault despite the signs and guidelines on Cosplay is Not Consent.

From these results, it is concluded that the movement must be improved and strengthened both online and in the physical venues of events. An interactive website that contains an online magazine, as well as printed materials that can be handed out in pop culture conventions will allow the movement to have a bigger presence in the community as it can be shared easily. These can also give more information in regards to the movement, such as visual examples of what counts as misbehavior and sexual harassment, guidelines on what actions one can take if they experience harassment which includes the potential consequences of those caught red-handed, as well as advice for cosplayers on how to protect their personal boundaries and safety. While printed materials will act as a reference and reminder for convention attendees, the online projects will also allow those who are new or unfamiliar with the community to learn about these issues that have become more prevalent in recent years by also viewing fellow cosplayers' stories regarding the matter. By creating a website containing more in depth information about the movement, that also functions as a place for cosplayers to share their experiences, the issue will be given more attention, raising awareness for both convention attendees and organizers which will ideally lead to heavier implementation of rules, and cosplayers being more comfortable to speak up against sexual harassment.

## **Recommendations**

This study is among the first to examine the Cosplay is Not Consent movement, misbehavior, and sexual harassment in pop culture conventions in the Philippines. However, the number of participants for this study is limited. Hence, further researchers who are interested in the same topic can consider gathering data from a larger population.

Future research can focus on the behavioral aspect of the issue to understand the underlying causes of inappropriate behaviors towards cosplayers. Another recommendation is to undertake a purely qualitative study about the experiences of cosplayers to explore the nature of misconduct that are common in conventions. The proponents also suggest adopting a legal perspective on the matter as national laws related to sexual harassment in public spaces and institutions exist like the R.A. No. 11313, often known as the Safe Spaces Act.

Finally, an ethnographic study of the cosplay community may significantly contribute a more comprehensive understanding on the issue of misbehavior and sexual harassment in conventions. Cosplay, as a subculture, has practices and values that are unique to its community. The recommended research method can reveal experiences and unspoken rules within the community that may aid in understanding consent in the context of cosplay culture. Field observation may provide insight that cannot be obtained through surveys or interviews because of the reluctance among victims and witnesses to report incidents and share particular information.



## **CHAPTER 5 - PROJECT BRIEF**

### **Project Description**

The project is composed of an informative and interactive website including an online magazine, supplemented by a downloadable brochure, about cosplay in conventions that aims to strengthen the presence of the Cosplay is Not Consent campaign within the convention-attending community by educating them about convention guidelines and providing them a platform to learn and share experiences with one another.

### **Rationale**

In recent years, the amount of people attending pop culture conventions has been steadily increasing. With the increase in popularity of the cosplay hobby and conventions, the issues of sexual harassment and misbehavior towards cosplayers have become more rampant. Majority of the respondents of the present study believe that these are problems in local pop culture conventions that need to be appropriately addressed. According to one convention organizer, sexual harassment of cosplayers was not a problem they had to deal with ten years ago, but due to the rise in incidents, they have to adapt their policies.

People who are new to the hobby may not be aware of these issues nor the proper etiquette to respectfully interact with cosplayers. While organizers post reminders that “Cosplay is Not Consent” before their conventions on their social media pages, these reminders lack any guidelines or further details that properly educate all convention attendees about convention etiquette and the appropriate response to

incidents of misbehavior and sexual harassment. There is also a lack of signages or other printed materials during pop culture conventions to adequately inform convention attendees, particularly the newcomers, of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement. Some respondents stated that simply reminding convention attendees of the catchphrase “Cosplay is Not Consent” is not enough and that guidelines should clearly state what acts are considered to be sexual harassment in order for convention attendees to properly identify such acts.

The project will serve as an informative and interactive platform which aims to strengthen the presence of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement both online and onsite in order to make cosplayers feel safer and more comfortable to discuss sexual harassment-related incidents that happen to them. Misbehaviors experienced by cosplayers will be highlighted to remind convention attendees of the proper etiquette when interacting with cosplayers. Information on proper etiquette will be accompanied by visual examples to provide clear references to the target users. Other necessary information such as convention rules and regulations including consequences for violators, appropriate response to incidents of misbehavior and sexual harassment, national laws related to sexual harassment, and rights of victims will also be provided to educate convention attendees, especially the newcomers, on how to act within conventions. The online magazine will also feature cosplayers’ stories regarding the matter, thus allowing those who are new or unfamiliar with the community to learn about these issues. Moreover, the website will include a feature that allows users to submit their convention-related experiences. Furthermore, a downloadable brochure that can be easily printed will be provided in the website. The brochure will contain information,

with accompanying visual examples, about convention guidelines and the Cosplay is Not Consent movement which organizers can print and distribute in conventions to educate convention attendees about proper etiquette towards cosplayers. A brochure, in comparison with other printed materials, is easy as well as affordable to reproduce and distribute. Unlike a signage or flyers which limits the amount of information presented, a brochure can contain sufficient information about convention guidelines that will be easily understandable for the reader and compact for the convention attendee to carry with them. This brochure will also allow those who are not active in social media and may not check the event pages regularly to be educated and reminded on site of the proper behavior that should be observed when interacting with cosplayers.

Based on the responses of the current study, convention attendees have concerns related to the misbehavior and sexual harassment in conventions that are not adequately addressed by the organizers' current policies and practices. Thus, through the proposed project, challenges faced by the cosplay community will be brought to light which would ideally result in policy change and stricter enforcement of rules, and foster a safe environment for cosplayers to be more comfortable in speaking up against sexual harassment.

## Project Objectives

*This project seeks to:*

1. Educate the attendees of pop culture conventions in the Philippines about convention etiquette specifically in regards to proper behavior towards cosplayers;
2. Provide an interactive online platform for the community to obtain and share reliable information about the Cosplay is Not Consent movement, as well as provide a compact informational material that can be easily accessed and distributed; and
3. Raise awareness about the rampancy of sexual harassment and misbehavior in conventions as well as help make these events a safer place for the cosplayers

## Target Users and Beneficiaries

**Target users** = The project will primarily be for pop culture convention attendees (whether they are cosplayers or not), especially those who are new to the community or hobby that do not know of the proper etiquette in pop culture conventions and may not be aware of the potential dangers of cosplaying during conventions. This project will cater to convention attendees that would like to know more about the cosplay community by reading stories of cosplayers provided by the online magazine and those that are shared by the community through the website.

**Target beneficiary** = While consent is applicable for everyone, the primary beneficiaries for this project are cosplayers who attend conventions, as the campaign

serves as a reminder for convention attendees that cosplayers are real people who should not be treated differently just because they are wearing costumes and may be role-playing as the character they are portraying. This project will ideally lessen the misbehavior and sexual harassment that cosplayers experience in conventions, educate them on how to protect their boundaries, while also raising their confidence to speak up and report these incidents to the proper authorities and the community, which will raise awareness and make conventions spaces safer.

**Target partners** = The proponents aim to partner with pop culture convention organizers such as Anime Alliance, Cosplay.ph, and Ozinefest to aid them in improving the implementation of Cosplay is Not Consent during conventions, and promoting the movement online and onsite by providing graphics and other visual aids that will help educate convention attendees about the movement.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix A

#### Signed Endorsement Letter



Dear (name of recipient),

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde prides itself with relevant programs aimed at developing competencies of students in their chosen field. One of these competencies is exposure with immersion in the industry, through actual field study.

In connection with the required actual field study of Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, and Mairi Bernice Uy, may I request that your company entertain their inquiries related to their Capstone project, **Cosplay is not Consent: A study on the movement's effectivity in preventing misbehaviors and sexual harassment against Cosplayers in Pop Culture conventions in the Philippines.** The students are currently enrolled in the Multimedia Arts Capstone series, which involves research, conceptualization, execution, and testing of a socially relevant multimedia project.

As part of their project, they will be conducting surveys and interviewing key informants regarding anti-sexual harassment campaigns and sexual harassment in conventions in the Philippines from July 11, 2023 to July 31, 2023.

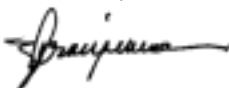
Please be assured that they will adhere to the ethical standards of human-centered inquiries. Should you grant them permission to gather data, they will be providing consent forms for the respondents.

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde believes that with your help and guidance they will be given the appropriate industry exposure and information that will help students develop their confidence and equip them with the necessary skills in their field.

I hope this endorsement merits your favorable attention.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



Genevieve Francisco  
Capstone Adviser  
De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde

## Appendix B

### Signed Consent Forms

#### Interview Participant: Abby Recio

#### Interview Consent Form

Research project title: Cosplay is not Consent: A study on the movement's effectivity in preventing harassment against Cosplayers in Pop Culture conventions in the Philippines

Research investigators: Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy

Research Participants name: Abby Recio/"*Abbunny Abumi*" (Cosplayer name)

The interview will take approximately around 30 minutes. We don't anticipate that there are any risks associated with your participation, but you have the right to stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time.

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed as part of the above research project. Ethical procedures for academic research require that interviewees explicitly agree to being interviewed and how the information contained in their interview will be used. This consent form is necessary for us to ensure that you understand the purpose of your involvement and that you agree to the conditions of your participation. Would you therefore read the accompanying **information sheet** and then sign this form to certify that you approve the following:

- the interview will be recorded and a transcript will be produced
- you will be sent the transcript and given the opportunity to correct any factual errors
- the transcript of the interview will be analyzed by Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy as research investigators
- access to the interview transcript will be limited to Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy, and academic colleagues and researchers with whom they might collaborate as part of the research process
- any summary interview content, or direct quotations from the interview, that are made available through academic publication or other academic outlets will be anonymized so that you cannot be identified, and care will be taken to ensure that other information in the interview that could identify yourself is not revealed



- the actual recording will be kept confidential for research purposes and will be destroyed when stated by the interviewee.
- any variation of the conditions above will only occur with your further explicit approval

Quotation Agreement

**I also understand that my words may be quoted directly. With regards to being quoted, please initial next to any of the statements that you agree with:**

	I wish to review the notes, transcripts, or other data collected during the research pertaining to my participation.
	I agree to be quoted directly.
X	I agree to be quoted directly if my name is not published and a made-up name (pseudonym) is used.
	I agree that the researchers may publish documents that contain quotations by me.

All or part of the content of your interview may be used;

- In academic papers, policy papers or news articles
- On our website and in other media that we may produce such as spoken presentations
- On other feedback events
- In an archive of the project as noted above By

signing this form I agree that;

1. I am voluntarily taking part in this project. I understand that I don't have to take part, and I can stop the interview at any time;
2. The transcribed interview or extracts from it may be used as described above;
3. I have read the Information sheet;
4. I don't expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation;
5. I can request a copy of the transcript of my interview and may make edits I feel necessary to ensure the effectiveness of any agreement made about confidentiality;
6. I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am

free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

---

**Abby Recio**



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**Participants Signature**

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**July 26, 2023**



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**Marielle Jillian Hernandez**

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**07/03/2023**

**Researchers Signature**

**Date**



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**Elisha Nicole Manalo**

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**07/03/2023**

**Researchers Signature**

**Date**



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**Alyssa Nicole Rosario**

---

**07/03/2023**

**Researchers Signature**

**Date**



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**Mairi Bernice Uy**

---

**07/03/2023**

**Researchers Signature**

**Date**

Contact Information

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Multimedia Arts Program Capstone Committee. If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please contact:

Name of researcher: Elisha Nicole Manalo

Full address :

Tel: 0906-202-8149

E-mail: elishanicole.manalo@gmail.com

You can also contact Elisha Manalo's supervisor:

Name of researcher:

▪ Full address: Genevieve Francisco

▪ Tel:

▪ E-mail: genevieve.francisco@benilde.edu.ph

**What if I have concerns about this research?**

If you are worried about this research, or if you are concerned about how it is being conducted, you can contact the Capstone Coordinator of the Multimedia Arts Program, New Media Cluster, School of Design and Arts, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde at mmacapstone@benilde.edu.ph

## Interview Participant: Marie Francine Ciasico

### Interview Consent Form

Research project title: Cosplay is not Consent: A study on the movement's effectivity in preventing harassment against Cosplayers in Pop Culture conventions in the Philippines

Research investigators: Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy

Research Participants name: Marie Francine L. Ciasico

The interview will take approximately around 30 minutes. We don't anticipate that there are any risks associated with your participation, but you have the right to stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time.

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed as part of the above research project. Ethical procedures for academic research require that interviewees explicitly agree to being interviewed and how the information contained in their interview will be used. This consent form is necessary for us to ensure that you understand the purpose of your involvement and that you agree to the conditions of your participation. Would you therefore read the accompanying **information sheet** and then sign this form to certify that you approve the following:

- the interview will be recorded and a transcript will be produced
- you will be sent the transcript and given the opportunity to correct any factual errors
- the transcript of the interview will be analyzed by Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy as research investigators
- access to the interview transcript will be limited to Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy, and academic colleagues and researchers with whom they might collaborate as part of the research process
- any summary interview content, or direct quotations from the interview, that are made available through academic publication or other academic outlets will be anonymized so that you cannot be identified, and care will be taken to ensure that other information in the interview that could identify yourself is not revealed
- the actual recording will be kept confidential for research purposes and will be destroyed when stated by the interviewee.
- any variation of the conditions above will only occur with your further explicit approval

Quotation Agreement

**I also understand that my words may be quoted directly. With regards to being quoted, please initial next to any of the statements that you agree with:**

MC	I wish to review the notes, transcripts, or other data collected during the research pertaining to my participation.
MC	I agree to be quoted directly.
MC	I agree to be quoted directly if my name is not published and a made-up name (pseudonym) is used.
MC	I agree that the researchers may publish documents that contain quotations by me.

All or part of the content of your interview may be used;

- In academic papers, policy papers or news articles
- On our website and in other media that we may produce such as spoken presentations
- On other feedback events
- In an archive of the project as noted above

By signing this form I agree that;

1. I am voluntarily taking part in this project. I understand that I don't have to take part, and I can stop the interview at any time;
2. The transcribed interview or extracts from it may be used as described above;
3. I have read the Information sheet;
4. I don't expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation;
5. I can request a copy of the transcript of my interview and may make edits I feel necessary to ensure the effectiveness of any agreement made about confidentiality;
6. I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

MARIE FRANCINE L. CIASICO



Printed Name

07/25/2023

Participants Signature

Date



Marielle Jillian Hernandez

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date



Elisha Nicole Manalo

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date



Alyssa Nicole Rosario

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date



Mairi Bernice Uy

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date

Contact Information

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Name of researcher: Elisha Nicole Manalo

Full address :

Tel: 0906-202-8149

E-mail: [elishanicole.manalo@gmail.com](mailto:elishanicole.manalo@gmail.com)

You can also contact Elisha Manalo's supervisor:

Name of researcher:

- Full address: Genevieve Francisco
- Tel:
- E-mail: [genevieve.francisco@benilde.edu.ph](mailto:genevieve.francisco@benilde.edu.ph)

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## Interview Participant: Elys Noel

### Interview Consent Form

Research project title: Cosplay is not Consent: A study on the movement's effectivity in preventing harassment against Cosplayers in Pop Culture conventions in the Philippines

Research investigators: Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy

Research Participants name: Elys Noel

The interview will take approximately around 30 minutes. We don't anticipate that there are any risks associated with your participation, but you have the right to stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time.

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed as part of the above research project. Ethical procedures for academic research require that interviewees explicitly agree to being interviewed and how the information contained in their interview will be used. This consent form is necessary for us to ensure that you understand the purpose of your involvement and that you agree to the conditions of your participation. Would you therefore read the accompanying **information sheet** and then sign this form to certify that you approve the following:

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- the actual recording will be kept confidential for research purposes and will be destroyed when stated by the interviewee.
- any variation of the conditions above will only occur with your further explicit approval



Quotation Agreement

**I also understand that my words may be quoted directly. With regards to being quoted, please initial next to any of the statements that you agree with:**

EN	I wish to review the notes, transcripts, or other data collected during the research pertaining to my participation.
EN	I agree to be quoted directly.
EN	I agree to be quoted directly if my name is not published and a made-up name (pseudonym) is used.
EN	I agree that the researchers may publish documents that contain quotations by me.

All or part of the content of your interview may be used;

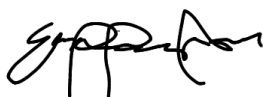
- In academic papers, policy papers or news articles
- On our website and in other media that we may produce such as spoken presentations
- On other feedback events
- In an archive of the project as noted above

By signing this form I agree that;

7. I am voluntarily taking part in this project. I understand that I don't have to take part, and I can stop the interview at any time;
8. The transcribed interview or extracts from it may be used as described above;
9. I have read the Information sheet;
10. I don't expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation;
11. I can request a copy of the transcript of my interview and may make edits I feel necessary to ensure the effectiveness of any agreement made about confidentiality;
12. I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

ELYS NOEL

**Printed Name**




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Participants Signature

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July 29, 2023

Date




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Marielle Jillian Hernandez

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07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date




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Elisha Nicole Manalo

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07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date




---

Alyssa Nicole Rosario

Researchers Signature

---

07/03/2023

Date




---

Mairi Bernice Uy

Researchers Signature

---

07/03/2023

Date

[Contact Information](#)

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Name of researcher: Elisha Nicole Manalo  
Full address :  
Tel: 0906-202-8149  
E-mail: elishanicole.manalo@gmail.com

You can also contact Elisha Manalo's supervisor:

Name of researcher:

▪Full address: Genevieve Francisco

▪Tel:

▪E-mail: genevieve.francisco@benilde.edu.ph

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## Interview Participant: Frances Isabella San Pascual

### Interview Consent Form

Research project title: Cosplay is not Consent: A study on the movement's effectivity in preventing harassment against Cosplayers in Pop Culture conventions in the Philippines

Research investigators: Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy

Research Participants name: **FRANCES ISABELLA SAN PASCUAL**

The interview will take approximately around 30 minutes. We don't anticipate that there are any risks associated with your participation, but you have the right to stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time.

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed as part of the above research project. Ethical procedures for academic research require that interviewees explicitly agree to being interviewed and how the information contained in their interview will be used. This consent form is necessary for us to ensure that you understand the purpose of your involvement and that you agree to the conditions of your participation. Would you therefore read the accompanying **information sheet** and then sign this form to certify that you approve the following:

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- access to the interview transcript will be limited to Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy, and academic colleagues and researchers with whom they might collaborate as part of the research process
- any summary interview content, or direct quotations from the interview, that are made available through academic publication or other academic outlets will be anonymized so that you cannot be identified, and care will be taken to ensure that other information in the interview that could identify yourself is not revealed
- the actual recording will be kept confidential for research purposes and will be destroyed when stated by the interviewee.

- any variation of the conditions above will only occur with your further explicit approval

Quotation Agreement

**I also understand that my words may be quoted directly. With regards to being quoted, please initial next to any of the statements that you agree with:**

✓	I wish to review the notes, transcripts, or other data collected during the research pertaining to my participation.
✓	I agree to be quoted directly.
✓	I agree to be quoted directly if my name is not published and a made-up name
✓	(pseudonym) is used.
	I agree that the researchers may publish documents that contain quotations by me.

All or part of the content of your interview may be used;


- In academic papers, policy papers or news articles
- On our website and in other media that we may produce such as spoken presentations
- On other feedback events
- In an archive of the project as noted above By

signing this form I agree that;

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10. I don't expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation;
11. I can request a copy of the transcript of my interview and may make edits I feel necessary to ensure the effectiveness of any agreement made about confidentiality;
12. I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

FRANCES ISABELLA SAN PASCUAL

Printed Name



Participants Signature

JULY 25, 2023

Date

Marielle Jillian Hernandez

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date



Elisha Nicole Manalo

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date



Alyssa Nicole Rosario

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date



Mairi Bernice Uy

07/03/2023

**Researchers Signature**

**Date**

Contact Information

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Multimedia Arts Program Capstone Committee. If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please contact:

Name of researcher: Elisha Nicole Manalo

Full address :

Tel: 0906-202-8149

E-mail: elishanicole.manalo@gmail.com

You can also contact Elisha Manalo's supervisor:

Name of researcher:

▪ Full address: Genevieve Francisco

▪ Tel:

▪ E-mail: genevieve.francisco@benilde.edu.ph

**What if I have concerns about this research?**

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## Interview Participant: Katrina Anya Mercader

### Interview Consent Form

Research project title: Cosplay is not Consent: A study on the movement's effectivity in preventing harassment against Cosplayers in Pop Culture conventions in the Philippines

Research investigators: Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy

Research Participants name: **Katrina Anya Mercader**

The interview will take approximately around 30 minutes. We don't anticipate that there are any risks associated with your participation, but you have the right to stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time.

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed as part of the above research project. Ethical procedures for academic research require that interviewees explicitly agree to being interviewed and how the information contained in their interview will be used. This consent form is necessary for us to ensure that you understand the purpose of your involvement and that you agree to the conditions of your participation. Would you therefore read the accompanying **information sheet** and then sign this form to certify that you approve the following:

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- the transcript of the interview will be analyzed by Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy as research investigators
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- any summary interview content, or direct quotations from the interview, that are made available through academic publication or other academic outlets will be anonymized so that you cannot be identified, and care will be taken to ensure that other information in the interview that could identify yourself is not revealed
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- any variation of the conditions above will only occur with your further explicit approval



Quotation Agreement

**I also understand that my words may be quoted directly. With regards to being quoted, please initial next to any of the statements that you agree with:**

KA FM	I wish to review the notes, transcripts, or other data collected during the research pertaining to my participation.
KA FM	I agree to be quoted directly.
KA FM	I agree to be quoted directly if my name is not published and a made-up name (pseudonym) is used.
KA FM	I agree that the researchers may publish documents that contain quotations by me.

All or part of the content of your interview may be used;

- In academic papers, policy papers or news articles
- On our website and in other media that we may produce such as spoken presentations
- On other feedback events
- In an archive of the project as noted above By

signing this form I agree that;

1. I am voluntarily taking part in this project. I understand that I don't have to take part, and I can stop the interview at any time;
2. The transcribed interview or extracts from it may be used as described above;
3. I have read the Information sheet;
4. I don't expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation;
5. I can request a copy of the transcript of my interview and may make edits I feel necessary to ensure the effectiveness of any agreement made about confidentiality;
6. I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

**Katrina Anya Mercader**

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Printed Name



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Participants Signature



---

Marielle Jillian Hernandez

Researchers Signature



---

Elisha Nicole Manalo

Researchers Signature



---

Alyssa Nicole Rosario

Researchers Signature



---

Mairi Bernice Uy

Researchers Signature

---

07/21/2023

Date

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07/03/2023

Date

---

07/03/2023

Date

---

07/03/2023

Date

---

07/03/2023

Date

[Contact Information](#)

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Multimedia Arts Program Capstone Committee. If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please contact:

Name of researcher: Elisha Nicole Manalo

Full address :

Tel: 0906-202-8149

E-mail: elishanicole.manalo@gmail.com

You can also contact Elisha Manalo's supervisor:

Name of researcher:

•Full address: Genevieve Francisco

•Tel:

•E-mail: genevieve.francisco@benilde.edu.ph

### **What if I have concerns about this research?**

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## Interview Participant: Katrina Isabel Dagdag (Cosplayer)

### Interview Consent Form

Research project title: Cosplay is not Consent: A study on the movement's effectivity in preventing misbehaviors and sexual harassment against Cosplayers in Pop Culture conventions in the Philippines.

Research investigators: Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy

Research Participants name: **Katrina Isabel Dagdag**

The interview will take approximately 20 to 30 minutes. We don't anticipate that there are any risks associated with your participation, but you have the right to stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time.

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed as part of the above research project. Ethical procedures for academic research require that interviewees explicitly agree to being interviewed and how the information contained in their interview will be used. This consent form is necessary for us to ensure that you understand the purpose of your involvement and that you agree to the conditions of your participation. Would you therefore read the accompanying **information sheet** and then sign this form to certify that you approve the following:

- the interview will be recorded and a transcript will be produced
- you will be sent the transcript and given the opportunity to correct any factual errors
- the transcript of the interview will be analyzed by (name of the researcher) as research investigator
- access to the interview transcript will be limited to (name of the researcher) and academic colleagues and researchers with whom he might collaborate as part of the research process
- any summary interview content, or direct quotations from the interview, that are made available through academic publication or other academic outlets will be anonymized so that you cannot be identified, and care will be taken to ensure that other information in the interview that could identify yourself is not revealed
- the actual recording will be (kept or destroyed state what will happen)
- any variation of the conditions above will only occur with your further explicit approval

Quotation Agreement

**I also understand that my words may be quoted directly. With regards to being quoted, please initial next to any of the statements that you agree with:**

	I wish to review the notes, transcripts, or other data collected during the research pertaining to my participation.
	I agree to be quoted directly.
/	I agree to be quoted directly if my name is not published and a made-up name (pseudonym) is used.
	I agree that the researchers may publish documents that contain quotations by me.

All or part of the content of your interview may be used;

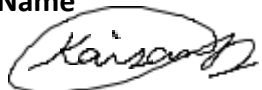
- In academic papers, policy papers or news articles
- On our website and in other media that we may produce such as spoken presentations
- On other feedback events
- In an archive of the project as noted above By

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3. I have read the Information sheet;
4. I don't expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation;
5. I can request a copy of the transcript of my interview and may make edits I feel necessary to ensure the effectiveness of any agreement made about confidentiality;
6. I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

Katrina Isabel Dagdag

Printed Name



08/02/2023

Participants Signature

Date



Marielle Jillian Hernandez

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date



Elisha Nicole Manalo

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date



Alyssa Nicole Rosario

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date



Mairi Bernice Uy

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date

Contact Information

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Name of researcher: Elisha Nicole Manalo Full  
address :

Tel: 0906-202-8149

E-mail: elishanicole.manalo@gmail.com

You can also contact Elisha Manalo's supervisor:

Name of researcher:

▪Full address: Genevieve Francisco

▪Tel:

▪E-mail: genevieve.francisco@benilde.edu.ph

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## Interview Participant: Lizette Ilaga (Organizer)

### Interview Consent Form

Research project title: Cosplay is not Consent: A study on the movement's effectivity in preventing harassment against Cosplayers in Pop Culture conventions in the Philippines

Research investigators: Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy

Research Participants name: Lizette Ilaga

The interview will take approximately around 30 minutes. We don't anticipate that there are any risks associated with your participation, but you have the right to stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time.

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed as part of the above research project. Ethical procedures for academic research require that interviewees explicitly agree to being interviewed and how the information contained in their interview will be used. This consent form is necessary for us to ensure that you understand the purpose of your involvement and that you agree to the conditions of your participation. Would you therefore read the accompanying **information sheet** and then sign this form to certify that you approve the following:

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- the actual recording will be kept confidential for research purposes and will be destroyed when stated by the interviewee.
- any variation of the conditions above will only occur with your further explicit approval



Quotation Agreement

**I also understand that my words may be quoted directly. With regards to being quoted, please initial next to any of the statements that you agree with:**

Lsi	I wish to review the notes, transcripts, or other data collected during the research pertaining to my participation.
Lsi	I agree to be quoted directly.
Lsi	I agree to be quoted directly if my name is not published and a made-up name (pseudonym) is used.
Lsi	I agree that the researchers may publish documents that contain quotations by me.

All or part of the content of your interview may be used;

- In academic papers, policy papers or news articles
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- On other feedback events
- In an archive of the project as noted above By

signing this form I agree that;

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5. I can request a copy of the transcript of my interview and may make edits I feel necessary to ensure the effectiveness of any agreement made about confidentiality;
6. I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

Lizette Ilaga

**Printed Name**

• 

**Participants Signature**

August 1, 2023

**Date**



**Marielle Jillian Hernandez**

07/03/2023

**Researchers Signature**

**Date**



**Elisha Nicole Manalo**

07/03/2023

**Researchers Signature**

**Date**



**Alyssa Nicole Rosario**

07/03/2023

**Researchers Signature**

**Date**



**Mairi Bernice Uy**

07/03/2023

**Researchers Signature**

**Date**

[Contact Information](#)

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Full address :

Tel: 0906-202-8149

E-mail: elishanicole.manalo@gmail.com

You can also contact Elisha Manalo's supervisor:

Name of researcher:

• Full address: Genevieve Francisco

• Tel:

• E-mail: genevieve.francisco@benilde.edu.ph

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## Interview Participant: Michael Ramas (Organizer)

Interview Consent  
Form

### Interview Consent Form

Research project title: Cosplay is not Consent: A study on the movement's effectivity in preventing harassment against Cosplayers in Pop Culture conventions in the Philippines

Research investigators: Marielle Jillian Hernandez, Elisha Nicole Manalo, Alyssa Nicole Rosario, Mairi Bernice Uy

Research Participants name: Michael Ramas

The interview will take approximately around 30 minutes. We don't anticipate that there are any risks associated with your participation, but you have the right to stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time.

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Quotation Agreement

I also understand that my words may be quoted directly. With regards to being quoted, please initial next to any of the statements that you agree with:

	I wish to review the notes, transcripts, or other data collected during the research pertaining to my participation.
✓	I agree to be quoted directly.
	I agree to be quoted directly if my name is not published and a made-up name (pseudonym) is used.
	I agree that the researchers may publish documents that contain quotations by me.

All or part of the content of your interview may be used;

- In academic papers, policy papers or news articles
- On our website and in other media that we may produce such as spoken presentations
- On other feedback events
- In an archive of the project as noted above

By signing this form I agree that;

1. I am voluntarily taking part in this project. I understand that I don't have to take part, and I can stop the interview at any time;
2. The transcribed interview or extracts from it may be used as described above;
3. I have read the Information sheet;
4. I don't expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation;
5. I can request a copy of the transcript of my interview and may make edits I feel necessary to ensure the effectiveness of any agreement made about confidentiality;
6. I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

Interview Consent  
Form

MICHAEL RAMAS

Printed Name



Participants Signature

07/27/2023

Date



Marielle Jillian Hernandez

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date



Elisha Nicole Manalo

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date



Alyssa Nicole Rosario

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date



Mairi Bernice Uy

07/03/2023

Researchers Signature

Date

Contact Information

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Multimedia Arts Program Capstone Committee. If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please contact:

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Interview Consent  
Form

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**What if I have concerns about this research?**

If you are worried about this research, or if you are concerned about how it is being conducted, you can contact the Capstone Coordinator of the Multimedia Arts Program, New Media Cluster, School of Design and Arts, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde at mmacapstone@benilde.edu.ph

## **Appendix C**

### **Interview Guide Questions and Transcripts**

#### **Interview Guide Questions for Cosplayers**

1. How long have you been attending conventions?
2. How many conventions have you attended thus far?
3. What do you know of the current anti-harassment campaign/s in local conventions in the Philippines?
  - a. (For participants who are aware of at least one) what do you think of the campaign (the way it communicates the message to its target, tone, etc)
4. When did you become aware of Cosplay is not Consent?
5. What is your understanding of Cosplay is not Consent and its policies?
6. How often do you see signs of Cosplay is not Consent within conventions that you attend?
7. Out of all the conventions you have attended, how many of these do you think had these Cosplay is not Consent? (For long-time cosplay con goers)
8. What mediums do these Cosplay is not Consent present themselves as?
9. On which mediums did you become most aware of these Cosplay is not Consent?
10. Do you think the current state of Cosplay is not Consent are doing enough to stop harassment during conventions? Why or why not?
11. How would you want Cosplay is not Consent or an anti-sexual harassment campaign be implemented or improved?

#### **Interview Guide Questions for Organizers**

1. How long have you been under the pop culture convention scene within the Philippines?
2. How many conventions have you organized so far?
3. What do you know of the current Cosplay is not Consent Movement?
4. When did you become aware of the said movement?
5. What is your understanding of the movement?
6. What are your opinions on the current policies being implemented to help prevent further misbehaviors and sexual harassment in pop culture conventions?
7. Do you implement anti-harassment policies in your conventions? If yes, kindly tell us about it.
  - a. When and why did your convention start implementing those guidelines/policies?



8. What do you think should be done for Cosplay is not Consent or just preventing misbehavior and sexual harassment in conventions to be improved in pop culture conventions?

### **Interview Transcripts**

All interviews are conducted by two of the proponents, Elisha Manalo and Bernice Uy, through Google Meet. The transcripts are verbatim and may contain the [inaudible] tag in some parts where the audio is unclear to be transcribed.

#### **Interviewee: “Abbunny” (Cosplayer)**

Date and time: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 7:20 PM

Location: Online Google Meet

Elisha: Okay so I'll go first. Just for introduction. Yung purpose nga nung study namin is we're trying to gather data on the effectiveness of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement in the Philippines kasi we findna it's not- there was not current studies for it in our country and we find with the rampancy nga of the cosplay hobby, we think it's important to give awareness to the newcomers about the potential dangers of the cosplay hobby especially conventions. So thank you so much for accepting to be interviewed. So for our first question is, how long have you've been attending conventions?

Abbunny: Uhm I would say approximately 8 years but it's only 2 years since I've been actively going to conventions so in those 8 years it's usually just once a year or 'pag meron sa mall and everything.

Bernice: So for the next question, can you estimate from all these years uh how many conventions have you attended so far?

Abbunny: Mhmm, I guess almost ten. Siguro 9 to 10 conventions maybe. Well a little over ten siguro naman. Yeah over ten.

Elisha: Okay thank you! So for the next question, what do you know of the current anti-harassment campaigns in local conventions here in the Philippines?

Abbunny: Oh I'm sorry what do I think about them?

Elisha: What do you know of the current anti-harassment campaigns?

Abbunny: Oh uhm what I'm most familiar of is for cosph. They have the- they usually publish the Cosplay is Not Consent uhm infographics in their pages. Uhm and I also know- I think for Ozine they also those printed out on the event itself but uhm aside from that, that's all I know also. There's not much details in it. As far as I know

Bernice: Okay. Thank you so much for that answer. So for our next question is, since you kind of mentioned Cosplay is Not Consent, when did you become aware of it?

Abbunny: Uhm I think I would say I was aware of it as- in general like uhm anti-harassment infographics- anti-sexual harassment infographics and everything. So as I learn throughout this- once I got more into cosplay, that's when- it just came naturally that oh Cosplay is Not Consent because sexual harassment not good and you should be well informed about that. So it wasn't really I learned about it through the conventions or through the posters that they released online or that they blasted around the event, but rather it's something that came naturally as I learned about you know consent in general.

Bernice: Understandable

Elisha: So what is your understanding of Cosplay is Not Consent and like the current policies that are being shown with it?

Abbunny: So with regards Cosplay is Not Consent, I think uhm it's the basics. So don't touch the cosplayer without asking. So the general use is ask first, especially if you're not sure just ask first and uhm I think that is what's not [inaudible] properly so that's [inaudible]

Bernice: Yes, so since you've seen signs of Cosplay is Not Consent, how often do you see this?

Abbunny: Uhm I would see it siguro a couple of times during conventions in the poster. Uhm for example, if the con's in a mall, it's in the big poster at the center of the venue or if it's in SMX, there's usually someone holding the sign or just like a medium sized tarp of [inaudible]

Elisha: Yeah

Abbunny: But I can't say for certain how many times. I think you know nadadaan lang siya so it's at the back of your mind

Bernice: True true

Elisha: So for our next question that's related to that, of all the conventions that you have attended, how many of these do you think had Cosplay is Not Consent like how many of them promoted it?

Abbunny: Mhmm I'm not that familiar with smaller cons so I usually go for Ozine and Cos.ph cons. Uhm so I would say both of them. At least the major ones always have Cosplay is Not Consent [inaudible] 2 years uhm but I don't remember the older years [inaudible] posters [inaudible] problematic back then. For smaller events which I would call [inaudible] events and everything. There aren't really posters like that but at the same time, uhm most [inaudible] events that I go to are mostly attendees anyway so maybe that's they don't really [inaudible] the need to post anything explicitly.

Elisha: Thank you

Bernice: Thank you for that. Since you mentioned before din na they show [inaudible] as a sign, what other mediums do you see Cosplay is Not Consent? Like other than signs?

Ab bunny: Other than actual physical signs or the online posters that I see?

Bernice: Oh okay. So-

Elisha: So on which mediums did you become most aware of Cosplay is Not Consent. Was it through the social media or through the actual conventions?

Ab bunny: I would say social media since uhm when you're in person, you don't really think about these things. Or- again as I said a while ago, it's at the back of your mind especially if you're a cosplayer, you have so much props that you're bringing along. The last thing you think of is look at the posters around you so I would say uhm social media. [inaudible] cosplay kasi [inaudible] so uhm yea through social media

Bernice: Ayun so since like it's mostly aware in social media. For the current movement of Cosplay is Not Consent, do you think it's doing enough for- to stop sexual harassment during conventions? Why or why not you think so?

Ab bunny: Uhm definitely not since yes you know everybody knows the term Cosplay is Not Consent but uhm for at least I would say- I also put this in the uhm- the survey. For preteens to midteens who are still in their development stage or are [inaudible] perhaps [inaudible] uhm they know Cosplay is Not Consent but do they- can they identify what sexual harassment is so for example, uhm like a 13 year old kid might not know na akbay is a bad thing kasi no one gave them that particular visual that this is sexual harassment or uhm there's no particular visual examples of oh okay before you do this, ask for permission or just generally before you touch someone, ask permission. So sure it's great that people are saying Cosplay is Not Consent and it's [inaudible] general consensus but at the same time, do people really know? So yon. So I would say it's not enough now

Elisha: So thank you for that. So for our next question, how would you want Cosplay is Not Consent or anti-sexual harassment campaigns in conventions to be implemented or improved?

Ab bunny: Uhm I think what for example cosph does is that they always publish Cosplay is Not Consent a couple of days before the con. That is a good practice but at the same time, they should add [inaudible]. As I've said, visual examples. Maybe we could release the same video that they publish every few days before the convention itself since uhm I don't know if it's just me but it feels like conventions are becoming more mainstream after the pandemic so uhm not only is it a good or rather social media sites of big organizers are good mediums for these kinds of educational things kasi when- sure if you learn about Cosplay is Not Consent, it doesn't just extend to cosplay and conventions. It extends to your everyday life because it'll stick to you na ano Cosplay is Not Consent- I can't touch a cosplayer without their consent so in general, I can't touch a person without their consent. So I would really for those visual examples more or at least some more fleshed out explanation as to uhm what constitutes sexual harassment. Just the basic uhm ways to respect not only a cosplayer or a congoer or

just like a person in general. Maybe videos will also help. So people would know more about it.

Elisha: So thank you so much for that and siguro as a follow up lang po for the previous answers, so what do you think of the campaign like the way it communicates the message nga to its target like the current tone of the campaign?

Abbunny: The current tone I would say is that it's very firm stern tone that it's non-negotiable Cosplay is Not Consent which I agree with because again uhm as I would say that we're like- I'm guessing we're all like early 20s to mid 20s in this call so to us, it's easier to understand but to teens who are starting to attend conventions, there should be that stern tone of you know this is a serious matter kasi for example, uhm yung my example of the video suggestion or my video suggestion a while ago, if Cosplay is Not Consent or if a Cosplay is Not Consent video is done in a humorous way, pagtatawanan lang kasi I'm not sure. Maybe it's the Filipino media culture something but uhm yeah the stern firm tone would do better to get the message across to younger kids and I guess to like still people of our age generation whatever.

[inaudible] also need to learn about it

Bernice: Yes. Okay

Elisha: Yea so thank you so much for all those insight and comments. They are so useful for our study po. This is really necessary data for us to you know improve nga the safety of us cosplayers here in the PH. Uhm so for just final [inaudible]. Are there- is there anything na you would like request from us like do you want us to use pseudonyms for your name, any confidentiality issues etc?

Abbunny: Uhm I think just like- I did put that you can use my name or if you're gonna quote uhm the [inaudible] just use a pseudonym. You can just use my cosplayer name instead so- yes so also if you have further like questions, just let me know

Elisha: Yes thank you so much po!

Bernice: Thank you! That is all

Elisha: Thank you so much po ulit

**Interviewee: “Claudia” (Cosplayer)**

Date and time: Wednesday, July 28, 3:00 PM

Location: Online Google Meet

Elisha: For the introduction, we are students from Benilde and we’ve also been cosplaying for a long while but since we noticed that there is a lack of data regarding the kind of like the safety of the environment of cosplaying in conventions, we wanted to make this study in order to contribute to that since there is none for our country and we’ve noticed that a lot of people have been joining this hobby especially a lot of minors and other people who are kind of new to it who may not know the potential dangers that comes with cosplaying in conventions. So thank you so much for accepting to be interviewed.

Claudia : Yes, thank you so much also for the opportunity

Elisha: Yeah and so for our first question, how long have you’ve been attending conventions?

Claudia : Uhh well my first convention was during 2010 then I continued until 2011. However, I stopped because my parents wanted me to focus on academics and a year after I graduated college, I was able to return to attending conventions on 2018 then continuously doing so until present

Elisha: Thank you!

Bernice: How many conventions have you attended thus far?

Claudia: I think uhm around 15 at least or most

Elisha: Okay so in relation to that, what do you know of the current anti-harassment campaigns in local conventions in the Philippines?

Francine: Okay so the only one that I am familiar of with is the Cosplay is Not Consent campaign but with how it was being campaigned I noticed that first, there were social media [inaudible] posted on cosplayph Facebook page as a reminder for all before the event happens. And as far as I know, there are also reminders in the venue like when there were security guards holding like a list of rules in the event and Cosplay is Not Consent is there and also I think the first time I heard from other co-cosplayers who had experienced sexual harassment during cons and before it became like a rule now somehow. But I’m my understanding yeah sorry. But yeah- that’s what I usually know about it. But since I have been like cosplay ano- I’ve been attending conventions like in 2010, I was like really young during that time and I wasn’t really aware that there was a campaign about it and I was really just there for the cosplayers and booths and because I was really just so young during that time that I wasn’t aware about it. So I’m not sure if there were already campaigns before around that year.

Elisha: Okay so thank you. So following up that, what do you think of the campaign? Like the way it communicates the message and its tone? The current time

Claudia: Uhh [inaudible] what do I think of the campaign- uhh I think it's. Personally, I think it's a good campaign because people need to be reminded of it but at the same time, somehow, I mean I appreciate the efforts that the convention organizers have been doing to campaign it because of course, they got the campaign from the cosplayers who were victims of sexual harassment. However, personally, I don't feel like it's not the- uhh the convention organizer's problem like I think it's a self problem or like it's- I think it's somewhat rooted within the self like. I mean conventions personally should be a safe space for everyone because you know a lot of otakus- a lot of weeps, a lot of uhh Japanese culture fans weren't able to really express themselves outside conventions so personally I think that conventions should really be a safe space, a safe place for everyone to really be their selves and hang out with people with the same likes. Which is why I don't understand why there are encounters of sexual harassment because yeah so- and also- yeah I just want to reiterate that I don't think it should be the organizer's problem because their focus is of course to market Japanese culture, to provide a safe space for everyone and you know, no matter how much they would uhh disseminate tools, campaign tools in social media or even during the event. No matter how much posters they post if that person is still sick on his mind. He's just being a jerk or an asshole, they will continue to do so

Bernice: Yes

Elisha: Yeah, we get it. Thank you so much for that answer. So for the next question-

Bernice: When did you become aware of Cosplay is not Consent?

Claudia: Uhh well before there weren't any posts about the sexual harassment issues on conventions. However, since conventions became extremely open to everyone and a lot- all kinds of audiences have been attending those events, uhh there had been suddenly an influx of those issues and I think social media is also a good medium for people to be aware about the existence of this issue. Maybe bec- probably when I was younger, there had been instances as well but social media wasn't that prominent during 2010 2011. I don't think there were much broadcasted about it but yeah

Elisha: Okay thank you so much for that. So, what is your understanding of Cosplay is Not Consent and its policies?

Claudia: Well my understanding of it includes respecting the boundaries of a cosplayer. A no is a no and cosplaying doesn't give any person permission to do something towards a cosplayer. Yes

Bernice: How often do you see signs of Cosplay is not Consent within conventions that you attend?

Francine: Mhmm how often? Like during the events right

Bernice: [inaudible]

Francine: This kind- I guess at most for signs of what the security guard is holding for a [inaudible]. But it's not much noticeable unless you read signs yes

Elisha: Okay thank you. So in relation to that, out of all the conventions you've attended, how many of these do you think had this Cosplay is Not Consent like can you name the conventions where you've seen this at?

Claudia : Uhh okay as far as I can remember, it is mostly events from cosplay.ph which is usually uhh Cosplay Carnival, Cosplay Mania. I haven't attended ACX tho. Uhh Cosplay Matsuri and though when I was younger, I attended smaller cons like Ozine uhh Ozine Fest? Was that Ozine Fest? But I, well last year I also attended Ozine Fest but I wasn't able to see any signs of Cosplay is Not Consent. Other than that, I did attended smaller cons like [inaudible] and Onlive PH but there weren't- I haven't seen those campaigns as well. The uhh Onlive PH is much more for a smaller niche, smaller community so I think people were kind of close or already know each other there than you know other cons which you get to meet a lot of newer people.

Bernice: What mediums do these Cosplay is not Consent present themselves as?

Claudia : Mhm I think social media cards and hand signs? That's the most that I can remember though

Elisha: Okay so, on which mediums did you become most aware of this Cosplay is Not Consent like was it through the signs or was it mainly through the social media?

Claudia : Mainly social media because they tend to like- I mean the shares are more reachable? I mean it can reach a wider audience than actually being in the event

Bernice: Do you think the current state of Cosplay is not Consent are doing enough to stop harassment during conventions? Why or why not?

Claudia : Uhh I- I personally think they are doing enough. However, as I have mentioned earlier, I don't think it's the problem of the organization because uhh for example uhh just- just giving a hypothetical example. If ever the co- convention organizer would focus on promoting the anti-harassment campaign means they would post a lot of uhh other than the social media [inaudible], they would probably make a video sharing stories of victims. Of course it would benefit a lot of course. However, in this society that we're in, we're in a patriarchal society sadly and no matter how much we campaign for respect and equality, hard-headed egoistic harassers will still prevail and though of course these small steps can still somehow influence others who are open-minded. For those who have close minds, they would just you know shake it off and continue to do shit that they wanna do and uhh you know conventions have various types. They cater to various types of people and uhh you know uhh going back to my main point if you know- if the convention producers want to maintain a happy environment uhh they need to limit this kind of campaign because people would you know, it would give kind of a negative vibe. I think. But I think- I mean I'm trying to [inaudible] uhm I'm just trying to assess the mindset of the other people but you know it- it's kinda sad that it is uhh kind of male-dominated industry that we can't even you know freely or safely express ourselves and uhh even though of course campaign- convention organizers would like to campaign for it. This would be- this would really restrict them from inviting a lot of- all

kinds of people and you know in conventions, there are a lot of privileged people there and of course, they get money from them so yeah I do really think that this behavior should be tamed at home or in school but you know, so far what cosplay.ph is doing like with the social media [inaudible] and the rules, I think it's fine. But I do really think that this change should start from oneself.

Elisha: Thank you for that. That's very insightful. With regards to this, how would you want Cosplay is Not Consent or any anti-harassment campaigns in conventions be implemented or how should they at least improve it to try and lessen this or make- at least [inaudible] in conventions?

Claudia : Yeah uhm I feel like since this is like campaign strategy, I do think that if ever they would like- really like to strengthen the campaign, they should- of course first assess the kind of audience they have but the problem is they have different kinds of audiences from different backgrounds, different kinds of also financial situations so uhm. So far I think the most- the best way they can do is really strengthen the campaign's social media presence because it can come across all kinds of people but yeah it- it really might impact their event negatively if they would strengthen that sadly. Uhm mhmm but knowing their kind of audience- I mean- I mean- mhmm assessing Filipinos, Filipinos are more likely to engage emotionally so stories of the victims can somehow influence the mindset or- or- or I think if that kind of harasser was able to experience the same kind of harassment they've been doing towards the victim, maybe they could learn their mistake but I don't know, Filipinos are hard-headed

Elisha: Well thank you so much for that. So that's all of our questions so far and that again thank you so much kasi it's very useful for our thesis in getting your opinions. If you have any concerns, I forgot to ask, would you like to use a pseudonym for our study?

Claudia : Uhh yes please. Any name as long as it wouldn't be related to mine [inaudible]

Elisha: Okay okay so so far yeah that is all. If you have any- yun nga, if you have any concerns or other stuff that you want to ask, you can email me or just reply to Alyssa again for any of your potential concerns so we can correct them

Claudia : Okay. Thank you so much for the interview



**Interviewee: “Lulu” (Cosplayer)**

Date and time: Saturday, July 29, 8:00 PM

Location: Online Google Meet

Lulu: Okay. Yung audio ba on my part is okay?

Elisha: Yes it's okay po

Bernice: Yes

Lulu: Naka-mobile lang kasi ako so baka medyo magulo

Elisha: Hindi. Okay lang po. Clear po

Lulu: Ahh okay okay

Elisha: Okay so for a quick introduction lang din po. We are students from Benilde and the reason for why we started this study nga is we are also uhm cosplayers and we noticed that aside from the- the fact there is a lack of data regarding this topic in the Philippines, uhm there's also a lot of people joining this hobby. According to our survey so far, there's a lot of people who are [inaudible] conventions after the pandemic and we also noticed that online, there's [inaudible] a lot of people joining the hobby especially underaged uhh

Lulu: Yes yes

Elisha: So for that sake, we want to know how is the current space of the cosplaying in conventions so that we can raise awareness of the potential dangers that comes with cosplay as well as educate newbies what is the proper etiquette in conventions. So with that introduction done, our first question is, how long have you've been attending conventions

Lulu: Ahh so I'm pretty sure it's- I started on 2012. Yes that's why yung may question about how many cons have you attended, I was like-

Elisha: Yeah

Lulu: 20? I- I don't know how to count

Elisha: Okay okay okay thank you

Bernice: So technically, you've already answered our next question which is how many conventions have you attended thus far?

Lulu: Yeah

Bernice: Is that the rough estimate? Around 20 po?

Lulu: Ahh yes

Bernice: Okay okay

Lulu: I really- I really don't know if malilista ko sila

Bernice: Sige po

Elisha: So for our next question, what do you know of the current anti-harassment campaigns here in the local conventions in the Philippines?

Lulu: If I remember correctly kasi, my circumstance naman kasi is I haven't attended large con after pandemic so yung uhh whatever I remember is pre-pandemic so last con

kong inattendan is 2018. So yun, huminto dun yung mundo ko technically. So uhh in 2018, yung mga naaalala kong mga uhh mala- madalas kong marinig at mabasa I guess are yung uhh “No touching allowed” ahh “without consent”. Lagi naman [inaudible] of course the consent. Also, you can’t take a picture without their consent. Isa ‘to sa mga pinakamadalas kong uhm napapansin na hindi kasi nasusunod so madalas kasi may mga tao na nag- yung stolen shots tapos hindi na ma-credit yung person ganyan ganyan kasi they didn’t ask. Yun uhm no touching, you should ask for permission for photos, for touching. Uhm ano pa ba? Yun kasi yung pinaka-main na- na napapansin ko. At least yun din yung sinasabi nila in guidelines kasi when you join uhh cosplay competitions and literally just signing up for a con, nagpopost naman kasi yung uhh organizers ng guidelines, right? So yung pinaka-explicit dun is Cosplay is Not Consent, no inappropriate touching, and uhh basically verbal ab- verbal sexual harassment and yun lang yung normal na nakikita and guidelines per se. So iba kasi din yung online, yung mismong cosplayers na uhm tawag dito. Yung mismong opinions ng cosplayers is separate. So minsan may mga taong mas madami silang ililist. Like uhh may mga specific people akong naaalala na may specific distance sila na ni-re-request. Like if pwedeng magpa-picture pero you can’t crowd me. Parang ganon. May mga ganon. I do remember na may mga ganong tao. Also, may mga specific din na tao na nagsasabi na “I’m really shy. If lapitan mo ako, I’m sorry hindi ako magpapa-picture”. So ayun, different talaga siya personally versus dun sa very general lang na nasa guidelines ng conventions. So I’m not sure kung saan dun yung tanong niyo right now pero sinabi ko na both.

Elisha: So since na-mention niyo po yung Cosplay is Not Consent, what do you think of the campaign? Like the way it communicates the message to its target and its tone?

Lulu: Uhm yung in current, I think currently very ano siya uhh very effective siya currently. Lalo na yun nga may sobrang dami talagang surge ng minors na cosplayers kasi cosplay is now very cheap versus sa dati. Nagsosobrang parang hobby talaga siya. Ngayon kasi, if you go to a con, you do have the option to just buy. So napapansin ko talaga sa mga pictures sa mga friends ko, marami talagang minors na cosplayers. And since they’re minors, yung mga ano- pano ba [inaudible] yung mga senpai nila in the cosplay community, they do educate yung mga younger and lalo na ngayong you know online ano- online na exposure, they do know what is harassment versus nung unang panahon. I tell you. I tell you talaga kahit na Akbayan ka or i-kiss ka sa noo, you can’t report kasi you don’t know. That’s like years years years ago

Elisha: Yeah

Lulu: Yeah yeah baby pa ‘ non. Baby- mas baby pa kayo. So you know very- currently I think it’s effective kasi uhm dati around siguro first time kong actually marinig yung Cosplay is Not Consent is around mga 2016? 2017? Yun talaga siya nagging nasa guidelines na siya ng mga con. Before wala. So I feel like starting then, na-educate din

mismo yung mga cosplayers and then syempre yung mga congoers na talagang dapat ma-ano so I feel like it's very effective

Elisha: Thank you for that. That was very insightful so since nasagot niyo na din po when did you become aware of Cosplay is Not Consent, we'll be skipping to the next question which is, what is your understanding of Cosplay is Not Consent and its policies? Like ano po yung nakikita niyong guidelines na nakasama po sa kanya?

Lulu: Yun nga kasi in terms of Cosplay is Not Consent nga, normally is iba nga yung interpretation ng cosplayers dun sa organizers so I'll just say na ang generally accepted is yung dun na part ng organizers na No inappropriate touching and verbal sexual harassment and then yun lang. Dun siya. That stops there so I guess yun kasi yung pinaka- uhm yun lang din naman din yung pinaka- mmmm paano ba? Pinaka-core idea nung Cosplay is Not Consent so I guess it's okay in terms na yun yung nasa mga policies

Elisha: Thank you so for the next question

Bernice: So how often do you see signs of Cosplay is Not Consent within conventions that you have attended so far?

Lulu: Ahh eto yung medyo mahirap kasi I do remember that merong organizers na doon sa ticket booth ba yon? Uhh registration booth? Yeah meron silang printed and then nakalagay naman doon na Cosplay is Not Consent so basically before you- tiniticket ka nila, may reminders sila doon. Pero normally kasi, bukod dun sa guidelines online na pinopost nila and then that printed thing, walang anything else normally. Though there was a point in time na sobrang daming talagang nagpoprotesta ng mga cosplayer na naka-cosplay sila and then may hawak silang sign board whiteboard na Cosplay is Not Consent. That was back then. Yung nag-i-start pa lang yung slogan na yon na kasi nga normally naman kapag kasi yung cosplayer yung uncomfortable with that so they educate nga yung people na nakikita nila tas yun pero ngayon I don't think may makikita ka pang taong naglalakad na may logo ng Cosplay is Not Consent. So hindi ko alam kung pati yung organizers they stopped putting reminders?

Elisha: Ahh okay po. Thank you for that. Hindi po ako aware

Lulu: Ahh oo kasi that was long ago. I told you [inaudible]

Elisha: So out of all the conventions po that you have attended, how many of these do you remember had Cosplay is Not Consent?

Lulu: Ahh since nag-start nga yung movement, I'm pretty sure it's around 2017. I'm not sure if earlier pero 2017 yung sure ako na may mga nakikita akong nag-ko-cosplay may hawak silang- may hawak silang mga ano whiteboard. Ahh so [inaudible] I guess kasi it's been- pero nga nahinto yung mundo nung pandemic so I'm not sure

Elisha: It's okay lang po

Elisha: So for the next question,

Bernice: So since mentioned before that there are physical signs, what other mediums do these Cosplay is Not Consent slogans pre- present themselves as that you have seen so far?

Lulu: Actually kasi normally online talaga. It- it was an online movement especially during the pandemic, since well there is no physical convention. So people do post what they are comfortable with, what they're not comfortable with which is more detailed than just saying Cosplay is Not Consent. 'Di ba so-

Elisha: Yeah

Lulu: Uhh I guess verbal? Ayun din. Kapag nakikipagkwentuhan ka sa friends mo like kapag marami kang cosplayer na friends, ke-kwentuhan ka nila "Alam mo ba I had a very bad experience". Tas syempre ipo-post nila, ipo-post mo din so you know. So I feel like it's verbal and really online yung nagging main na ano niya- naging main na way to communicate it. Well I think it's effective naman din because everyone is chronically online

Elisha: Okay thank you for that. So out of all these mediums that you uhm- you said nga po, which one did you become most aware of Cosplay is Not Consent?

Lulu: Uhh mmmm most aware? I guess online kasi nga nari- nag-start yung- at least ako nag-start akong maging aware don sa movement was 2017. Back then, at least I was not chronically online. I really hate social media so yung main- yung main way ko na nalaman ko siya is I had lots of cosplay groups, cosplay friends, cosplay events, cosplay photoshoots so we talk about it a lot pero you know hindi- hindi kasi nga- nung panahon nay un, hindi pa very- hindi lahat at least. Hindi pa verbal lahat ng mga tao about it. You know the usual, if you get harassed, sometimes it's your fault because you know victim blaming. So dati talaga it's more on uhh friends sharing, talking about their experience but kasi recently with all the minors out there, alam mo- you know sobrang dami talagang nagpo-post so I feel like mas nagging aware ako sa kanya kung gaano siya ka-big thing I- or gaano siya ka- ka ano ba- kadalas mangyari? Sa recent yung sa online. Online presence talaga. Kasi sobrang dami ko talagang nababalitaan. Ayun

Elisha: Thank you for that so for the next question,

Bernice: Do you think the current state of Cosplay is Not Consent are doing enough to stop harassment or misbehavior during conventions? Why or why not?

Lulu: Mmmm ito medyo mhm wait lang isip ako. Kasi- dati kasi dahil nga walang- walang slogan na Cosplay is Not Consent, madalas talaga yung mga mismong cosplayer- yung congoer, mismong cosplayer hindi talaga sila aware kung ano yung border 'di ba. So nung nag-start siya at least, I'm pretty sure na it's- it's ano effective I guess? Kaso uhm mmmm marami pa rin kasi so or at least online kasi nga hindi naman na ako nakaka-attend ng physical na convention. Marami lalo na surge talaga sa minors for some reason or baka sila yung mas vocal

Elisha: Maybe

Lulu: Oo parang- oo 'di ba pero I guess nabawasan kasi at least sa circle of friends ko, I don't remember anyone na nagpost about it recent yes, na recent physical convention kasi sila uma-attend. Ako, ayaw ko sa tao. Ako, takot akong magkasakit. Ayan so uhh I guess effective siya. I mean mmmm at least sa circle ko. Hindi ko masasabi for everyone. Ayon

Elisha: So for the last question po, how would you want Cosplay is Not Consent or any anti-sexual harassment campaigns to be implemented or improved?

Lulu: Ahh yun ah as I mentioned nga kasi- ah sa part nga kasi ng organizers, they just put guidelines and then post- post stuff- post actual printed Cosplay is Not Consent but they don't expound on what may or may not be considered kasi nga yun nga may mga cosplayer- depende siya sa personal na ano pero I feel like it would help more if yung mismong organizers would try to like uhh make an effort to paano ba- to paano ba- to feature or to discuss what can be considered ano sexual harassment. Kasi nga- yun nga again, madalas nga kasi yung mga mabibiktima dito is the younger ones and hindi lahat nga is very vocal about it or very well read about what is considered sexual harassment, in crossing the line so I- I guess on the organizers' part, magiging malaking tulong if they- if they are promoting yung event nila along with uhh parang uhh the idea of what is- what entails Cosplay is Not Consent kasi nga the cosplayers themselves need to be educated. They just can't say Cosplay is Not Consent and just be down with it. 'Di ba?

Elisha: Yeah

Lulu: Kasi lalo na the minors. I mean hindi naman lahat ng minors ay ano parang walang alam about it pero marami probably lalo na yung mga ayun nga hindi chronically online or maliit yung ano nila social circle or probably first time mag-cosplay mga ganyan. Hindi naman nila- hindi mo iisipin na mangyayari sayo yon 'di ba if you're just a kid going to a con. You don't expect to be sexually harassed 'di ba so I guess it would be better if mag-start siya with the organizers. If they could like- uhh help na- na uhh maglilist or mag- mag-ano yung mag-examples or ano mag-post ng statistics. Kahit actually ganon. It's like scare tactics

Elisha: Yeah

Lulu: "There had been like 15 reports of sexual harassment the last convention. Please read these guidelines." Yung mga ganon. 'Di ba? Kasi nga if- if you just put Cosplay is Not Consent, okay. Dadaan lang siya ng mata mo. I- I actually really feel like yung Cosplay is Not Consent kasi na slogan is known already by everybody pati yung mga congoers naman. Yun nga lang ang problema is they don't know nga din kung ano yung border so 'di ba. For both the cosplayers, para maiwasan nila and yung congoers sino bang gusting mahuhuli ng pulis 'di ba? Kung-

Elisha: Yeah

Lulu: I mean kung hindi mo alam 'di ba. I mean merong mga nananadya pero yung kapag hindi mo sinasadya na ano na-security guard ka "I didn't know" mga ganon.'Di

ba? It would really be really bad PR din doon sa organizers so I think it's really go-better if they do start a campaign about the education ng what is considered. Actually very [inaudible] ano yung sexual harassment. Sexual harassment duh pero I mean sa panahon talaga ngayon, medyo- kailangan na talaga- kailangan nang i-spelling sa mga tao

Elisha: Yeah

Lulu: Ganon. Uhh yung isa pang side is dun sa cosplayers mismo. Kasi may- I-nabanggit ko 'to dun sa form na finill-up-an ko kasi yung mga recent na mga at least doon sa friends ko, Nakita ko meron silang parang Cosplay is Not Consent. Meron silang pino- pinost sa social media na para siyang checklist-

Elisha: Yeah

Bernice: Mhmm

Lulu: Na listahan and then nakalagay "Cosplay is Not Consent. What is considered okay if you ask, what is considered uhh not okay but may be you can try" parang ganon. Tapos yung third is "No" parang ganon. So I feel like uhh- ang- uhh paano ba- dahil nga depende sa person kung gaano siya ka-comfortable with other people diba. So I feel like maganda siyang- paano ba- parang movement na parang sabihin mo 'pag may cosplayer tapos naka-pin yon sa ano- naka-pin na yon don sa timeline mo forever

Elisha: Maybe a badge

Lulu: Oo so kahit na sino mang person yung ano- supposedly at least if kilala ka nila, alam nila yung boundaries mo. Kasi mahirap naman ding hulaan every time.

Halimbawa, iba- iba yung boundaries mo sa mga friends. Kapag may friend ako na kapag nakita ko niyakap ako, matutuwa ako. 'Di ba? Pero kapag meron nang random person yumakap sa akin, iba yon. 'Di ba? So I feel like sana mas ano- parang ang- okay siya sa akin na ano- na publicity mhmm ano ba [inaudible] Cosplay is Not Consent na yun nga. This is what's good for me. What is ano- not- ganon. So I feel like very useful siya parang ganon. Pero hindi ko- kasi- parang dalawang tao lang yung nakikita ko, at least sa friends ko. Dalawa, tatlo lang yung nakikita kong gumawa nung form na yon. So parang feeling ko if more people do it, bukod sa syempre sa mga makakabasa, malalaman nila "Ahh considered na palagng harassment if I do this". I mean kung sa kanila hindi nila alam. Lakas ah- sorry. Uhm so yun, I feel like it'll really help don sa- to educating everyone else and yung mismong cosplayers din kasi syempre 'pag nabasa nila, lalo na yung mga mas bata. Syempre mas onti pa yung na-i-imagine nila. So 'pag nabasa nila, "sabi ni senpai ganto, bawal yung ganto" 'di ba? So I feel like yun yung pinaka-main na uhh paano ba- recommendations? If gus- if mas maging effective yung movement ng Cosplay is Not Consent. Ayun

Elisha: Thank you so much. That was really insightful po. [inaudible] I've only seen one friend do that

Lulu: Yeah hindi siya ganon ka-ano nga, hindi siya ganon ka- ginagawa ng lahat. Siguro kasi na-aw-awkward-an din sila 'pag hindi kasi ginawa ng lahat, parang ang arte mo.

Actually na na-feel ko siya na parang ano- parang may mga nagko-comment baka may mag-comment na ano- parang- alam mo yung mga Pilipino kasi minsan parang “Ganda mo ah” mga ganon. Feeling ko kapag may nag-comment ng ganon, baka sunugin ko siya ganon. Sorry. Sorry sa words ko pero I mean you know- I feel like sana mas maging acceptable siya socially. Set boundaries- set personal boundaries. So yun Elisha: Thank you so much po so just as a closing question, is there anything else that you might want to add regarding this topic po?

Lulu: Uhm wala naman na. I feel like natanong niyo na pati yung mga hindi ko- kasi nga ayun nga din. Ano- I haven't attended cons this year so wala akong new insights about what's happening [inaudible] sa mga online stuff na may mga hinuhuli ng pulis. So uhh ay yun ng apala nakalimutan ko i-ask kasi may nabasa ako dun sa consent form about-consent form nga 'to. Uhh about if sakaling i-quo-quote niyo ako or something

Elisha: Yeah it's okay. Yeah we can use pseudonyms po if you-

Lulu: Yeah yeah kasi yung nakalagay kong pangalan sa consent form yung real name ko

Elisha: Yeah

Lulu: Dito nga sa recording niyo, mukha ko yan at [inaudible] at college ko

Elisha: [Inaudible] transcript lang naman po

Lulu: Yeah if ever na lang yung name na gamitin is yung-

Elisha: Is yung sa form?

Lulu: Ahh no. Ahh yung yung- yung original na Gform kasi- I mean yung initial na Gform noon? Last month I think. Ang nilagay ko kasing name ko don is Lulu kasi yung name ko right now- yung real name ko which is nasa consent form ay real name ko and I'm pretty sure kapag si-nearch mo yan, dalawang tao lang sa Facebook yung lalabas

Elisha: Okay so ano pong pseudonym yung gusto niyong ilagay namin sa-

Lulu: Pwede naman yung Lulu Noel. Basta yung first name ko kasi is really really really unique

Elisha: We can put siguro Lulu lang po para wala nang-

Lulu: Ayun pwede yeah if you don't need my ano my- surname, just put Lulu

Elisha: Yeah sige. Thank you so much po

Lulu: Thank you

Elisha: Last question. Kung may concerns po kayo na parang maybe you realized na gusto niyong i-off the record dito sa discussion, pwede niyo po kaming i-contact ahh antayin namin

Lulu: Ahh okay i-e-ex- meron lang akong babanggitin. Hindi ko kasi sure if dapat kasi- well nag-pandemic kasi pero dati kasi- I mean paano ba- hindi ko kasi sure kung gaano ka laganap yung Cosplay is Not Consent sa ibang bansa and before- before kasi is may mga foreigners na uma-attend ng cosplay conventions

Elisha: Ah yeah [inaudible]

Lulu: 'Di ba? I'm not sure kasi if may mga uma-attend pa ngayon. Hindi ko na- dahil hindi na ako pumunta, yung mga friends ko rin na foreigner nasa Japan, wherever kung nasaan man [inaudible]. So I feel like hindi naman sila pupunta sa Pilipinas para um-attend ng con pero i-share ko lang yung experience ko. Hindi ko kasi alam kung gaano ka-ano sa kanila yung Cosplay is Not Consent and stuff like that pero kasi nga- paano ba- Meron din language barrier. Definitely. 'Di ba?

Elisha: Ahh gets

Lulu: Yeah even if you try to explain

Elisha: [inaudible]

Lulu: 'Di ba? Iba rin yung culture nila probably. Halimbawa kasi I have no idea. Kasi yung nabanggit ko doon sa form na experience ko, that was four Korean guys so one of them probably speaks English kasi he can ask me. So ayon medyo, yung- yung feeling ko noon was like- that was way back 2015? Probably. 2014, 2015. So yung damit ko noon, let's just say, not very damit. hindi naman, Jinx ng LOL. So-

Elisha: Ahh okay

Lulu: So paano ba- mmmm so yun. I mean yung feeling ko nung panahon na yon, let's just get over it so ganon

Elisha: [inaudible]

Lulu: kasi I don't know how to tell them

Elisha: Yeah

Lulu: Yeah na uncomfortable ako doon sa ano- sa [inaudible] and stuff like that. So I have no idea if it will help yung ano niyo

Elisha: Sa foreigners

Lulu: Ahh oo pero may ganong aspect din na it would be hard to communicate due to the language barrier na different culture about this movement. Ayon

Bernice: That's a nice insight po

Elisha: Yeah that's a nice insight po. So far, wala pang nagsasabi non. There's a bit commonality doon sa other aspect. Thank you for that additional

Lulu: Oo kasi nga [inaudible] mas recent yung mga na-interview niyo na may experience and stuff like that

Elisha: Yeah

Lulu: 'Cos I told you I'm very old and I've been cosplaying since 2012

Elisha: So yeah I've also noticed nga na pre-pandemic yung mga ibang- common yung Japanese na-

Lulu: Yeah yeah na talagang they attend and they go around everywhere. Sa recent kasi I have no idea if they still-

Elisha: Parang hindi ko nga napansin. Yeah

Lulu: 'Di ba? Hindi mo na siya mapapansin. Dati kasi they go around in [inaudible] syempre magkakasa- nagkakaintindihan. Magkakasama sila mga ganon. Yeah. It's fine



naman as long as they understand English. It's really hard if not. So ayun, pwede niyo na lang sigurong i-take consideration yung foreign aspect nung movement

Elisha: Thank you so much for that kasi yeah within the Philippines naman na convention

Lulu: Yeah

Elisha: So that's all lang po. If there's- yeah if there's other concerns, pwede niyo naman po kaming i-email [inaudible]

Bernice: [inaudible] off the record lang talaga

**Interviewee: “Mint” (Cosplayer)**

Date and time: Thursday, July 27, 7:30 pm

Location: Online Google Meet

Elisha: So for introduction, thank you so much for accepting to be interviewed. The reason we're doing this interview is because we found that there is a very big lack of studies conducted in the Philippines regarding cosplay and we noticed that the hobby is becoming very popular so we wanted to kind of document and gather data on the current space of the cosplay community and how safe it is in conventions. So starting with our first question, how long have you've been attending conventions?

Mint: Uhm I've been attending since 2019 so that's uhh 4 years? 4 years? Yeah- 19 20 21. 5 years sorry it's been 5 years.

Elisha: 5 years

Mint: Yeah

Bernice: How many conventions have you attended thus far?

Mint: Oh no. Uhm I think uhh maybe around 10? And 10 or more? Maybe around 10-15 conventions. Yeah

Elisha: Okay thank you! So for our next question, what do you know of the current anti-harassment campaigns in the local conventions in the Philippines?

Mint: Mhmm uhh well it's being implemented in a lot of conventions especially since uhh a lot of cosplayers are getting into the hobby of cosplaying so uhh it's- it's a big thing that uhh anti-harassment should be observed although, I don't think it's being implemented a lot. Uh or at least actively as what the conventions have been advertising. Uhm yes they do post about it but it's not exactly as observed as they think it is. Uhm it happens a lot more than I guess the organizers would think or a lot more than what the attendees think? Uhm unless you're in the cosplay community, you really wouldn't know the depth of how harassment happens. Uhh you just get to know it if you're in certain circles or certain Facebook groups since call out culture is very adamant in the community. Yeah it- it's implemented but it's not as actively implemented in the community and in conventions

Elisha: okay thank you. So in regards and relation to that question, what do you think of the campaign like the way it communicates its message to the target audience and its tone?

Mint: It's very straightforward like uhm Cosplay is Not Consent. It's very straightforward. Just because someone is cosplaying someone no matter how bold or how [inaudible] or how out there the cosplay is unless you get their consent, you're not allowed to do anything to them since they're still someone so the very first thing you should do is ask for consent. Uhm it's very straightforward but I think a lot of people would find a lot of loopholes in it especially yeah uhm the excuse of they're just being friendly, they're just being in character so they should do this and that. Uhm there's a lot of loopholes that

people find with cosplayers and since they're cosplayers, they have to deliver. That's what they think uhm but there's- they usually forget the idea that they're still another person. They're just in costume. Uhm so those loopholes are very dangerous uhh especially to the cosplayer themselves especially if they're a beginner since uhm the mindset is they want to deliver. They want to be in character as much as possible to the point that they forget the idea that they need consent to do it. Uhm yea it's straightforward but it's not as effective as they think uhh since there's a lot of loopholes in it yeah

Elisha: Thank you for that answer. That's very insightful. So for our next question-

Bernice: When did you become aware of Cosplay is not Consent?

Mint: Uhh as soon as I got into conventions. Uhhh since uhh when I got into conventions, I'm actually in the Artist Alley until now.

Elisha: Ohh

Mint: So I didn't get into cosplay until 2020 post pandemic. Uhm but the idea of consent is already very adamant in Artist Alley since you shouldn't touch someone's stuff without consent or you shouldn't take pictures without consent. It's already how do you call it- it's like a common etiquette so when it happened with uhh when I got introduced to the same thing in the cosplay community it's like nothing new. Yeah consent shouldn't be something new. It should be common sense so it wasn't really that surprising that Cosplay is Not Consent is a thing since it should be even without saying since uhh everything should have consent. Uhm uhh yea it wasn't anything new but the way how people tackle it was kind of new to me since they like to find excuses like "Oh yeah Cosplay is Not Consent, but-". There's always the but which is annoying [inaudible] I never heard that in the Artist Alley. It's like you shouldn't take pictures. There's no but or you shouldn't touch my stuff, there's no but or unless. Something like that. So it's a first that I heard it in the cosplay community. It's very different

Elisha: That's very interesting to know those differences

Mint: Yeah

Elisha: For the next question, what is your understanding of Cosplay is Not Consent and its policies? The policies you've seen advertised in conventions

Mint: Okay uhm with conventions uhh Cosplay is Not Consent is the usual you shouldn't touch, you shouldn't be inappropriate, you shouldn't take pictures without consent. The usual thing. Uhm but when you dwell in further it's like uhh you should- there's a lot more "you should not" and "you shoulds". For example, you should not touch someone's props without asking or you shouldn't take pictures of someone without asking. Even though you're a photographer, even if you're in the media, you should still ask. Uhm or you shouldn't uhh the touchy poses like swinging an arm around your shoulder or holding hands you should still ask. Uhh when I got into the cosplay community I already knew that but it was surprising to hear that some people were like "Oh I should ask?" or something like that since uhm people thought na "Oh they're in character" so they treat

them like the characters especially uhm how do you call it. Characters that are known in the community that are very fanservice-y like they-

Elisha: Yeah yeah

Mint: It's so surprising that they'd suddenly just touch them inappropriately because they're in character. It's like why are you doing that? Just because they're in a costume like you don't see someone in a doctor's costume and expect them to be a doctor actually. It's like they're just in a costume even though- no matter how revealing or how fanservice-y they are, you should still ask. Uhm I think the policy could use a lot more specifics since uhh a lot of people [inaudible] spoonfed and they like to find excuses nga. Uhm so they should really cover a lot more aside from the no touching, you should always ask, no pictures without consent sort of thing. Uhh I think they can dwell into more like you should speak politely or you should be respectful of other's boundaries since there are instances that cosplayers will be forced to do stuff without their consent and or they're just so shy- they're just too- how do you call it- they're just too- uhh how do you call it

Elisha: Shy or [inaudible]

Mint: Something like that. Yeah

Elisha: [inaudible] Yeah nervous

Mint: Yeah they're kind of shy or nervous to speak up or decline cos especially for first time cosplayers since everything is new. They're too shy too afraid to say no. Uhh yeah so there should be an implementation not only for non-cosplayers or just typical convention goers but maybe also for the cosplayers just ot know what their boundaries are like you could say no. There's no need to be shy. You can say no. You can decline. It's not the end of the world if you decline. Something like that yeah.

Elisha: Thank you! That's very nice and insightful especially for our topic so

Mint: [inaudible]

Elisha: So next question.

Bernice: How often do you see signs of Cosplay is not Consent within conventions that you attend?

Mint: I actually have not seen it physically

Elisha: Really?

Mint: I've only seen it online like in announcements. Usually a day before the convention uhm the organizer will post Cosplay is Not Consent posts but I never really physically saw a sign that says Cosplay is Not Consent which is kind of weird but also sort of oh-sort of understandable since uhm the signs that you usually see in the cosplay is usually for the ushers. Where to go. What to do next. There's never really a reminder that you should not do this or that even in their pull up banner or even the brochure they hand, there's no Cosplay is Not Consent. I've- personally I've never seen one but it's very adamant online. It's just like an online reminder which I don't think it's enough especially with newbies. Again, with those people who want to find an excuse. I think they could

use a lot more physical material just to have something physical to say “Hey! Cosplay is Not Consent” because you can’t just pull out your phone and just go “The organizers posted this”. It’s nice to have a physical reminder uhh just to be spoonfed or just to be reminded on the spot that this should be done. Yeah

Elisha: So thank you. So uhm in relation to that, out of all the conventions you have attended, how many of these promoted Cosplay is not Consent? Even if just online?

Mint: Uhm mhm I think I’ve seen two main organizers uhh that post the Cosplay is Not Consent. One of them being Cosph- cosplayph. All of their conventions, every time there’s a new convention under them, you will always find a post that says Cosplay is Not Consent. And then the other one is uhm how is it? Otaku Fest Ozine Fest I think? Either of the two. They also post that. Although I’ve only seen it once or twice. I’m not sure if they still post that but I’ve seen one of them uhm one of them post it under one of their events. I think last year or this year. I’ve only seen two actually. I haven’t seen it anywhere else. Just those two so it’s very rare but at the same time, since there- since there’s not really a lot of cosplay organizers- cosplay events that isn’t under those two companies, I think that’s why. So yeah it’s just them two.

Bernice: What mediums do these Cosplay is not Consent present themselves as?  
[inaudible]

Mint: Sadly, it’s only posts. Frustrating it’s uhm disappointing but it’s only online posts. I really hope they do put it in physical materials like brochures or even flyers cos it’s really not that hard. Uhm although I’ve seen it being vocally advertised on the event itself. No physical material. They just announce it on stage. Uhh at random times. In random times or if someone reports it cos that happens in conventions. Someone reports it and then one of the organizers, one of the staff would go on stage and then remind them “Reminders to our congoers: Cosplay is Not Consent” something like that. But that’s it and it’s just in random bursts of time throughout the event so sometime you won’t even get to hear it unless you’re listening to it cos if you go to a convention, it’s super loud. The music is blaring so you won’t even hear the announcer unless the music cuts so it’s kind of useless like they announce it random [inaudible] sure it’s a lot of announcements but you don’t get to hear it so it’s kind of- what’s the point? Something like that. At least they’re trying. Sure but is it really trying? Something like that. Yeah but yeah uhh I think that’s about it. I hear it a lot more on congoers which is nice. The community is very aware of it. Those outside of the community however are not so it’s nice to actually hear the community yell “Cosplay is Not Consent. Cosplay is Not Consent. Wait lang po” Mga ganon. Uhh so yeah it’s either the community, the staff, or the posts online. That’s [inaudible]. That’s where I get it

Elisha: Okay thank you so much for that. So on which mediums did you become most aware of these Cosplay is not Consent? Was it just through online like you said?

Mint: Mhmm yeah. In the cosplay community, I learned about it online since the conventions posted it a lot, but the whole consent thing, I already knew it during- when I

first started boothing in the Artist Alley. It wasn't exactly through a post. It's more of like a word of mouth like uhm you- something like- something that you get to learn the more you booth in a convention. Since you get to know the rules a lot better. So it's more of like a word of mouth and then I learn it through online posts. Yeah that's about it.

Bernice: Do you think the current state of Cosplay is not Consent are doing enough to stop harassment during conventions? Why or why not?

Mint: Oh absolutely not. No. A big no. Uhm because again I think I said it earlier uhm the Cosplay is Not Consent isn't enough to remind everyone. I think the staff thinks it's enough but if you get into the community a lot deeper or you still in it a little bit longer, people find ways to- uh how do you call it- to be trash outside of a convention like- especially in the cosplay community. Once you get connections, once you build connections or once you exchange social media handles uhh that's actually a bridge for harassment already. Uhm once you start being friends uhh someone is bound to step their boundaries over and that's where the harassment gets and then you get the call out posts. Uhm that's why it's kind of- it's sad to say but it's kind of normal to suddenly see call out posts from cosplayers calling out other cosplayers so it's within the community. The problem is within the community it's [inaudible]. Cosplayers, photographers, even normal cosplay convention goers. Even in the Artist Alley table, harassment happens. Uhm especially since uhh online platforms is very prevalent in the community. It's very how do you call it- the community is dependent on online platforms so harassments happen a lot more in that. It goes deeper and a lot of things happen more frequently within those spaces that I don't think the organizers are aware of- of conventions they're not aware of. Uhh you only get to be aware of these issues once you get into the community in itself. Like you get to hear these stories from other cosplayers, other convention goers uhh issues like the usual- the cyber harassment uhm stalking uhm overstepping boundaries uhh even uhh how do you call it- sexual harassment sort of things. Anything and everything under the sun to be honest. It even reaches points where they report each other to the barangays. It gets that serious

Elisha: Really?

Mint: Yeah. It gets serious. The police reports happen, barangay reports happen, and to think that this only happens because it started from cosplaying or they met in conventions so it goes so deep that it's surprising like I thought we're just here to bond over costumes and play characters. Why are we suddenly reporting each other to the police? Something like that. It goes super deep to the point that people are actually getting banned from conventions because of this.

Elisha: Mhm yeah

Mint: I think I've already heard about 3 incidents not only in the Philippines ha. They're banned internationally

Elisha: Really? Probably because of [inaudible]

Mint: Yeah I think it's also because these people find ways to go in international conventions because their favorite cosplayer is there or something like that and they already have a reputation in the Philippines so they warn people who go abroad about the- these people to the point the organizers hear it and then they banned them. So they're not allowed to step foot in those conventions as soon as the organizers say they're not allowed. Although of course they will still find loopholes. They will not step in the inau dconvention but they will roam around the event center so it's- it's troublesome. It's weird. It's frustrating so yeah. The Cosplay is Not Consent movement- it's good uh it's nice that it's out there but it's not doing enough

Elisha: Yeah. Okay so thank you so much. That was so insightful. Uhm so for our last question, how do you want Cosplay is Not Consent or any anti-sexual harassment campaign be implemented or improved?

Mint: Mhmm uhh I think one- uh physical materials could be a lot of help since people would still rea them so brochures, flyers. If it looks pretty, people are bound to read it or at least look at it. So I guess it's just about strategy and how to make people look at it longer so physical materials are definitely a help. Mhm next I think uhh organizers could start uhh listening to the cosplay community on- about these issues like I think a lot of people raise concerns about it. I think every event I hear people raising concerns about uhh consent issues or harassment issues and I don't think the cos- the convention listens enough. Uhh they do things yeah they implement things but it's not exactly sufficient so I think they can start with that. By listening to the community or at least getting representatives from the community because I- I think everyone knows the issues. Someone just needs to speak out about it. Uhh well they do speak up but speak up a bit better about it or make the conventions understand. To make the convention a safe space for everyone. Mhmm then next I think the movement of banning people is actually good. I believe that not all people are how do you call it- are- are- allowed to step in a community once they're deemed to be unsafe uhh to the community itself. So uhh even if they're photographers or big time influencers or even a staff or a very loyal convention goer. I think that shouldn't be a standard whether they should or should not attend the event. If they did something bad, they should be given action. Due action so maybe banning them is already good but I think they could go a bit better in protecting. I don't know how but I think making the place a bit more safer for everyone is the right step to do. Banning is already a good move. I think there could be more better- uhh there could be better moves about it although I'm not sure how since I'm not very aware on how organziers do things. Uhh maybe oh there's also another thing where people post these uhh these people and then submit it to the organizers so I think that's also a good move so they're actually getting more aware of who to ban and where to ban them. I think cosplay.ph is already doing this. Oh no sorry not cosplay.ph. A convention in Cebu I think I forgot the name uhh but they are already banning people since uhh there are actually dangers in the community since they do stalking, they do

harassments, they do cyber harassments and a lot of cosplayers are already being targeted by it. Uhm and then I think uhh as simple as it sounds, reiterate uhm what consent actually is. What should be done, what shouldn't be done. Although it's very repetitive and simple, there's no harm in reiterating it again to everyone since with every convention happening, the community grows bigger and bigger so a lot more people actually join the community and those new people aren't very aware of the convention etiquettes yet so maybe- uhm reintroducing these etiquettes to them could be helpful, could be a good start. Uhm I think that's about it yeah

Elisha: Thank you so much for your answers. Those were so insightful

Mint: Thank you

Elisha: Are there any ano- Is there any like requests you have, any concerns? Are you okay using your real name or would you like your pseudonym to be used for our study

Mint: Oh you can uhh use my name yeah the pseudo- uhh have I provided the pseudonym ba? Uhh I'm not sure. We can ask our group pero if ever just to reclarify. What pseudonym would you like? Umm Mint would be okay like the herb Mint yeah

Elisha: Okay

Mint: That would be good

Elisha: Sige thank you!



**Interviewee: “Skwid” (Cosplayer)**

Date and time: Friday, July 21, 8:30 pm

Location: Online Google Meet

Bernice: So ayan, it's recording na. So, to reintroduce lang

Skwid: Hello

Bernice: Skwid, I'm Bernice and- Elisha

Elisha: I'm Elisha

Bernice: We will be your interviewers today. Yehey!

Skwid: Yay!

Bernice: So, for the transcript. Can you give a short introduction lang muna for yourself?

Skwid: Um my name is Skwid. I cosplay as a hobby. Um as a cosplayer, my name is

Skwid and I don't know, I've been attending conventions for more than a year now. Yeah

Bernice: Cool

Skwid: That's all I can say. Yay!

Elisha: Thank you so much so ironically. So [inaudible]. So that was actually our first question. It was how long have you've been attending conventions

Skwid: Oh

Bernice: She basically answered the question

Skwid: Yea, yun nay un

Elisha: Yes

Bernice: So moving on, ano na so within your 1 year experience. How many conventions have you attended?

Skwid: I should have counted. Um

Bernice: Kahit estimate. Kahit estimate lang

Skwid: I think more than 5? I think

Bernice: Omg that's a lot

Skwid: Yea! Yea

Bernice: That's a lot that you've attended this year

Skwid: Tama ba? Cos there was two carnivals and there was an otaku one. I don't know what it's called and there was conquest this year

Elisha: Oh my god! What [inaudible] did you go?

Skwid: Yeah. So bad but there was ACX last year. Yes so more or less five

Elisha: Five

Skwid: There's also like MCS and Davao Pop Culture in Davao. Yeah more than 5

Elisha: So it's a lot

Skwid: [inaudible] it's a lot

Elisha: Thank you! So, next question is, what do you know of the current anti-harassment campaign/s in local conventions in the Philippines?

Skwid: The ones that I know is just the Cosplay is Not Consent. Actually don't know anything else. I don't know if they made newer ones or if there are old ones that existed. If there are naman, they're not well um well-posted, well I don't know. Basta 'di nila hmp- they're not educating the newcomers like me about the regulations that exist

Bernice: So ayun nga, more in depth, what do you think sa campaign na yon? Paano niya cinocommunicate yung message niya sa mga target na dapat ma-educate? Pati yung

Elisha: What are your thoughts on the current like status of Cosplay is Not Consent movement in conventions?

Bernice: Yeah

Skwid: I think it is what it is. I don't know what else to add besides um. Actually I do feel na not just cosplay but dressing up for any type of thing. But I know cos it's cons. Yun yun. But in light also for the congoers that like to dress up um a little bit more showy. At least you know dressing up this way is not consent ganon. But I think it's like supposed to be common sense. Dude that's crazy. How people can't even do it ay think about it with their common sense? Kailangan pa naming sabihin which is kinda sad. Yeah.

That's all I can say about that

Elisha: Thank you! When did you become aware of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement?

Skwid: When I started attending cons for sure cos I see ano yung mga cosph post about it. I think Ozone also posted about it. The organizers of Animezing probably posted about it. All of the events, whenever they're like hyping their con, they always have this follow up posts like "Oh Cosplay is Not Consent, oh here are our guests and judges" Yeah they usually do that but like going to a con specifically, you don't really see the signs. I don't know if it's important to put the sign there. I don't know but yeah

Bernice: So dahil nga puro signs, parang base don, ano yung- what is your understanding of Cosplay is Not Consent like what are they trying to achieve with it? Based for you?

Skwid: They're trying to achieve minimizing any harassments that could happen between dudes and congoers. Not just dudes I guess maybe some other females who have no boundaries as well. It's to establish boundaries, basic boundaries. It's to minimize harassment that could happen in conventions. Um yeah I think it's just educating people who don't understand basic boundaries.

Elisha: Thank you so how often do you see signs of Cosplay is not Consent within conventions that you attend?

Skwid: Um me like right before conventions as a- as like ano ba reminder ganon when they post

Elisha: Mmm [inaudible]

Skwid: When they post like yeah only on Facebook and social media

Elisha: To... Facebook and social media?

Skwid: Oo, usually Facebook lang talaga. I don't see it on Instagram. I also see cosplayers remind people as well. They have like this post. Yung um- I think it's like the consent form thing.

Elisha: Checklist? Yeah [inaudible]

Skwid: Check list. Yeah that one. They usually post that to like remind their followers like these are my boundaries and stuff like that. Yeah. Not so frequent I guess. Not on an everyday basis but a lot of cosplayers talk about it and when there's one person that opposes. They're like cancelled immediately.

Elisha: Yeah

Bernice: I mean yeah

Skwid: Yeah

Bernice: So parang since you've attended a lot of cons, out of all these cons, how many or can you name which one of these cons has the Cosplay is Not Consent like the signs or posts about it?

Skwid: Um- from my memory I saw from Cosph and CONQUEST. Not physical signs but like Facebook posts

Elisha: Did you see like CONQUEST do it this year or like was that from last year? [inaudible]

Skwid: Conquest?

Elisha: Yeah

Skwid: This year this year definitely. Last year I'm not sure cos I didn't go to CONQUEST last year so I wasn't really following their posts but I think it's like an obligation for organizers to post

Elisha: Yeah

Bernice: Yeah, especially for cosplay centric events

Skwid: Mm-hmm

Elisha: Cosplay.ph I've noticed for past like several years it's really [inaudible] yeah

Skwid: That's great. Good for them

Elisha: Mm-hmm. So, okay so, what mediums do these Cosplay is Not Consent present themselves as? Like are those guidelines

Skwid: Oh guidelines

Elisha: Or are they just reminders?

Skwid: Yeah it's

Elisha: How do they present themselves?

Skwid: Cosplay is Not Consent. Pak! Yun na yun. Like one Facebook post. They like design it and then that's the only content in it. Yeah. It's a reminder for sure

Bernice: Yes, mostly a reminder. So sa lahat ng mediums that they post about it, which one did you become most aware like which one is more effective to you na nalaman mo na yeah Cosplay is Not Consent yon the reminder

Skwid: I think Facebook. That's the only place I saw it. It's true

Bernice: They constantly post about it

Skwid: Yeah and then I don't use Twitter. I'm pretty sure there's like a lot of that on Twitter not to like. The organizers posting it as well as cosplayers ranting about it. There's also like Facebook rants about it like people who cross that reminder. Um- but yeah I only saw on Facebook.

Elisha: Okay so last question is. Well last question here. Do you think the current state of Cosplay is not Consent are doing enough to stop harassment during conventions? Why or why not?

Skwid: I honestly don't know. It's enough in terms of like educating people but when once you get harassed in a con and you like tell this guard, the guard will always firstly ask for proof and like how are you gonna

Elisha: Yeah how would you

Skwid: How are you gonna you know. The only way to defend yourself at that point is to post about it on Facebook and a lot of people are just gonna like empathize with you and probably like call the attention of the guards that's the closest you can get. I also don't recommend guards acting agad cos then some people would abuse the fact that you could just go to guards and say this person harassed me even though they didn't. So I don't really know. In terms of like pushing the idea, I think a lot of the cosplayers are already knowledgeable about it so just the phrase existing and a lot of people knowing what it means is essentially enough. Yeah

Elisha: Okay so that's all. Any other insights on the topic? Maybe you like things you want strengthened or implemented etc.

Skwid: Honestly I don't know maybe like add more guards to watch people. Not just enforce rules but to supervise to like. Look at what's happening cos you know maybe they could catch it like other cosplayer catch other people being harassed sometimes. Maybe. Like maybe they should put like posts to just stand in parang CAT ganon.

Kawawa sila pero you know it's for the safety of the congoers also. I think ano rin, it usually happens in free cons, not as much in paid cons from what I've experienced kasi it's the free cons na parang the normies are there, the people who don't really understand the cosplay culture.

Elisha: Mm-hmm, really?

Skwid: The people who probably haven't even heard of the cosplay consent thing

Elisha: Yeah, awareness

Skwid: Yes cos I know a lot of people from outside the cosplay community don't know. Tapos if you go to a free con, you will be exposed to these people who don't know anything about cosplay who think that cosplay is like a kink or you know, all the stereotypes from [inaudible]

Elisha: Yeah

Skwid: Yeah yun lang yung ano ko. It's sad in free cons. You really get what you pay for

Elisha: Oh in addition to that, would you like- would you like a copy or maybe like a— would you like a copy of the results kasi. We're asking this as additional ano kasi we have seen responses in our survey that people kind of want to see the results of our survey

Skwid: pwede

Elisha: Would you guys- would you prefer that we kind of like make a separate one that we're allowed to share so you can see what other people say or like so you can

Skwid: I think- alright

Elisha: gauge the current status of the cosplay community

Skwid: Yea I think that would be nice. It would also be nice to raise awareness whatever data you get. Yeah

Bernice: Yeah

Elisha: Okay. Thank you so much!

Bernice: Thank you!

Skwid: Thank you!

Bernice: I'll stop the recording na

Skwid: Yehey!

**Interviewee: Flora (Cosplayer)**

Date and time: Saturday, July 29, 2023, 2:00 PM

Location: Online Google Meet

Elisha: Okay, so for introduction then hello I'm Elisha and this is Burns and we are students from uhm Benilde. So this- for our thesis, the reason why we began this is because uhm ang dami ngang pumapasok. Uhm there's a lot of people coming into the cosplay hobby and we noticed that there has been a large spike of people attending conventions starting after the pandemic so because of that we want to raise awareness of the potential dangers of cosplaying during conventions and we kind of want to warn newcomers about what is- those potential dangers. As well as for congoers, we want to potentially educate them on the ethics that they might not know exist in these conventions. So to start with, for our first question, how long have you've been attending conventions?

Flora: Ano- since CONQUEST 2022

Elisha: Ah okay

Bernice: Uhh okay for our next question, can you give how many conventions you have attended thus far? Like even just a rough estimate

Flora: Ano, I'm not sure if counted yung ibang napuntahan ko pero if convention talaga, it's 3 which is yung dalawang CONQUEST, yung last year and this year. Sak ayung ESGS

Elisha: Mhmm okay. So thank you for that. So for our next question, what do you know of the current anti-harassment campaigns in local conventions here in the Philippines?

Flora: Ano, I am mostly aware of it online than in local conventions

Elisha: Tapos yeah, to follow up with that, what do you think of like the campaign, the way it's being communicated tuwing conventions?

Flora: Ano, hindi ko siya nakikita sa local conventions mismo kasi more on online siya through online posts. So yung mga nakikita ko is they tend to do this type of specific-specific posts wherein ano yung mga pwedeng what do you call this? Ano yung mga pwedeng permissions bago gawin ito sa isang cosplayer like ito yung specific na okay lang sa cosplayer and all of that

Elisha: Thank you for that. So for our next question-

Bernice: Uhh are you aware of Cosplay is Not Consent and when did you become aware if you are?

Flora: Ano, last year lang rin so through online post, through the- mga mutuals ko na cosplayers ayon.

Elisha: Mhmm okay so what is your understanding of Cosplay is Not Consent and its policies?

Flora: Ano, it's most like about permissions like yung sabi kanina na kung ano yung pwede lang sa cosplayers na 'to at saka kung hanggang saan yung pinaka-limit na bawal sa kanila

Bernice: So for our next question, how often do you see signs of Cosplay is Not Consent within the conventions which you have attended?

Flora: Actually never pa akong nakakita

Elisha: [inaudible]

Flora: [inaudible] sa mga napuntahan ko

Elisha: So out of- okay na-answer na to pero out of all the conventions that you have attended, how many of these do you think uhm promoted Cosplay is Not Consent?

Flora: Ano, none [inaudible]

Elisha: It's okay

Bernice: So for the next question, this was also kind of answered already but, other than online platforms, what other mediums do these Cosplay is Not Consent present themselves as?

Flora: Well for me, wala na rin akong nakikitang iba since mostly ayun more on shinishare lang sa akin

Elisha: Mhmm. So uhm on which medium did you become most aware of Cosplay is Not Consent like was it from your official ano or just really shared by mutuals?

Flora: Sharing lang talaga from mutuals pero naglast lang siya for a week or two bago parang natabunan na or 'di na masyadong pinag-uusapan

Bernice: So thank you uhm for our next question, do you think the current state of Cosplay is Not Consent are doing enough to stop misbehavior and sexual harassment in conventions? Why or why not?

Flora: For me, no kasi well based on what I currently know, yung action na ginagawa is mostly spreading awareness which is good pa rin pero kasi convention goers can be aware of it and still do the bad thing

Elisha: Okay so yung for our last question, how would you want Cosplay is Not Consent and other anti-sexual harassment campaigns uhm to be implemented or improved sa conventions?

Flora: I think the management or admins of local conventions should be in the action. Like they can advertise this campaign more both online sa pinaka-platform nila and during conventions like maybe sa mga walls nila or mga nakasabit and etc. Well also stating yung pinaka-consequences na if nahuli sila na ginagawa 'to para pwede rin for example, yung mga staff makapag-report and other convention goers

Elisha: Okay so thank you for that. That was very insightful comments. Meron- uhm do you have any other insights or comments you would like to add about this topic?

Flora: Ano, I was actually going to ask if meron ba talaga sa conventions nangyayari yung Cosplay is Not Consent na campaign? Kasi I think yung naririnig ko pa lang is isa

which is I'm not sure if it's Cosmania or Cosplay Carnival but they were able to ban a certain photographer if-

Elisha: Mhmm

Flora: Yun

Elisha: Okay thank you for that! Last question related naman uhm to you and this study, would you like to use a pseudonym for our study like kung you know what name would you like us to use para sa paper? Kasi ittranscribe namin yung interview

Flora: Oh

Elisha: Yeah

Flora: Uhm kahit anong pseudonym na lang

Elisha: Sige sige. Okay thank you! That is all. I'll stop recording it na



## Interviewees: Miss Lizette and “Gregory” (Organizers)

Date and time: Saturday, July 22, 2:30 PM

Location: Online Google Meet

Elisha: So, our first question is, How long have you been under the pop culture convention scene within the Philippines?

Miss Lizette: Hm I started pop culture events in 2016 and I've been in the business for more than 13 years I think. I've been doing this for quite a while. I started with ABS-CBN [inaudible]. I guess you were not alive back then so I could see the question marks on your faces about [inaudible]- but yes I started with [inaudible] and early years of PGF. That's the Philippine Gaming. We started in Toycon uh 2006 as streamers. We were the first group to stream live conventions such as Toycon so everything that happen on stage, we were the ones handling them. And then 2008- 2007- yeah 2008-2009 we were given the task of organizing events in Toycon. From there, we moved from Toycon, best of Anime, PGF, ESGS, and other events so yeah since 2006 to present.

Elisha: Okay so thank you. So for our next question

Bernice: So can you give a rough estimate of how many conventions how many conventions you have organized so far?

Miss Lizette: Mhmm from 2006, already organized more than 30 pop culture events. That's outside anime and uhm toys also

Elisha: So thank you. For our next question, what do you know of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement?

Miss Lizette: Uhm from what I've heard and what we've discussed in the group. It started in SDC, San Diego Comic Con where cosplayers uhm- were really adamant about people harassing them during convention and we also have that call in the Philippines, but it's not as uhm spread [inaudible] Philippines unlike in the U.S. because in the Philippines, it's an individual advocacy actually. There are a few groups that push for awareness on this topic but it's really- it's not as known in the Philippines. Yeah there are female cosplayers who mention once in a while but you won't hear about it that often.

Bernice: Thank you po. So for our next question, when did you become aware of Cosplay is Not Consent?

Miss Lizette: Uhh locally ah- when. Okay you mean Cosplay is Not Consent as a movement?

Bernice: Yes, the movement po

Miss Lizette: [inaudible] recently. Uhh 2019. 2019 yeah. There were already talks in our group specifically Toycon when uhm when [inaudible] harassment issues. Uhm especially for those outside conventions uh [inaudible] right? Cos we heard the cosplayers that really stay outside, have their photos taken and it's not really covered by the event itself. We're not legally responsible for it because they're outside of the

convention area. But we've heard about it that because they're outside- because they have less protection, more photographers, more perverts are actually taking advantage of that [inaudible]. We've heard about it. We've heard female cosplayers especially those with very sexy uhm cosplay outfits- they would come to us- they would come to our marshals saying they're harassed, but uh as much as we want to for example- as much as we want to say that uhm we would like to ban the person unless we see it also or unless that person is actually in the premises of our convention [inaudible] we can do. So that's one thing about [inaudible]

Elisha: Okay so for our next question, what is your understanding of this movement like what it's trying to or the guidelines inside it cos we've noticed that this is no longer just about sexual harassment. [inaudible] boundaries nila. So what is your understanding for this movement?

Miss Lizette: Well yun uhh Cosplay is Not Consent as a movement from what I understand is that uhm is that they are allowed to say no especially for those who come to cons who are very persistent on taking their photos. Uhm some harassment issues as mentioned earlier and it's mostly that from what I know.

Bernice: I see so for the next question po, what are your opinions on the current policies being implemented to prevent further misbehaviors and sexual harassment in pop culture conventions.

Miss Lizette: Okay in Toycon or at least in Anime Alliance, because I'm not sure if Sir [inaudible] was able to explain this. We are the ones handling the cosplay events as well as securities inside Toycon so in our group, we have this very strict policy about uhm cosplayers [inaudible]. Always been Anime Alliance Philippines mantra so we know how much they are harassed outside that's why we always take very strict precautions on cosplayers [inaudible]. One- uhm we have- we have a list of known perverts in the pop culture conventions. We have a very extensive list of who they are, who they target, and what are there [inaudible] and this list is exposed to our volunteers on a yearly basis. The list is [inaudible] from time to time and added if you see someone on floor who's [inaudible] doing stuff to cosplayers and then uhm when this is mentioned to the volunteers, this list is also given out to them. So they have a digital copy with them and then when they spot one in the convention, they would uhm inform their immediate supervisors and then escalated to us managers. So you have people who actually follow these known perverts discreetly as much as we can. But if not, we really make it a point that there are marshals roaming around that person so that he doesn't do anything. So that's one thing that we do in Toycon. I'm not sure about other conventions. Uhm but as far as I know, some are also taking precautions with regard to perverts and harassment in the conventions. Uhm based also on our experience, or what we did in the past, we would also- well aside from having a person following them, the known perverts. We also have the police involved at times especially if they are really persistent and would not budge if in case if they are [inaudible] who can escalate

it to the police if in case anything happens beside from you know [inaudible] harassment. Yeah

Elisha: So thank you so much. That was very insightful. For our next question po, do you implement anti-harassment policies in your conventions? If yes, kindly tell us about it

Miss Lizette: Well like what I mentioned earlier, the marshals often call us when someone is spotted in the convention

[Redacted]

Miss Lizette: Uhm there are other [inaudible] pervs also na medyo influential [inaudible] harassers or pervs. That level naman goes up to the organizers. Sa level naming level [inaudible] and the other organizers. Discreetly, ganon din nilalayo naming sila sa [inaudible] we can't really kick them out of the event. Hi Michael

Elisha: Hello po! Good afternoon po

Gregory: I wasn't sure if I was supposed to be in this meeting as well

Miss Lizette: Yes you were supposed to but you were supposed to sign the consent form also. Anyway, I was already telling them- that's okay. I was already telling them about [inaudible] we have this congoer who's well known in the senior level. He's a known perv but again we can't do anything unless somebody wants to comaplain against this person, right?

Gregory: Yeah I'm pretty sure I think I know who you're talking about [inaudible]

Miss Lizette: Yes Sir [inaudible] so they know him

Gregory: Yeah so for us to take any action with regards to something like that, we would actually need some actionable complaint so for our side I handle mostly security for the event. I do uhm VIP management uhm security operations os basically uhm for that particular person, we are monitoring his movements. We're trying to catch him in action, but as long as there's not actionable complaint from anyone or uhm a complaint that we can verify that's actually legitimate, we can't even put them on a list to eject them from the event so

Miss Lizette: I was telling them about our internal list that we have- that we give to our volunteers

Gregory: We do have a list

Bernice: So insightful

Elisha: So thank you so much for that and thank you for protecting us cosplayers cos we weren't aware of yun nga such information. So in relation to that, when and why did your convention start implementing these guidelines and policies [inaudible]

Miss Lizette: I think Michael can [inaudible]

Gregory: In regards to uhm sorry can you repeat the question? I'm so sorry

Miss Lizette: Cosplay [inaudible]

Gregory: So for us with Anime Alliance and when we started Toycon, we've always had the cosplayer first policy [inaudible] so we always uhh put cosplayers first so in part of

that is that with regards to their safety and security, we always uhh give them a separate baggage counter area. We have dedicated people that's on cosplay only. Uhh and our general security are well-aware of how the cosplayers are so you know how in some conventions- in some events that they- I don't want to say harassed but in a sense that some of them are being talked down to by security personnel or by the venue people. So for us, we brief together with the venue to let them like listen these are cosplayers you know that they are also uhh [inaudible] attribute to the event and whether they are registered cosplayers that's gonna be on the stage or not, they bring value to the event so we have to at least protect their interests as well. So uhm our team is always geared up into giving a lot of patience to the cosplayers and we try to make sure that they are accommodated as much as we can uhm to the limits that we can and that they have uhm the best experience that they can get. Yeah so I'm not sure

Bernice: So thank you so much. It's really very uhh reassuring to know that the efforts that you guys go through for cosplayers. So for our last question is what do you think should be done for uhh for movements such as Cosplay is Not Consent or just preventing this behavior and sexual harassment in conventions to be improved in pop culture conventions?

Miss Lizette: [inaudible] the movement [inaudible] Cosplay is Not Consent [inaudible] while it's not very [inaudible] campaign but I think convention organizers can still try to take measures on how to protect not only the cosplayers but also models or regular congoers who may- who may also experience these kinds of harassments in conventions. Michael, you want to add to that?

Gregory: So yeah, it's funny uhm uhh I'm also the head of security for [inaudible] con here in Ohio. Uhm one of the major concerns that I get are harassments with cosplayers like cosplay here in the U.S. and cosplay there in the Philippines are two completely different areas so like cosplayers here have a lot of uhh pedophiles, a lot of sexual harassments so like my- the event that I handle here in the U.S. actually has a huge list of people who are banned in entering because of sexual harassment complaints or they have a T.R.O. or they have court orders of not being close to this person [inaudible]. Those are stuff that I handle here. Uhm one of the things that we have to roll out for uhh Anime Alliance with our- with events that we partner with is uhm "See Something, Say Something" program where there is a QR code that we'll be releasing for- for the public. Not only for cosplayers. For the public so that they can actually uhm so that our team can actually address concerns so initially we're- uhh it's probably the same as Cosplay is Not Consent cos I know pretty much a lot of photographers try to take pictures of cosplayers in uhh not so photographic ways but they try their best to uhm get those indecent shots when given the opportunity so those are stuff that we want to prevent. That's why like when in Toycon we see like a very uhm nice looking cosplayer and then we see like a huge crowd of photographers, I usually send someone over to just make sure that they're not impeding foot traffic but at the same time I want my team to see

whether or not someone's trying to take indecent photos. But going uhm taking that a step further, we're gonna be launching a QR code where cosplayers and event attendees can actually report suspicious activities or when you see something, say something anonymously so that we can actually you know if it's actionable of course every- every complaint is gonna come into that system, we're gonna be checking and seeing if it's actionable and we'll do our best to actually try and make it a safer environment for everyone.

Elisha: Thank you so much! Those answers were so insightful and thank you so much for protecting us cosplayers once again.

Gregory: You're welcome

Elisha: We introduced nga to Miss Lizette that the reasoning for making this study was because we noticed a very huge surge in the cosplay hobby. There's a lot of people especially minors coming into this hobby and from our survey so far it's

Gregory: You know it's actually sad like

Elisha: There's a lot of people who don't know that it's this kind of environment and [inaudible] it seems like a very [inaudible] related thing that with cosplay comes with sexual harassment [inaudible]

Gregory: And you know it's sad because like 10 years ago, this wasn't any of our concern before

Miss Lizette: Yes

Gregory: This was not in our radar. This wasn't something that you know some someone- a cosplayer should not be concerned of. But you know, things have changed so now we have to adapt our policies [inaudible] in order to protect the interests of cosplayers and event attendees altogether.

Elisha: Okay so that is all our questions po. Do you have any other insights or comments that you would like to give?

Gregory: I guess I'm just gonna apologize if I barged in. I wasn't sure if I was supposed to be in the meeting cos [inaudible] I just saw the message so [inaudible]

Miss Lizette: It's okay

Elisha: [inaudible] we are very thankful for the interview

Miss Lizette: If you have questions, I think Michael can also provide you more information about Toycon and the security in other conventions because he's more familiar with the security. He's been handling Best of Anime also and Toycon [inaudible]

Gregory: So the see something, say something project that we're gonna be launching, we're gonna try it out on Best of Anime. We're gonna put out QR codes [inaudible] to see. So [inaudible] convention it's a 1 day con, we'll be able to actually gauge how the response would be you know how effective it's gonna be. That way we can actually you know uhm provide better services in the future cons that we're gonna be [inaudible]

Elisha: Ay so in regards to [inaudible] discussion, we would just like to reiterate our consent form has to be signed pero aside from this, can we like get another kind of run

through on what information you've share here na maybe you want to keep confidential aside from the off the record

Miss Lizette: [inaudible]

Gregory: Uhh I think I didn't really discuss [inaudible] I don't think there's anything that. We're pretty much an open book for the most part except for how our security procedures are internally. Whatever we [inaudible] in this [inaudible] is what we disclose to the public anyway

Elisha: Thank you so much po!

Miss Lizette: Sige if you have questions pa, Elisha and Marie. If you have any questions, just type it [inaudible], we'll try to answer you sa chat [inaudible]

## Appendix D

### Survey Questionnaire

#### *Survey on Anti-Harassment Campaigns and Harassment in Pop Culture Conventions in the Philippines*

Good day!

We are a group of students from the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde and we are conducting a survey as part of our research for our Capstone project, *Cosplay is not Consent: A study on the movement's effectivity in preventing misbehaviors and sexual harassment against Cosplayers in Pop Culture conventions in the Philippines*, from July 11, 2023 to July 31, 2023.

This questionnaire, which will take approximately 5 to 15 minutes, aims to gather information on your perceptions and experiences on anti-harassment campaigns and harassment in conventions in the Philippines. Your responses will be kept confidential and accessed only by the researchers and research advisor.

The information collected will be analyzed and may be used in academic papers, policy papers or news articles, on our website and in other media that we may produce such as spoken presentations, in other feedback events, and in an archive of the project as noted above. The data gathered will be available for a certain period of time, which is within three terms of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, and will be disposed properly after such time.

We would like to ask for your time to fill out the following information.

Thank you!

#### **Informed Consent**

Thank you for agreeing to be surveyed as part of the above research project. Ethical procedures for academic research require that participants explicitly agree to participate and how the information contained in their interview will be used. This consent form is necessary for us to ensure that you understand the purpose of your involvement and that you agree to the conditions of your participation.

By signing this form, I agree that;

1. I am voluntarily taking part in this project. I understand that I don't have to take part, and I can stop answering the survey at any time;

2. The data collected from the survey may be used as described above;
3. I can request a copy of my survey answers and may make edits I feel are necessary.
6. I am able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.
7. I may be contacted by the researchers for additional data gathering in the event that my answers are deemed insightful for the study.

	I have read the provided information and I consent voluntarily to be a participant in this study.
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### Data Privacy Notice

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It has adapted reasonable administrative, physical and technical measures to prevent loss, misuse and alteration of the information under our control. However, no method of transmission over the internet or method of electronic storage is 100% secure.

By filling up this form, you are consenting to the collection, processing and use of the information in accordance to this privacy notice. The following information are collected and processed: email address, age, and gender.

Only authorized individuals from the college—researchers, academic colleagues, and research adviser—will have access to this information and will not be disclosed to third parties without your permission.

The information you have provided will be used for any or all of the following: communication, documentation in academic papers, policy papers or news articles, on our website and in other media that we may produce such as spoken presentations, in other feedback events, and in an archive of the project as noted above.

The information is collected and stored through Google. Google has its own Privacy Policy. Visit <https://policies.google.com/privacy?hl=en-US>.

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB) and the researchers shall only retain the said personal information until it serves its purpose, after which it shall be securely disposed of.

If you have concerns and queries on Data Privacy, email [dpo@benilde.edu.ph](mailto:dpo@benilde.edu.ph).



	I acknowledge that I have completely read and fully understood the above and agree to be bound thereby. I also hereby release any and all claims against DLS-CSB, its officers, associates and/or affiliates for the abovementioned purposes.
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Demographic Profile	
Age	
Gender	Female
	Male
	Rather not say
	Other
Are you a cosplayer / Do you cosplay at conventions?	Yes
	No

Convention Experience	
1. How long have you been attending conventions?	
2. How often do you attend conventions? Are you a cosplayer / Do you cosplay at conventions?	Several under one year
	Once every year
	Every other year
	Once every few years
	Other
3. What is/are your reason/s for attending conventions?	

Anti-Harassment Campaigns and Harassment	
1. Do you think that misbehavior towards cosplayers is a problem in conventions? (referring to not following convention etiquette such as taking pictures of a cosplayer without their permission or touching their costume and props without their permission)	Yes
	No
	I do not know
2. Do you think that sexual-harassment (verbal, physical or digital such as photography or videography) directed at cosplayers is a problem in conventions?	Yes
	No
	I do not know
3. Are you aware of the Cosplay is Not Consent movement in conventions?	Yes
	No
4. Have you seen any Cosplay is not Consent signs or guidelines at the conventions you have attended? If your answer is Yes, kindly indicate in which conventions you have seen them, otherwise write No.	
5. Are you aware of convention etiquettes?	Yes
	No
6. Please choose if you are aware or not aware of the following convention etiquettes:	
6.a. Ask permission before taking pictures of/ with the cosplayer.	Aware
	Not Aware
6.b. Ask permission if you are allowed to touch the cosplayer.	Aware
	Not Aware
6.c. Ask permission if you are allowed to touch a cosplayer's costume or props.	Aware
	Not Aware
6.d. Do not in any form flirt with or sexually harass cosplayers.	Aware

	Not Aware
6.e. Do not give unwanted suggestions about someone's cosplay.	Aware
	Not Aware
7. Is your general awareness on the above aspects of convention etiquettes influenced, in some way or another, by the Cosplay is not Consent movement?	Yes
	No
8. If not from the Cosplay is not Consent movement, kindly state where you were able to gain your general awareness of said convention etiquettes.	
9. For cosplayers : Have you experienced any misbehavior (referring to not following convention etiquette) or sexual harassment at conventions? If you have, please indicate which convention(s) you experienced it at, otherwise write No. (There is no need to answer this or give details if you do not feel comfortable recounting any unpleasant experiences)	
10. Have you heard or witnessed a cosplayer's experience regarding misbehavior or sexual harassment? (Can be experiences shared on social media) What were your thoughts and feelings on such an occurrence?	
11. Considering that signs such as Cosplay is Not Consent is in place at conventions, how likely are you to intervene in a sexual harassment incident?	1 - Highly Unlikely
	2 - Unlikely
	3 - Neutral
	4 - Likely
	5 - Highly Likely
12. Considering that signs such as Cosplay is Not Consent is in place in conventions, how likely are you to report a sexual harassment incident that happens to you or others?	1 - Highly Unlikely
	2 - Unlikely
	3 - Neutral
	4 - Likely
	5 - Highly Likely
13. Do you think that the Cosplay is Not Consent movement	Yes

should be promoted more in Pop Culture conventions?	No
14. Do you think that the Cosplay is not Consent campaign is effective in preventing misbehavior and sexual harassment in conventions? Why or why not?	
Please leave any comments or additional insights you may have about the topic.	