Consent Form

Drs. Sherri Benn and Anne Deepak are researchers from Texas State University interested in your participation in a study about the effectiveness of a training institute on racism and anti-racism. Dr Benn is the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Multicultural Student Affairs. She can be contacted via email at [sb17@txstate.edu](mailto:sb17@txstate.edu) or by phone at 512.245.2278. Dr. Deepak is Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work. She can be contacted at [ad21@txstate.edu](mailto:ad21@txstate.edu) or by phone at 512.245.8837.

The purpose of this research project is to determine whether the ***Interruptions*** seven-session training institute you will be participating in is effective in delivering content on the personal and structural dynamics of racism and anti-racism. You have been asked to participate because you have volunteered to be a part of the new student group at Texas State, ***Interruptions***, and you will be attending the training institute which is a key component of the organization.

This research is being funded by a grant from Texas State University Office of Equity and Access.

If you consent to be a part of this study, you will be asked, before the training institute begins, to fill out a 20 question survey that takes about ten minutes to complete. You will also be asked to tape record your answers to six open-ended questions, answering in as much or as little detail that feels comfortable to you. These questions include: (1) information about you (age, race, gender, etc.), (2) your experience and contact with those different from yourself, (3) your personal identity, (4) your attitudes toward current race/racism issues, (5) your beliefs regarding the cost of oppression, and (6) your feelings about the process of recording the interview. The tape recording could take anywhere from 20 to 50 minutes to complete. You can choose to not answer all or part of any question(s) for any reason or withdraw from the study, and making any of these choices will not effect your membership in ***Interruptions***.

You will be tape recording your answers in a private setting, where no one can hear your responses. After completing the tape recording, you will place the tape in a sealed envelope to be held by Drs. Benn and Deepak until the completion of the training institute. After the completion of the ***Interruptions*** training institute, you will be asked to complete the same short survey as you did before the training began. You will also be asked to listen to your tape recording and write down your feelings on the changes you have seen in yourself and about your understanding of racism and anti-racism after completing the trainings. You will then give the original tape-recording and written reflections to Dr. Benn and Dr. Deepak. Your tape recording will be transcribed and used in the data analysis, with your written reflections and the survey responses.

By participating in this study you will have an opportunity to play an active role in evaluating the effectiveness of the training institute that you may one day be delivering. The goal of ***Interruptions*** is that interested student members will take over this responsibility in the following year. If you continue in the organization, you could use the findings to develop the next set of training sessions. On a broader level, by participating in this study you will be contributing to knowledge on effective training models for racism and anti-racism education, applicable in a variety of settings from educational to social work practice.

# The only risk in this study is that you may feel awkward or uncomfortable while answering questions about yourself and your attitudes and beliefs surrounding racism. If you experience discomfort as a result of your participation in this study you will be referred to TX State Counseling Center (512.245.2208). Mental Health Services at the Counseling Center are free to registered students, though the number of sessions allowed may be limited. If you choose not to receive free services at the Counseling Center you may contact or be referred to the Adolescent & Adult Counseling Service of San Marcos at (512.353.7489) or Cedar Creek Associates in San Marcos at (512.396.8540). The researchers will also be available to provide additional information and resources.

If you do not want to be in this study then you don’t have to be. No one will be upset if you choose not to participate or even if you change your mind later and want to stop. Participation in this study is voluntary and there is no penalty for choosing not to participate. We welcome your continued involvement in ***Interruptions*** whether you participate in this study or not.

Your responses to the survey questions will be confidential. This means that there will be no information on the survey or interview that might identify who you are. Code numbers will be assigned to each survey, taped response, and transcript and no one other than the researchers will have access to the data. Tape recordings will be destroyed after being transcribed unless you prefer that they be returned to you. All data will be kept in a locked file cabinet that only the researchers can access. Any data collected and transferred to computer files will be password protected. Data analysis will be completed only by Dr. Benn and Dr. Deepak and will be password protected. No software analysis, transcribed data, survey data, or final reports will contain names that would reveal who participated in the study.

A summary of the findings from this study will be shared with participants and the Interruptions Student Organization. Results may be published in professional and/or scientific journals. It may also be used for educational purposes or for professional presentations.

You can ask questions about that you have about this study. If you have a question later you can call Dr. Benn (512.245.2278) or Dr. Deepak (512.245.8837). You can also email Dr. Benn at [sb17@txstate.edu](mailto:sb17@txstate.edu) or Dr. Deepak at [ad21@txstate.edu](mailto:ad21@txstate.edu).

Any further questions you may have about the research or research participants' rights should be directed to the Institutional Review Board chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512.245.3413.), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512.245.3413).

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Participant Date

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