Summary of revisions from IRB reviewer’s comments

Application Number: 2009J7241  
Social Capital and Civic Engagement of Marginalized Youth on MySpace

Reviewer #1: 02/18/09 09:37:17   
This is an interesting research project, but I cannot approve it at this time. The following issues need to be addressed:  
1) Consent form-- eliminate usage of words like \"marginalized\" and \"social capital\" and instead state that \"the purpose of this research is to help us learn more about how you and your friends use MySpace and how you express your political voice and try to improve your community. We also want to learn more about how people that have less power or resources use MySpace and their political voices.\" The use of the academic language does not contribute to the consent form and may make it confusing to some readers.  
Language has been changed on consent form to make it more accessible.

2) Three years seems like a reasonable amount of time to store your data before destruction-- please make change to synopsis and consent form.  
Change has been made on consent and synopsis to three years.

3) I think there\'s a risk that\'s not addressed: you state in the synopsis that you want to look at the participants\' MySpace profiles and their friends\' profiles. This is not clear in the consent form (why not state that if they consent to participate, researchers will view these profiles?). Additionally, what are the limits of confidentiality? Suppose a 16-year-old participant posts a report of abuse on her MySpace page? Or if a participant posts that s/he uses drugs? This needs to be addressed in a revised synopsis and consent form. So essentially, be clear in the consent form that you\'re going to look at the profiles, and be clear that you may be obligated to report suspected abuse and/or neglect.  
We will not be looking at the participant’s profiles. We will have a MySpace page that gives respondents an opportunity to ask us questions and be posted on the findings.

4) Finally, please submit recruitment flyers and/or e-mails for review.  
E-mail blurb and recruitment flyer are attached. The url address for the researcher’s MySpace study website is: <http://www.myspace.com/myspacemyfriendsmyworld>.

Reviewer #2: 02/20/09 16:34:48   
1) I concur with the other reviewer\'s comments regarding the need for more information about the recruitment process and materials, adding content to the consent form to address circumstances under which you will not maintain confidentiality of information posted on MySpace pages, and revision of the consent form to use language at a more appropriate reading level for the youngest members of your target population.  
Additional information on the recruitment process has been added and consent materials’ language changed

2) I have two additional requests:  (1) In the consent form, please add information about when and where surveys will be completed by youths under the age of 18.  Will offline surveys be administered in a group or an individual setting? (2) The synopsis also indicates that there will be an assent form for youth under 18; please provide a copy for IRB review.

Information has been added to the consent form clearly stating that offline surveys will be administered in a group setting. Follow-up interviews will be conducted individually.

Assent form attached.

Contents added to reapplication: 1), Addendum for qualitative follow-up, (1) for Parental consent, (1) for participants over 18 years old., 2)Revised and separated consent forms: (1) for participants over 18, (1) for parental consent, (1) for assent for child with parental consent, 3) Revised IRB synopsis and this summary page to reflect edits and changes, 4) Email/interest group MySpace invitation and recruitment flyer, 8 total revised/added attachments.