**Consent Form**

**Relational Grace: A Qualitative Examination**

**IRB Approval # 2010J9376**

You are being asked to participate in research interested in understanding how couples define relational “grace” or giving. This form provides you with information about this research. Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you can withdraw your consent to participate at any time with no consequence. If you would like additional information about the workshop or the research, please contact Dr. Shawn Patrick at (512) 245-8130, sp27@txstate.edu or Dr. John Beckenbach at (512) 245-3758, [jb89@txstate.edu](mailto:jb89@txstate.edu), Assistant Professors at Texas State University – San Marcos.

1. This research has been approved by the Texas State University Institutional Review Board (IRB). Questions about the research, research participants' rights, and/or research-related injuries to participants should be directed to the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 – [lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu)), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102).

You have been selected to participate in this research because you attended a couples workshop. Part of this workshop introduced couples to the concept of relational grace. Thus we are interested in learning more from you about your thoughts and ideas about this concept.

If you agree to participate in this research, we will ask for a contact email address we can use to send you a survey link. If no email address is available, we will ask for a mailing address to mail a paper copy of the survey. Although you will be asked for your email or physical address for correspondence purposes, this information will be deleted or destroyed upon sending the survey information. The survey will include questions asking about instances of relational grace occurring within your current relationship, and also ask open-ended questions to define your understanding of grace. We also ask that you refrain from sharing your responses with your partner until you have submitted your survey; this is to insure confidentiality for both you and your partner. You may choose to disclose your responses to your partner after submitting the survey; however we will never share your specific answers with your partner.

1. Relational grace has been theorized as unsolicited acts, beliefs, or intentions that promote trust, fairness, empathy, and forgiving in relationships. The purpose of this research will be to provide us with more information about how couples actually define and perceive relational grace in intimate relationships.
2. You will be asked to complete a 13-item Global Relational Attitudes Conflict Exam (GRACE) scale and 5 open-ended questions exploring what grace looks like in your relationship. An example of an item from the GRACE scale is, “my partner will do kind things for me without asking.” You may choose not to answer any questions(s) for any reason. The benefits for participating in this research would be a chance to reflect upon your relationship and gain a better understanding of how grace appears in your relationship. Another benefit would be contributing to the knowledge base about what helps couples grow in their relationships. The risks of participation in this research are minimal. Questions about relationship satisfaction may ask couples to reflect on the quality of their relationship, which might be uncomfortable for some. The questionnaire should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.
3. Although potential risks from this research should be minimal, some individuals or couples may wish to discuss some of their thoughts or feelings from this experience with a professional mental health provider. We offer the following as possible resources:

Assessment and Counseling Clinic, San Marcos

Counseling Clinic, Round Rock

Texas State Counseling Center (mental health services at the Counseling Center are free to registered students, though the number of sessions allowed may be limited).

1. The Principal Researchers areDr. Shawn Patrick and Dr. John Beckenbach, Assistant Professors at Texas State University in the Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education and School Psychology program. A summary of the findings will be provided to the participants upon completion of the research, upon request

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Participant’s Signature Date

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Dr. Shawn Patrick, NCC, LPC Dr. John Beckenbach, NCC, LPC

Assistant Professor Assistant Professor

(512) 245-8130 (512) 245-3758

[sp27@txstate.edu](mailto:sp27@txstate.edu) [jb89@txstate.edu](mailto:jb89@txstate.edu)

Please check your preference:

\_\_\_\_ I would like to be emailed a link to the survey. My email address is:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I would like to be mailed a paper copy of the survey. My address is:

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