

# Can Prolonged Isolation Make You More Depressed or Anxious?

## Research Proposal

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**Reviewers:** Isabelle Engelberg, Ivy Chan, Mwanga Malcolm Lupampa

- Is the title meaningful? Does it give the reader a sense of what the project is about? Any comments.

Ivy

Yes, the title is meaningful. I can anticipate the project content by reading the title.

Isabelle

Yes, I think the title gives a clear idea of what the project will be about. It is long enough to be clear without being too long.

Mwanga

I find the title meaningful and interesting. It's precise and lets the reader know what to expect from the study.

## Overview

- Does the group articulate the background/context, intended audience, and the justification for the project (ie. the so-what?) Could anything be more clear?

Ivy

The group clearly articulates the intended audience, background, research subject, and the reason for doing this research study. Good job!

Isabelle

The overview is well written and well researched. The background, intended audience, and justification are clear and interesting. My only suggestion would be to give a brief overview of how you will be conducting the study within the overview.

Mwanga

The overview is well written, with a good explanation of why this study is worth the effort and a good description why the group chose the age group they did. They also do a good job explaining the impact of the study to the intended audience.

## Research Question

- Is the research question clear? Is the outcome of interest clear?
  - If necessary for the question: are their sub-questions or clarification bullet points?

Ivy

Yes, the report has both the research question and sub-questions. I am interested to know the justification for selecting the prolonged social isolation of 1 month.

Isabelle

I really liked the way you formatted your research question by clarifying each key term, great job! The outcome is clear and you chose interesting sub-questions. Like Ivy, I wonder if 1 month is long enough to be considered “prolonged” isolation?

Mwanga

Yes, the question is clear. Yes the outcome is clear .The sub questions are relevant and help to define the scope of the study.

## Data

- Does the group articulate the needed data and the justification?
  - Justification: why this data? What will this data allow us to do?

Ivy

Yes, the report specifies the list of needed data. However, the section doesn't provide the justification. In addition, I have a concern if the collection of these data complies with HIPPA.

Isabelle

Yes, the group does a good job laying out the data and how it will be obtained as well as how it will be protected (great addition). The justification is not explicitly made clear in this section.

Mwanga

Yes, the group explains the required data. I feel the durations of when the data will be collected would suit more in the deliverables.

## Study Design

- Is the study design clearly articulated? E.g. experimental or observational. Does the reader have a clear sense of how this design will provide the desired insight?

Ivy

The report has the study design details. However, it doesn't explicitly mention if it is experimental or observational. From reading the section, I believe it is an experimental design. After reading the section, I have a clear sense of how they will proceed with the study.

Isabelle

The study design is clearly articulated, although it is up to the reader to determine that this is an experimental study (this is clear, though, so I think that is OK). It is clear how these data will be used to analyze the desired insight.

Mwanga

Yes, I can tell from the study that it is an experimental design. I can also tell how the study will attain the desired results.

## Sample

- Are the sampling frame and approximate size of sample clearly articulated?

Ivy

The sample frame and size are communicated. However, I wonder how the sample size of 1000 is calculated. Is it referencing any similar research? Why don't we use any sample size that is smaller or larger?

Isabelle

The sampling frame and size are clearly articulated, but not justified. I would like to see a bit more discussion about sample size calculation and statistical power.

Mwanga

Yes, both are clearly articulated. However I am curious about how diversity in the sampling and consequently control and treatment groups would be handled without introducing bias.

## Variables and/or Intervention

- High-level: Remind the reader what concepts the project is focused on which variables capture those concepts
  - Observational: Is it clear what variables they will use? Is there a brief justification for those variables?
  - Experimental: Is there a sufficient description of the treatment/intervention? Experiments may also articulate variables they will account for in their statistical analysis.

Ivy

Yes, the report has a sufficient description of treatment/intervention. However, I am interested in knowing how the different amounts of unlimited virtual interaction will affect the outcome since the treatment is not completely isolated between the treatment group and the control group.

Isabelle

Yes the description of the treatment is clear but I wish the group had restated explicitly in this section what all of the variables are and how they will factor into their statistical analysis.

Mwanga

Yes, there is sufficient description . The variables are mostly well described in the data section.I had to go back and refer to it.

## Statistical Methods

- Is there a high level description of the statistical methods planned?

Ivy

Yes, the report describes the statistical methods planned for this research study.

Isabelle

The statistical methods section is very thorough.

Mwanga

Yes there is a good description of the statistical methods that the group plans to use.

## Potential Risks

- Do they clearly identify at least two risks?

Ivy

Yes, the report clearly identifies at least two risks. They are well explained.

Isabelle

Yes the group identifies more than two risks. One thing I would like to know as well is who is administering the interviews and what their qualifications need to be.

Mwanga

Yes, they identify at least two risks grouped into two general categories. I would have liked to know if the data collected is considered medical data in any sense. If so, a mention of HIPPA laws would help.

# Deliverables

- Is there a clear timeline that outlines different stages of the research, and articulates a final deliverable and when that will be delivered?

Ivy

Yes, the report has a clear timeline for each research study stage. It is excellent to include the start date for reference. However, it doesn't specify how the report will be communicated. Is it a physical or online report? Will it be mailed, sent in email, or shared as a sharable link?

Isabelle

Yes the group defines the timeline and deliverables. This section could benefit from a bit more detail.

Mwanga

Yes, there is a clear timeline with different stages of the experiment explained and when the expected delivery would be. I think it would help to explain at a high level what the final deliverables would contain. So that the reader can have an imagination of what they would see in the content.