**Workplace Cyberbullying and Cybervictimization in Academia during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

1. **Subjects information:**

The study surveyed faculty members at higher education institutions across the United States. The survey asked faculty to complete an online questionnaire about faculty’s perceptions of cyberbullying in higher education and about faculty’s perceptions. The inclusion criteria are as follows: a) participants must be at least 18 years old, b) must be currently working as faculty members for an educational institution at least part-time, c) must have taught online coursesduring the Covid 19 Pandemic (March 2020 to present), and d) must be able to read and understand English to complete this questionnaire. If participants cannot participate, they have the option to recruit another faculty member who fit this criterion. The authors of the study recruited participants from higher educational institutions such as West Texas A&M University using an electronic recruitment letter sent via email, social media, and faculty listservs. The survey will contain demographic questions and questions about respondents’ own personal characteristics and behaviors. Participants will complete the online questionnaire without submitting any personal identification on the questionnaire.

1. **Procedure information:**

**A)** In order to proceed to the survey, faculty must provide electronic, informed consent at the beginning of the survey. After providing consent, faculty may choose to complete the online questionnaire. Faculty will complete a 25 minute survey about cyberbullying in the academy and about their perceptions. Surveys will not ask questions that will require respondents to include any personal and/or personally identifiable information. Subjects will view their consent form and provide their consent prior to beginning the questionnaire. The consent form will detail that the survey will retain respondents’ anonymity and that all answers will remain confidential. To maintain confidentiality, participants will not provide any personal information that could identify themselves in the questionnaire. The researchers will be responsible for ensuring that IP addresses are not used to identify any individuals. Given that the researchers have no knowledge of how to link IP addresses to individuals, the researchers will store this raw data on an encrypted computer with a security access password to ensure that the data is only viewable to the researchers in this study during the analysis stage of this project. The PI will have access to the summarized data. No raw-data will be shared with anyone outside of this project. **B)** The researchers see no direct benefits nor risks associated with participation in this study. Within the informed consent form, participants will receive this communication of the lack of benefits or risks in participation in the study.

1. **Informed Consent:**

Faculty will receive an electronic informed consent form prior to beginning the survey. The electronic informed consent form will clearly explain the following: purpose of the study, participant’s involvement in the study, and the study’s voluntary nature (meaning that participants may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty). Furthermore, the informed consent form stipulates that participants’ will not provide any personally identifiable information and that participants’ responses will remain confidential and secure. Lastly, subjects receive notification that by proceeding with the survey, they consent to participate in the survey. If participants choose not to consent to the study, they may withdraw from the study and refrain from completing the survey.

FACULTY RECRUITMENT SCRIPT

(*to be posted for faculty recruitment reasons*)

Study Title: “Workplace Cyberbullying and Cybervictimization in Academia during the Covid-19 Pandemic”

Dear Colleagues,

We are conducting a research study that surveys higher education faculty members across Texas concerning faculty members’ perceptions and experiences of cyberbullying in academia during the Covid 19 pandemic (IRB#2021.04.013). The purpose of the study is to investigate the predictors of cyberbullying in academia.

We are recruiting faculty participants who: a) are at least **18 years old**, b) **currently work as a faculty member for a higher educational institution,** c) **have experience teaching online classes during the Covid 19 Pandemic (March 2020 to present),** and d) **can read and understand English** to complete an online questionnaire. The survey will ask you to take a confidential questionnaire. The survey contains questions concerning respondents’ demographics/background, experiences with cyberbullying, traits or characteristics, and perceptions about their academic occupation. To participate, please open the following web-link on a separate browser:

Link here

Your participation in this faculty study is voluntary and highly appreciated. By participating in this study you will 1) learn about the research process which can be beneficial to your professional development and 2) contribute to the scholarly research concerning the predictors of cyberbullying of faculty in higher education institutions. The time commitment for the completion of this study is approximately 25 minutes.

If you are unable to complete this questionnaire and you know of potential participants or colleagues who may be interested in this study, please share this recruitment letter. If you have any questions concerning the research study, please e-mail us.

Thank you for your time.

PARTICIPANT INFORMED CONSENT FORM

***Title of Research:*** Workplace Cyberbullying and Cybervictimization in Academia during the Covid-19 Pandemic

***Age and Physical Condition***: I state that I am 18 years of age or older and wish to participate in the research study.

***Faculty Status:*** I state that I am a current faculty member of higher education who has taught courses *at least part-time* since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic began (since March 2020) and that I have taught at least one course through on-line (virtual) instructional delivery.

***Research Process:*** I will spend approximately 25 minutes completing an online questionnaire about my perceptions about cyberbullying in the academy, my personal attributes, and about my academic job.

***Desire to Participate or Not Participate:*** Faculty may want to participate because their anonymous responses will greatly benefit the research community in obtaining knowledge about cyberbullying of faculty in higher education. However, faculty many not want to participate if the topic at hand is irrelevant to them, or if they feel uncomfortable being part of this survey study.

***Risks and/or Discomforts:*** There may be some minor foreseeable risks or discomforts during my honest participation in this research study. Because I am answering anonymous questions related to my occupation, there is a minimal risk associated with providing honest responses to the questions in this study. However, if I feel uncomfortable answering any particular question, I may skip a particular question, or discontinue the study at any time without penalty.

***Benefits:*** I understand that the research study is not designed to benefit me personally, but the investigators hope to gain an understanding of faculty’s perceptions about cyberbullying in the academy.

***Opportunity to Ask Questions or Withdraw:*** I understand that I am free to ask questions to the principal investigator to withdraw from participation at any time without any penalty or loss of benefits to which I am otherwise entitled. Participation in this study may benefit the future scholarship related to faculty’s perceptions about cyberbullying in higher education.

***Confidentiality:*** All information collected during the research process will remain strictly confidential. Your name, institution, and email address will not be linked to any of your responses on this questionnaire. Research reports or publications will report data in aggregate form only and individual responses will not be identifiable.

***Consent to Participate:*** I understand that a completed online questionnaire will be considered my consent to participate in this study. If I choose not to provide consent, I may choose to not complete the questionnaire.