

Request for participants who have/had family members in controlling/abusive groups - for “Family Caring Research Study”



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We apologize that there was an error in the survey that caused some of you to give up on it. We have fixed the error and would appreciate your trying again. And, of course, we welcome those of you who did not complete the survey to do so now, if you have/had a loved one in a group. Thank you if you already completed the survey!

Graduate students and other researchers approach ICSA in increasing numbers for help contacting participants/subjects for their research. Responding positively to such requests adds to the already substantial number of emails received by our network. Therefore, the Board of ICSA has adopted the following criteria to guide us in responding to requests for subjects:

- To what degree does the research topic advance understanding of the problems former cultic group members encounter while in groups and during recovery?
- Is the research likely to have an impact on the field, e.g., conference presentations, publications?
- Is the research sponsored by a reputable institution?
- Are ethical issues addressed adequately, e.g., via IRB or ethics committee approval?
- Does the researcher, or supervising researcher (e.g., dissertation advisor), have adequate expertise in cultic studies and/or related fields?
- In the opinion of the Board, does the request place an undue burden on the ICSA email network at the time the request is made?

The Board has decided to share with the ICSA email network the research request below. That fact, however, does not mean that ICSA Board members, staff, or volunteers are

familiar with and/or endorse details of the research study.

If you are interested in cooperating with the research request below, keep in mind that, unless you have made a legal commitment to the contrary, you may withdraw your participation at any time and for any reason. Occasionally, participation in research studies may stimulate adverse reactions. If you experience such reactions, feel free to assert yourself and withdraw from the study, if you wish. Any feedback on your participation in this research project would be welcomed but is entirely voluntary and is not expected.

Letter from the Researcher

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FAMILY CARING RESEARCH STUDY

Who we are?

This study involves researchers from the Psychology Department of Autonomous University of Madrid (Spain) and the International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA).

What are we doing?

We are studying the perceptions and experiences of family members or individuals concerned about a loved one who is or was in a controlling or abusive group or relationship. The study's purpose is to fill a research gap in this area. We hope to increase our knowledge of the specific concerns and needs of families, relatives, and friends of those affected by an abusive situation. We want to find new and better ways of understanding family relationships under these circumstances. We hope that the information collected by this study will enhance attention to the needs of those who have/had a loved one in a controlling or abusive group or relationship.

What we ask from you?

You are invited to participate in the research project if you are/were concerned about the past or current involvement of a loved one with a group or relationship you now consider was/is overly controlling or abusive to its members. You may or may not have been involved yourself with the group or relationship. We ask you to respond to a web-survey, which you may complete at your convenience.

What is the web-survey like?

The survey is divided into various separated parts. Part I and Part II include some basic demographic questions (e.g., age, education) on you and your loved one. Part III of the survey includes some instruments inquiring about your concerns, responses, and experiences about your loved one being involved in the group/relationship. Part IV includes brief instruments on problems you may have experienced. Finally, Part V includes some questions on the group/relationship your loved one is/was involved.

Overall, it is anticipated that the entire survey will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. Please note that your participation in this study is voluntary, and that you may withdraw at any time, without consequence.

What should you do if you accept our invitation to participate?

Click on the link below to access the survey. Alternatively, copy and paste it into the address bar of the web browser. Please, use the word “ICSA97136” as a PASSWORD to the survey. Please, be aware that only those responses with valid passwords will be considered.

Here is the link to the survey: <https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/familycaring>

More information about the study

If you want to obtain more information about the study or make any comment, you may contact Carmen Almendros at this e-mail address: coercivecontrol.research@gmail.com, or write to: Carmen Almendros, Ph.D. Facultad de Psicología. C/ Ivan Paulov, 6. Universidad Autonoma de Madrid. Cantoblanco. 28049. Madrid, Spain.

Thank you so much for your time. Your participation is very important for us!!!

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