LETTER OF INFORMATION / CONSENT Survey

Exploring the career impact of adult diagnosis of ADHD and autism on women communicators working in Canada

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What am I trying to discover?

Adult diagnoses for many types of neurodivergence are on the rise, especially for women. What is the prevalence of women communicators working in Canada who are self-diagnosed or formally diagnosed with different neurodivergencies? Against that backdrop, a sub-section of the survey explores how, if at all, an adult diagnosis of ADHD or autism impacts the careers of women communicators.

This research is part of my capstone project for the Master of Communications Management program at McMaster University, under the supervision of Dr. Haniyeh Yousofpourfard.

What will happen during the study?

In this online survey, you will be asked to identify your role-type, your broader industry, if you are racialized, and if you are neurodivergent. If you are neurodivergent, you will be asked more general questions about your diagnosis and when you were diagnosed (pre-career, early career, mid-career, or end of your career). You may be asked questions about the impacts of your diagnosis, and you may receive an invitation to participate in a semi-structured interview about your experiences.

You can stop the survey at any point, and the open questions are optional. You can share as little or as much as you are comfortable sharing.

This survey is entirely anonymous. If you choose to participate in a semi-structured interview, you will be asked to provide contact information through a different form. None of the data in the survey will be carried over.

This survey should take about 15 minutes to complete.

Are there any risks to doing this study?

You may experience emotional discomfort in recalling any potential impacts from your diagnosis.

You do not need to answer questions that you do not want to answer or that make you feel uncomfortable. I describe below the steps I am taking to protect your privacy.

If you experience discomfort and need support, you can contact these Community counselling or support services.

Are there any benefits to doing this study?

There are no direct benefits to you for doing this survey.

Your participation, however, may have benefits for neurodivergent women communicators and the organizations that employ them if the findings illustrate the impacts of the adult diagnosis and finding ways to support women communicators in their careers.

Who will know what I said or did in the study?

This survey is entirely anonymous. If you meet the criteria to be offered a semi-structured interview, you will be sent to a different, unconnected form to provide contact information. No information is carried forward from this survey. No personally identifying information is tracked in the survey. The questions are designed to be broad, and you control how much information you provide. Additionally, I am the only person with access to the data from the survey.

Unless you share that you took the survey, I will not know, and I will be unable to connect your data to you, even if you do share that you took the survey.

If you choose to share personally identifying information in the open questions, that information will be anonymized by genericizing it and using pseudonyms before it is analyzed.

The information you provide will be stored in a database protected by passwords, two-factor authentication (2FA), and encryption. When it is exported for analysis, the original data will be deleted, and the further anonymized information will be in an encrypted folder on a protected device.

What if I change my mind about being in the study?

While taking the survey, you can stop at any time, and the data will be deleted as an incomplete response. The anonymous data cannot be removed from the study after the survey is completed, as there is no way to connect the data to the person requesting its removal.

The open questions in the survey are optional.

All the data will be deleted after I complete my analysis, or by June 30, 2026.

How do I find out what was learned in this study?

The learnings from this study will be available at https://mcm.humanities.mcmaster.ca/capstone-research/ after I successfully defend. I am planning to defend by June 2026. They may be available on other websites or in other ways not yet determined.

Questions about the Study: If you have questions or need more information about the study itself, please contact me at:

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This study has been reviewed by the McMaster Research Ethics Board and received ethics clearance under project #7796. If you have concerns or questions about your rights as a participant or about the way the study is conducted, please contact:

McMaster Research Ethics Office
Telephone: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23142
E-mail: mreb@mcmaster.ca

CONSENT

I understand that if I agree to participate in this study, I may withdraw from the study at any time until I submit my responses, but once my responses have been submitted, they cannot be withdrawn due to the anonymous nature of the study.

- I have been given a copy of this form.
- I agree to participate in the study.
- My direct quotations will be anonymized and genericized.
- My completion of the survey implies my consent.