

Guardians consent to their child's participation

This study focuses on exploring the relationship between online social interaction and adolescents' perceptions of relational closeness. Recognizing the evolving landscape of adolescent friendships in the digital age, this research aims to investigate how young adolescents define and value their relationships in both online and offline settings. The study will also delve into what adolescents perceive to be benefits and drawbacks of online social interaction in terms of relational closeness, aiming to further understand what influences their perceptions of closeness during their social interactions.

To obtain data, we as researchers aim to conduct a focus group interview with adolescents born between 2010 and 2012. If your child shows interest in participating, preferably with a few friends or classmates, we will gladly take their preferences into consideration and schedule an interview with a format that they feel comfortable with. The focus group sessions should take no longer than one hour.

During the interviews we will use a semi-structured interview guide, meaning we as researchers will be prepared in advance with main and sub-questions that can be flexibly used throughout the interview discussion, ensuring that the questions will be presented thoughtfully to your child and the other participants.

Written consent will be obtained from you as a guardian and from your child if they choose to participate. We will also obtain verbal consent from your child just before the focus group begins, to ensure they feel comfortable to continue. We want to emphasize to you, your child, and everyone involved in this study that it's crucial to respect confidentiality, meaning that everyone involved will remain silent about the discussions after the interviews are conducted.

Upon processing of the data, your child will be provided with a pseudonym to ensure confidentiality, and no personal information such as the name of the school or the city will be shared.

I hereby consent that Linköping University processes personal data in the form of

- My child's name and email address
- Audio recordings of my child's viewpoint about his/hers online and offline friendships

for the following purposes

- To gain a better understanding of how adolescents define the value of their various relationships.
- To study how adolescents perceive the benefits and drawbacks of online social interaction in terms of relational closeness.
- To explore what potentially influences adolescents' perceptions of relational closeness during their social interactions.

Information:

Personal data will be stored only on storage services approved by Linköping university, and no persons other than Sian Meenan, Sara Fränneby, the thesis supervisor Lena Sotevik, and an external examiner, will access the data. The personal data will be kept until the thesis has received a grade, but never longer than until December 31 four years after the data was collected, that will say 2028-12-31.

Personal data controller is Linköping University, 581 83 Linköping, corporate identification number 202100-3096.

Contact:

Sian Meenan: siame054@student.liu.se

Sara Fränneby: sarfr375@student.liu.se

Legal basis for the data processing: **Consent**

If you want to withdraw your consent during the research process, please communicate this decision as soon as possible. This can be done by contacting us as researchers via email and clearly express your desire to take back your consent.

You may withdraw your consent at any time without giving a reason. We will in that case stop using the personal data that we have collected based on your consent. You may request to have the personal data erased, and if you do so, we will erase information about your child wherever possible. You have the right to obtain information about your child's personal data that is processed by Linköping University. You may request this in writing by contacting the registrar's office at Linköping University, either by email or letter. You also have the right to request that the use of certain of your child's personal data be limited.

If you want to know how your child's personal data are used, or you believe that we have used the personal data in a way that violates the agreement or current legislation, please contact Linköping University's data protection officer at dataskyddsbud@liu.se. If you have complaints regarding the way in which Linköping University processes your child's personal data, you are always entitled to contact the relevant inspection authority, which in this case is the Swedish Data Protection Authority.

I hereby consent that Linköping University processes my child's personal data according to the information above

Place	Signature
Date	Name