

## Informed Consent Form

### Phase #1 – Toronto Interviews

Destigmatizing Chinese Communities in the face of 2019-nCoV: Emergency Management Actions to Address Social Vulnerability in Toronto and Nairobi

**Date:** 16 March 2020

**Study Name:** Phase #1 – Toronto Interviews

Destigmatizing Chinese Communities in the face of 2019-nCoV: Emergency Management Actions to Address Social Vulnerability in Toronto and Nairobi

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#### **Purpose of the Research:**

Phase #1 – Toronto Interviews intends to explore social impacts of COVID-19 in the Greater Toronto area. The end goal of this research is to better understand how emergency management actions can be taken to reduce misinformation, stigma, and fear due to the COVID-19 public health disaster. This project is supported by the Government of Canada through the Canadian Institute for Health Research. The research is taking place under the auspices of operating grant: Canadian 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Rapid Research Funding Opportunity.

#### **What You Will Be Asked to Do in the Research:**

You will be asked to schedule a computer mediated or telephone or in person interview (situation permitting) with a member of the research team. You will be asked to consider and sign this informed consent form prior to the interview. It is estimated that interview scheduling and the informed consent procedure will take 15 minutes. You will be asked to participate in an interview asking questions about your experiences with the social impacts of COVID-19. Estimated time for the interview will be 45 minutes. There will be no inducements and no financial compensation provided.

#### **Risks and Discomforts:**

We do not foresee any risks or discomfort from your participation in the research.

Your participation in this study represents minimal risks. However, the researchers ask you to be aware that reflecting upon situations as related to COVID-19 can potentially create emotional discomfort. The researchers have received training in and have reviewed the basic principles of recognizing mental stress for persons experiencing disaster and crisis. If in the event, it is observed that a participant is experiencing emotional discomfort, the interview will cease. Please be aware that in the Greater Toronto Area, emotional support services are provided by agencies such as the Hongfook Mental Health Association (Contact 416-493-4242 or [info@hongfook.ca](mailto:info@hongfook.ca)) and the Toronto Victim Services 24-hour crisis Hotline (Contact 416-808-7066).

If you believe that reflecting on your COVID-19 social impact experiences would be emotionally disturbing to you, please do not participate in this research. If the researchers determine that an interview is becoming emotionally disturbing to a participant, the interview will cease.

**Special Note on COVID-19 Risk Mitigation:** During the time period when this research is active, there may be situations of varying risk to individuals from community spread of COVID-19. Therefore, this project strictly abides by Public Health Agency of Canada guidelines as related to social distancing to stop the spread of infection. In the event, in person interviews are not feasible due to public health concerns, recommendations, and/or orders, the researchers will engage in 'remote' interviews with no face to face contact between the researchers and participants. Current Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Outbreak updates can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

#### **Benefits of the Research and Benefits to You:**

Your participation in this research will accrue no benefits to you. Overall, this study can potentially have societal benefits to reduce COVID-19 risks by understanding how social countermeasures can act to reduce pandemic impacts.

**Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal:**

Your participation in the study is completely voluntary and you may choose to stop participating at any time. Your decision not to volunteer, to stop participating, or to refuse to answer particular questions will not influence the nature of the ongoing relationship you may have with the researchers, or study staff, or the nature of your relationship with York University either now, or in the future. In the event you withdraw from the study, all individually associated data that was collected from you will be immediately destroyed wherever possible.

**Confidentiality:**

All information you supply during the research will be held in confidence and unless you specifically indicate your consent, your name will not appear in any report or publication of the research. Data will be collected by handwritten notes and digital audio recording and held in strict confidentiality. Once this study is completed, your data will remain confidential and be safely stored in a secured physical and/or electronic repository at York University. Once the study is completed data will be archived in accordance with Canadian Institute of Health Research protocols. Confidentiality will be provided to the fullest extent possible by law.

According to the Canadian Institute's of Health Research standards established for sharing COVID-19 rapid research results with the scientific community, data collected in this research project may be used – in an anonymized form - by members of the research team in subsequent research investigations exploring similar lines of inquiry. Such projects will still undergo ethics review by the HPRC, our institutional REB. Any secondary use of anonymized data by the research team or others will be treated with the same degree of confidentiality and anonymity as in the original research project.

Collected data will be made available in an open-source data repository. After initial data analysis, coded data will be stripped of individual identifiers and that anonymized data will be provided to an open source COVID-19 data repository for this project to be housed at the York University Library.

**Questions About the Research?**

If you have questions about the research in general, or about your role in the study, please feel free to contact Dr. Aaida Mamuji either by telephone at 416-736-2100, extension 33875 or by e-mail [amamuji@yorku.ca](mailto:amamuji@yorku.ca) or the other researchers listed on this consent form. This research has received ethics review and approval by the Human Participants Review Sub-Committee, York University's Ethics Review Board and conforms to the standards of the Canadian Tri-Council Research Ethics guidelines. If you have any questions about this process or about your rights as a participant in the study, please contact the Sr. Manager & Policy Advisor for the Office of Research Ethics, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kaneff Tower, York University (telephone 416-736-5914 or e-mail [ore@yorku.ca](mailto:ore@yorku.ca)).

**Legal Rights and Signatures:**

I \_\_\_\_\_, consent to participate in *Phase #1 Destigmatizing Chinese Communities in the face of 2019-nCoV: Emergency Management Actions to Address Social Vulnerability in Toronto and Nairobi* conducted by Dr. Aaida Mamuji and others. I have understood the nature of this project and wish to participate. I am not waiving any of my legal rights by signing this form. My signature below indicates my consent.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_  
Participant

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal Investigator

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

- **Additional consent for Audio Recording**

I consent to audio recording of my interview.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Name

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_