

Digital Learning Experiences: Online survey for female entrepreneurs

RESEARCH TEAM

Principal Investigator: Nicole Johnson, PhD Candidate (Open University of Catalonia)

Nicole Johnson is a Canadian researcher who resides in Canada while completing her PhD studies online through the Open University of Catalonia located in Barcelona, Spain.

PhD Supervisors: Dr. Albert Sangrà Morer (Open University of Catalonia) and Dr. Mercedes González-Sanmamed (Universidade da Coruña).

Supporting Institution: Open University of Catalonia

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

We are looking for female entrepreneurs who are pursuing entrepreneurship while parenting children under age 18.

PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

You are invited to participate in a research study exploring the digital learning experiences of female entrepreneurs who are pursuing entrepreneurship while parenting children under 18. The purpose of this study, which has been approved by the Open University of Catalonia, is to better understand the digital learning experiences of Canadian female entrepreneurs in order to offer suggestions for improving digital learning resources designed for this group. This study is significant given the Canadian government's commitment to female empowerment.

Your participation in this study will involve you participating in one 30-45 minute interview about your digital learning experiences. The interview will be conducted using Zoom.

At the end of the interview, you will be asked whether or not you provide your permission to be contacted by the Principal Investigator, Nicole Johnson, to participate in a 30-45 minute follow-up interview, also over Zoom, to learn more about your personal experiences pursuing entrepreneurship while parenting a child/children under 18 years of age.

WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO?

The following outlines what will happen during the study:

1. You will be asked to select an interview time.
2. During the interview, you will be asked to answer questions relating to your digital learning experiences as an entrepreneur.

3. At the end of the interview, you will be asked if you provide your consent to be contacted by the Principal Investigator, Nicole Johnson, for a 30-45 minute Zoom follow-up interview (please note that not everyone who volunteers for an interview will be selected).

4. If you provide your consent to be contacted and are selected for follow-up interview, you will be contacted by Nicole Johnson, a second interview time will be scheduled, and you will have a 30-45 minute Zoom video meeting with Nicole Johnson where you will be asked further questions about your digital learning experiences as an entrepreneur.

HOW WILL THE INFORMATION GATHERED FROM THE STUDY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

All information that is shared with the research team will be kept strictly confidential.

The interview will be recorded using Zoom software and your responses will also be recorded on a paper form during the interview.

The audio recording of the interview will be transcribed within 48 hours of the interview, after which the recording will be deleted. You will be given a pseudonym and any information that may identify you will be removed from the transcription. The transcriptions will then be stored and analyzed using Dedoose software. The transcripts will not be used for any research beyond this study. The transcripts will be destroyed upon completion of this research study and no later than December 31, 2020.

Your interview responses that were recorded on the paper forms will be inputted into SPSS software for quantitative data analysis. Following the completion of the data analysis, all forms will be shredded. No identifying information will be recorded on the forms. No identifying information will be inputted into SPSS software for the data analysis and the data will be store in an encrypted SPSS file.

All data undergoing analysis and the results of the analysis will be deidentified. This means that no information that discloses your identity will be shared with anyone other than members of the research team, unless required by law. Such circumstances include reporting suspected child abuse and to provide research documents if they are ordered to be produced by a court of law.

Any identifying information for the purpose of scheduling the interview and contacting consenting participants for a follow-up interview (you will only be contacted if you explicitly consent to be contacted for the purpose of a follow-up interview), will be stored in a password-protected Excel file on a password protected computer that is only used by the Principal Investigator. Following the completion of the data analysis of the follow-up interviews, the Excel file with contact information will be deleted.

If you are selected for a follow-up interview, the interview will be conducted and recorded using Zoom software. Again, the recording will be transcribed within 48 hours of the interview, after which the recording will be deleted. You will be given a pseudonym and information that may identify you will be removed from the transcription. The transcriptions will then be stored and analyzed using Dedoose software. The transcripts will not be used for any research beyond this study. The transcripts will be destroyed upon completion of this research study and no later than December 31, 2020.

HOW WILL STUDY RESULTS BE SHARED?

The research team intends to publish and publicly share the findings of this study in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, research reports submitted to academic journals, white papers provided to professional organizations that support female entrepreneurs, conference presentations, and blog posts. Your identity will not be disclosed in any reports, presentations, or publications. You may also request a summary of the findings by contacting Nicole Johnson at nchristen@uoc.edu.

WILL I BE COMPENSATED FOR MY INVOLVEMENT IN THE STUDY?

No, compensation will not be provided for this study and your participation is completely voluntary. All participants will be given access to a complimentary business coaching webinar following the data analysis. The general findings from the research will be shared during the webinar.

ARE THERE POTENTIAL RISKS I SHOULD BE AWARE OF?

You will be asked questions about your digital learning experiences. You will also be asked about the impact of the experiences on different aspects of your life and wellbeing. While the research team does not anticipate any risks, there is a chance that you may feel apprehensive about responding to some questions based on your personal life experiences or current situation. You do not need to respond to any question that makes you feel uncomfortable and you do not need to offer any explanation for choosing not to respond.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING?

You will not benefit directly from participating in the study. The findings of this study will be used to offer evidence-based suggestions for improving policies, programs, and digital educational resources for female entrepreneurs to better support the empowerment and well-being of female entrepreneurs in Canada.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL

Your participation in this study is voluntary and involves no foreseeable risk to you as person. You may refuse to participate or answer any questions without penalty or explanation. You are free to withdraw your consent in the study at any time; however, your survey data cannot be withdrawn once you have completed the interview. If you provide your consent to be contacted for a follow-up interview and complete that interview, your consent cannot be withdrawn once the data analysis is complete. Again, protocol will be followed to de-identify you and maintain confidentiality. Contact the Principal Investigator, Nicole Johnson, by phone at 604-825-0582 or by email at nchristen@uoc.edu if you wish to withdraw from this study.