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The University of British Columbia
Office of Research Services
Behavioural Research Ethics Board
Suite 102, 6190 Agronomy Road
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3

H16-0023 CLASS PROJECT: Psychology of Social Media Impact Projects (Version 0.3)
Principal Investigator: Catherine Rawn
1. Principal Investigator & Study Team - Human Ethics Application [\[View Form\]](#)

1.1. *Principal Investigator* Please select the *Principal Investigator (PI)* for the study. Once you hit *Select*, you can enter the *PI's* name, or enter the first few letters of his or her name and hit *Go*. You can sort the returned list alphabetically by *First name*, *Last name*, or *Organization* by clicking the appropriate heading.

| Last Name | First Name | Employer.Name | Email |
|-----------|------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Rawn | Catherine | Psychology, Department of | cdrawn@psych.ubc.ca |

Enter *Principal Investigator Primary Department* and also the *primary location* of the *PI's Institution*:

1.2. *Primary Contact* Provide the name of *ONE* primary contact person in addition to the *PI* who will receive *ALL* correspondence, certificates of approval and notifications from the *REB* for this study. This primary contact will have online access to read, amend, and track the application.

1.3. *Co-Investigators* List all the *Co-Investigators* of the study. These members *WILL* have online access which will allow them to read, amend and track the application. These members will be listed on the certificate of approval (except *BC Cancer Agency Research Ethics Board* certificates). If this research application is for a graduate degree, enter the graduate student's name in this section.

| Last Name | First Name | Institution/Department | Rank |
|-----------|------------|------------------------|------|
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1.4. *Additional Study Team Members - Online Access* List the additional study team members who *WILL* have online access to read, amend, and track the application but *WILL NOT* be listed on the certificate of approval.

| Last Name | First Name | Institution/Department | Rank |
|-----------|------------|------------------------|------|
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1.5. *Additional Study Team Members - No Online Access* Click *Add* to list study team members who *WILL NOT* have online access to the application and will *NOT* be listed on the certificate of approval.

| Last Name | First Name | Institution / Department | Rank / Job Title | Email Address |
|-----------|------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|
|-----------|------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|

Tri Council Policy Statement2 (TCPS2) Tutorial All undergraduate and graduate students and medical residents are required to complete the *TCPS2 Tutorial (CORE)* before submission. This tutorial provides an essential orientation to Canadian human research ethics guidelines. The *Principal Investigator* and all *Co-Investigators* must be familiar with the *TCPS2*. Indicate completion of the *TCPS2 (CORE)* tutorial below: 1.6.A. All Undergraduate/Graduate Students:

Yes

1.6.B. All Medical Residents:

N/A (no medical residents participating in this study)

Comments:

1.7. *Project Title* Enter the title of this research study

| <p>as it will appear on the certificate. If applicable, include the protocol number in brackets at the end of the title. If this is a class-based project, see guidance on the right.</p> | <p>CLASS PROJECT: Psychology of Social Media Impact Projects</p> | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|--------|---------|--|--|--|
| <p>1.8. Project Nickname Enter a nickname for this study. What would you like this study to be known as to the Principal Investigator and study team?</p> | <p>CLASS PROJECT: Psychology of Social Media Impact Projects</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>2 Study Dates and Funding Information - Human Ethics Application [View Form]</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>You plan to start collecting data immediately after obtaining ethics and any other required approvals (the start date on the ethics certificate will reflect the approval date),</p> | <p>no</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>You plan to start data collection at a later date i.e., 2 months or more after approvals are obtained. Click the calendar icon below to select the dates (Internet Explorer) or enter the dates manually using the format yyyy-mm-dd. Estimated start date:</p> | <p>19 January 2016</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>2.1. B. Estimated end date:</p> | <p>30 April 2016</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>2.2.A. Types of Funds Please select the applicable box(es) below to indicate the type(s) of funding you are receiving to conduct this research. You must then complete section 2.3 and/or section 2.4 for the name of the source of the funds to be listed on the certificate of approval.</p> | <p>No Funding</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>2.2.B. For Industry Sponsored studies, please provide a sponsor contact.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>2.2.C. Please enter any applicable information about your funding which is not already shown in Box 2.3 or 2.4 (including funding applied for but not yet received).</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>2.3. Research Funding Application/Award Associated with the Study that was Submitted to the UBC Office of Research Services Please click Add to identify the research funding application/award associated with this study. Selecting Add will list the sources of all research funding applications that have been submitted by the PI (and the person completing this application if different from the PI). If the research funding application/award associated with this study is not listed below, please enter those details in question 2.4.</p> | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>UBC Number</th> <th>Title</th> <th>Sponsor</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | UBC Number | Title | Sponsor | | | |
| UBC Number | Title | Sponsor | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| <p>2.4. Research Funding Application/Award Associated with the Study not listed in question 2.3. Please click Add to enter the details for the research funding application/award associated with this study that is not listed in question 2.3. When you press Add you can do a search for your funding award by doing a search in the Sponsor box - over 7000 options are listed</p> | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>UBC Number</th> <th>Title</th> <th>Sponsor</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | UBC Number | Title | Sponsor | | | |
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| | | | | | | | |
| <p>2.5.A. Is this a DHHS grant? (To view a list of DHHS funding agencies click on add in 2.5.B below)</p> | <p>no</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>2.5.B. If yes, please select the appropriate DHHS funding agency from the selection box, and attach the grant to box 9.8. of the application.</p> | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>DHHS Sponsor List:</th> <th>Order:</th> <th>Active:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | DHHS Sponsor List: | Order: | Active: | | | |
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| | | | | | | | |
| <p>Attach DHHS Grant Application for each sponsor listed above</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>2.6. Conflict of Interest Do any of the following statements apply to the Principal Investigator, Co-</p> | | | | | | | |

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| <p>Investigators and/or their partners/immediate family members? Receive personal benefits in connection with this study over and above the direct cost of conducting this study. For example, being paid by the funder for consulting. (Reminder: receiving a finders fee for each participant enrolled is not allowed). Have a non-financial relationship with the sponsor (such as unpaid consultant, advisor, board member or other non-financial interest). Have direct financial involvement with the sponsor (source of funds) via ownership of stock, stock options, or membership on a Board. Hold patent rights or intellectual property rights linked in any way to this study or its sponsor (source of funds).</p> | no | | | | |
| <p>4. Study Type - Human Ethics Application [View Form]</p> | | | | | |
| <p>4.1. UBC Research Ethics Board Indicate which UBC Research Ethics Board you are applying to and the type of study you are applying for:</p> | UBC Behavioural Research Ethics Board | | | | |
| N/A | no | | | | |
| <p>4.2.A. Institutions and Sites for Study</p> | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Institution</td> <td>Site</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UBC</td> <td>Vancouver (excludes UBC Hospital)</td> </tr> </table> | Institution | Site | UBC | Vancouver (excludes UBC Hospital) |
| Institution | Site | | | | |
| UBC | Vancouver (excludes UBC Hospital) | | | | |
| <p>4.2.B. Please enter any other locations where the research will be conducted under this Research Ethics Approval (e.g., private physician's office, community centre, school, classroom, participant's home, in the field - provide details).</p> | | | | | |
| <p>4* Behavioural Study Review Type [View Form]</p> | | | | | |
| <p>4.3.A. If this proposal is closely linked to any other proposal previously/simultaneously submitted, enter the Research Ethics Board number of that proposal.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>4.3.B. If applicable, please describe the relationship between this proposal and the previously/simultaneously submitted proposal listed above.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>4.3.C. Have you received any information or are you aware of any rejection of this study by any Research Ethics Board? If yes, please provide known details and attach any available relevant documentation in question 9.7.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>4.4.A. External peer review details:</p> | This is a class project I designed for Psyc 325, and have not sought formal review. | | | | |
| <p>4.4.B. Internal (UBC or hospital) peer review details:</p> | This is a class project I designed for Psyc 325, and have not sought formal review. | | | | |
| <p>4.4.C. If this research proposal has NOT received any independent scientific/methodological peer review, explain why no review has taken place.</p> | Although I have consulted informally with colleagues and students about this project, there is no mechanism I know of for independent formal peer review of class assignments. | | | | |
| <p>Participant Vulnerability</p> | Low | | | | |
| <p>Research Risk</p> | Low | | | | |
| | Data will be gathered from publicly available online sources. There is no additional risk posed to participants because of these research projects. In Option B, the data come from people's past public | | | | |

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| 4.5.B Explain/justify the level of risk and group vulnerability reported above. | online engagements, which poses no additional risk to participants because of the research projects. In Option C, the data take the form of shares and likes of topically-minimal-risk material -- acts that millions of people engage in each day. Again, this research adds no additional risk to people's lives. (Option A is a literature review and is not relevant for this application.) |
| 4.5.C Does your application fall under minimal risk (i.e., it was assigned an overall risk level of 1 on the minimal risk matrix) and therefore is eligible to be considered for Delegated Review? | yes |
| 4.6. Harmonized Review of Multi-Jurisdictional Studies Is this study a multi-jurisdictional study that requires review by two or more REBs? (Note: If submitting an amendment for an already approved study, you must respond No to this question.) | no |
| 4* Behavioural Study Review Type (Q 4.7, 4.8) [View Form] | |
| 4.7.A Creation of a Research Database or Registry Does this study involve the creation of a research database or registry for future unspecified research? [if no, skip to 4.8] | no |
| 4.7.B Is the purpose of this application exclusively to obtain approval for the creation of a research database or registry? [Note: if the creation of the database or registry is part of a bigger project also included in this application, you must answer no below]. | |
| 4.8. Class-based research and the department level research ethics review process Is this study a minimal risk class-based research project conducted for pedagogical purposes, e.g., a research methods course exercise, or other exercises designed to give students training in conducting and/or presenting research? The activity should not be an undergraduate or graduate thesis/dissertation. | yes |
| If Yes, please state whether your department has a Departmental Ethics Officer (DEO) and, if so, indicate their name below. | No, although I am the PI for Psyc 217 Research Methods class projects across all sections. |
| D: Class-Based Projects [View Form] | |
| D.1. If you selected medium vulnerability or medium research risk on the minimal risk matrix (see question 4.5.A), but the student project(s) still fall within the minimal risk category, please provide further information on how the additional risks will be mitigated and the experience of the students to deal with this. | I didn't select medium vulnerability or medium research risk. All students will be completing the TCPS tutorial, which includes treatment of minimal risk. We will also discuss it in class and I will make clear that all projects need to comply with minimal risk standards. I will check for this when I review the proposals. |
| D.2. Describe the purpose of the assignment, e.g. to | The purpose of this assignment is to promote achievement of the following course learning goals (see the full set here http://blogs.ubc.ca/psychsocialmedia/goals-assessments/learning-goals/): notice anecdotes and personal experiences in social media as triggers of inquiry, followed by seeking, synthesizing, and identifying gaps in empirical and theoretical scholarly literature to help understand |

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| <p><i>learn and practice research techniques.</i></p> | <p>them.</p> <p>analyze social media data to identify psychological phenomena, and attempt to explain your findings using relevant and current psychological research and theory.</p> <p>use social media deliberately to effect positive change in your own life and perhaps a larger community, and attempt to measure the impact of your actions.</p> |
| <p><i>D.3.A. Describe the types of methods the students will be using in the class projects (e.g., surveys, participant observation, interviews, mixed-method studies, etc.) and general types of data students will be collecting.</i></p> | <p>There are two options for this Impact Project relevant to this application (the first option is a literature review; see the full descriptions for all three options here: http://blogs.ubc.ca/psychsocialmedia/goals-assessments/impact-project/).</p> <p>Option B: Students will be asked to design a study that relies on archival data sourced from publicly available spaces online. They will not be interacting with participants at all, but relying on existing data such as retweets and favourites to analyze the resonance of posts in public Twitter feeds. No identifying information will be collected.</p> <p>Option C: Students will be asked to identify an issue or cause to raise awareness or money, design an intervention (e.g., a website) and a strategy to promote it using social media. For example, they might design a webpage that calls attention to an issue, register it with Google Analytics, promote it using different social media platforms, and analyze the results (e.g., which posts resulted in the most hits). The key data will be aggregate indices such as hits, retweets, favourites, shares. The intervention will include a disclaimer to readers indicating that the author is a student researcher and that reader's engagement with the site may be used for research purposes, but that no identifying information will be collected.</p> |
| <p><i>D.3.B. Describe how will you ensure that the methodology described for the research will be followed by the students.</i></p> | <p>Students will be in regular consultation with our three Teaching Assistants and me throughout the course, and will submit a one page proposal to me for approval before beginning data collection.</p> |
| <p><i>D.4. What instructions will you be providing to students regarding recruitment?</i></p> | <p>Option B: Students must sign out of all their social media accounts to be able to ensure that the data they are using to examine their hypothesis is publicly available.</p> <p>Option C: Students must add the disclaimer mentioned above, in D.3.A, to the material they are promoting. If they are posting on their own social media accounts, they should be linking to an external site (rather than putting the material directly in their own status updates, for example).</p> |
| | <p>For Option C, the disclaimer acts as a proactive opportunity for people engaging with the material to recognize their engagements may be anonymously recorded for research purposes (and therefore tailor their acts accordingly if they have concerns).</p> |

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| <p><i>D.5. What instructions will you be providing to students regarding obtaining consent from study participants?</i></p> | <p>Therefore, I will be emphasizing the crucial importance of that disclaimer.</p> <p>For Option B, students are not directly interacting with participants; only past, pre-existing, publicly available information is being used, and therefore consent is not needed.</p> <p>In all cases no identifying information from participants will be collected. And last, the nature of these research projects make it impossible to collect any additional consent.</p> |
| <p><i>D.6. What instructions will you be providing to students on explaining participants' right to withdraw from the research project.</i></p> | <p>The nature of these research projects--particularly the emphasis on aggregate data such as likes and shares--makes it impossible to separate out participants' data for withdrawal.</p> |
| <p><i>D.7. What instructions will you be providing students regarding feedback for participants about the study (where applicable).</i></p> | <p>I will advise students in Option C to post a copy of their final paper on their intervention site, if possible. Otherwise, there will be no way to share feedback about the studies directly with the participants.</p> |
| <p><i>D.8. What instructions will you be providing to students on assessing and minimizing risk to participants?</i></p> | <p>All students doing Options B or C will complete the TCPS and submit a certificate. In addition, we will review in class the topics and target populations that do and do not count as minimal risk. 78% of the students are psychology majors, and almost everyone is in 3rd year or above, which means the vast majority of students in this class will have already completed the Research Methods course that includes designing a minimal risk study.</p> |
| <p><i>D.9. Please describe how the subject of ethics in research involving human participants will be covered within the course.</i></p> | <p>(See D.8).</p> |
| <p><i>D.10. Please describe how you will ensure that students in the course have completed the Tri Council Policy Statement tutorial.</i></p> | <p>Each student doing Options B or C will submit a TCPS completion certificate.</p> |
| <p><i>D.11. Please describe how you, as course instructor, will review and approve the course projects proposed by your students, if they are not using the same standardized materials.</i></p> | <p>All students will submit to me a one page proposal for approval. I will read each one and play close attention to the potential for risk. Because a few class periods are dedicated to working on these projects, I will also be consulting with students as they develop their projects.</p> |
| <p><i>D.12. Please explain how you intend to deal with the project materials (e.g. research proposals, signed consent forms, etc.).</i></p> | <p>Before returning the written proposals to the students, I will make a copy of each, which I will keep for one year after the course is over. After that time, I will submit them (along with all course material) to the psychology department for confidential shredding. There are no consent forms to deal with.</p> |
| <p><i>D.13. Please confirm your acceptance of each of the following:</i></p> | <p>I am familiar with and agree to abide by the ethical guidelines and policies of the Behavioural Research Ethics Board, including the Tri-Council Policy Statement and of my profession or discipline. I agree to comply with the requirements of the class-project guidelines and to ensure that the design of all student projects will fit within the criteria for these projects.</p> <p>I agree to notify the BREB and my Department Ethics Officer (if applicable) of any unanticipated ethical</p> |

problems encountered by the student investigators in the course of their research.

I will actively monitor the progress of student projects and I will make myself available, should problems arise during the course of the research, to supervise the students and assist in solving such problems.

If I have questions about the ethical conduct of this research I will contact the Behavioural Research Ethics Board.

9. Documentation - Human Ethics Application for Behavioural Study [\[View Form\]](#)

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| 9.1. <i>Research Proposal</i> Examples of types of proposals are listed on the right. Click Add to enter the required information and attach the documents. | Document Name Version Date Password (if applicable) |
| 9.2. <i>Documentation of Consent</i> Examples of types of consent documents are listed on the right. Click Add to enter the required information and attach the documents. | Document Name Version Date Password (if applicable) |
| 9.3. <i>Documentation of Assent</i> Examples of types of assent documents are listed on the right. Click Add to enter the required information and attach the documents. | Document Name Version Date Password (if applicable) |
| 9.4. <i>Advertisement to Recruit Participants</i> Examples are listed on the right. Click Add to enter the required information and attach the documents. | Document Name Version Date Password (if applicable) |
| 9.5. <i>Questionnaire, Questionnaire Consent Cover Letter, Tests, Interview Scripts, etc.</i> Please click Add to enter the required information and attach the documents. | Document Name Version Date Password (if applicable) |
| 9.6. <i>Letter of Initial Contact</i> Please click Add to enter the required information and attach the forms. | Document Name Version Date Password (if applicable) |
| 9.7. <i>Other Documents</i> A. <i>Other documents:</i> Examples of other types of documents are listed on the right. Click Add to enter the required information and attach the documents. | Document Name Version Date Password (if applicable) |
| B. <i>If a Web site is part of this study, enter the URL below. Since URL's may change over time or become non-existent, you must also attach a copy of the documentation contained on the web site to one of the sections above or provide an explanation.</i> | NOTE: The Class Syllabus is a website, so I am unable to attach it. But here is the link: http://blogs.ubc.ca/psychsocialmedia/ |

10. Fee for Service - Human Ethics Application for Behavioural Study [\[View Form\]](#)

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| Mechanism for Submitting Fee. Please indicate which of the following method of payment will be used for this application: | N/A |
| Contact information regarding where to send the invoice. | |

12. Save Application - Human Ethics Application [\[View Form\]](#)

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