

Ethics reviewers: Please note that this qualitative study will be completed online, where anonymity is assured. As a result, some aspects of the current PIS template have been amended or removed.

The title of the research project

Postnatal OCD and the potential impact on infant bonding

Invitation to take part

Thank you for your interest in this research project. Before continuing with this study, there are a few important things to be aware of, including why the research is being done, what it will involve and its importance. Please take the time to read the following details and feel free to ask us any questions afterwards. If you have questions later on, contact details will be left below. Take the time to decide whether you wish to participate or not, and feel free to discuss with others if unsure.

What is the purpose of the project?

Many studies have discussed how certain maternal mental issues, such as postnatal depression or anxiety, can have an effect on infants, however, there is limited research investigating postnatal OCD and its impact.

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to investigate how the experience of postnatal OCD might impact on mothers' perception around bonding with their infant. The duration of this study will take no longer than half an hour.

We hope that the outcome of this research will provide further understanding into the impact postnatal OCD may have on a mother-infant interaction, as well as potentially contributing to future research or interventions that could support mothers (and their families) at this time.

This research has been approved by Maternal OCD, a charity who provide support to mothers experiencing postnatal OCD. This project is being supervised by Dr Andrew Mayers, Principal Academic in Psychology at Bournemouth University, who is an expert in perinatal mental health. He works closely with Maternal OCD. The charity will act as 'gatekeeper' for this research and will be on hand for support should any participants need that. You can find more information about the charity at <https://maternalocd.org/>.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been chosen because you are an adult mother who has experienced symptoms of postnatal OCD. If this is not the case, then you will not be able to take part in this research.

Do I have to take part?

It is your decision whether to continue to take part or not. To indicate that agreement, you will be able to give the consent on the subsequent page of this online portal. It is your right to withdraw from this study without being questioned why. Taking part in this research is automatically anonymous. For that reason, we cannot withdraw your data as we cannot identify you. However, you can self-withdraw from the study prior to final submission of your answers. After the final question you will be given the option to “submit responses.” If you do not click on that button, we will take it that you have withdrawn, and we will delete the data. Once you select that option, your data cannot be withdrawn.

What would taking part involve?

You will initially be asked some ‘screening’ questions that will determine that you are eligible to take part. You will be then asked to read some statements about participation, before being given the option to consent to participate. In the research, You will be asked some open-ended questions that will explore your experience of postnatal OCD and how that may, or may not, have had an impact on the bonding with your infant.

What are the advantages and possible disadvantages or risks of taking part?

There are no immediate benefits for participants. However, you will be helping us to increase our understanding of postnatal OCD. This study could then later be used to consider possible support for mothers and babies, or may inform future research.

We understand that taking part in this study may have caused you some distress. If you did find any of the questions upsetting or need some expert support, please contact the support services listed below:

For specialist support, please contact Maria Bavetta at Maternal OCD via Maria.bavetta@maternalocd.org

Or, if you would prefer to seek support from a source not directly associated with this research, you can contact the following charity:

OCD Action <https://www.ocdaction.org.uk/i-need-information-support>

What type of information will be sought from me and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research project’s objectives?

The information sought, will be obtained through the open-ended questions given to you. These will include questions on your perception of what the impact of perinatal OCD potentially has had on the attachment with your child.

Will I be recorded, and how will the recorded media be used?

There will be no audio or video recordings during this study.

How will my information be kept?

All the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly in accordance with current data protection legislation. Research is a task that we perform in the public

interest, as part of our core function as a university. Bournemouth University (BU) is a Data Controller of your information which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it appropriately. BU's Research Privacy Participant Privacy Notice sets out more information about how we fulfil our responsibilities as a data controller and about your rights as an individual under the data protection legislation. We ask you to read this [Notice so that you can fully understand the basis on which we will process your information.](#)

Publication

You will not be able to be identified in any external reports or publications about the research as all data will be obtained anonymously. Research results may be published once all data has been collected and analysed.

Security and access controls

BU will hold the anonymous information we collect in hard copy in a secure location and on a BU password protected secure network where held electronically.

Sharing and further use of your personal information

The information collected about you may be used (in an anonymous form) to support other research projects in the future and access to it in this form will not be restricted. It will not be possible for you to be identified from this data. Anonymised data will be added to BU's [Data Repository \(a central location where data is stored\) and which will be publicly available.](#)

Retention of your data

Anonymous data collected for the purposes of this study will be held for 5 years. We need to retain data collected for the study for a certain period to enable the research to be audited and/or to enable the research findings to be verified.

Contact for further information

For further information about the research, please contact the researcher, Annelies Paris (s5079864@bournemouth.ac.uk) or her supervisor Dr Andrew Mayers (amayers@bournemouth.ac.uk)

In case of complaints

If you have any concerns regarding this study, please contact Prof Tiantian Zhang, (Deputy Dean of Research and Professional Practice), Faculty of Science and Technology, Bournemouth University researchgovernance@bournemouth.ac.uk

Finally

Thank you for considering taking part in this research project.