

APPENDIX A

Greg Gerber: Participant Invitation and Project Information Letter

Study Number: 2013s0164



Simon Fraser University

Faculty of Education

250-13450 1 0 2 Avenue, Surrey, British Columbia, V3T 0A3

Date:

Dear *(insert participant's name)*: **(Note: the project information and recruitment letter will be personally addressed only if being sent to a specific person as an invitation to participate. Otherwise, this will be a general distribution invitation.)**

My name is Greg Gerber. I am currently enrolled in the Ed.D. program in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University. As part of the requirements for my doctoral thesis I am conducting research on the effects of digital media and communications technologies on post-secondary teaching and learning environments. The study is designed to focus on the experiences and perceptions of recently appointed faculty, that is, faculty appointed to positions at SFU in the last 4 year period. This letter is an invitation for you to participate in a study, and as a means of providing you with further detail about the purposes and approach of the research, and about your involvement should you decide to participate.

Title of Research Project:

The effects of digital media and communications technologies on post-secondary teaching and learning environments: a phenomenological approach with recently appointed university faculty

Investigators:

- **Principal Researcher:** Greg Gerber, 604.583.5671 ggerber@sfu.ca
- **Senior Supervisor:** Dr. Milton McClaren, 250.764.8781 mcclaren@sfu.ca

Purpose of the Research:

The proposed study seeks to understand how recently appointed university faculty think about their teaching responsibilities and how they view the effects of educational technologies and media on their instructional work. Additionally, the study will document and analyze the induction of new faculty including processes employed, training received, and mentoring relationships established.

Through the research proposed here, I hope to better understand the induction of new faculty into their instructional roles as professors and to examine the mental models and expectations of faculty in regard to their roles as teachers.

If you agree to participate you will be asked to respond to questions in a semi-structured interview pertaining to your experience as a newly appointed faculty member, and how your experience and subsequent understanding has or has not been influenced by technology. Questions will be asked during a private interview. The interview will be conducted at a time and place that fits your schedule and at your convenience. The interview will take approximately 45 minutes.

Interview Questions will be centered on the following topics:

- What activities and strategies do you commonly engage in while teaching?
- What are your roles as faculty?
- How does curriculum, the department, the university, or technology shape the role of instructor?
- How has technology influenced your approach to teaching or as faculty?

All information provided by you will be treated confidentially. No names will appear in the thesis or in any report resulting from this study; however, with permission, anonymous quotations may be presented in the final thesis.

If you have any questions regarding this study, or would like additional information to assist you in reaching a decision about your participation, please contact me, Greg Gerber the researcher, at 604.583.5671 or by email at ggerber@sfu.ca can also contact Professor Milton McClaren, the senior supervisor for this research, at mcclaren@sfu.ca or at 250-764-8781.

Please be assured that this study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the Office of Research Ethics at Simon Fraser University. However, the final decision about participation is yours. If you have any comments or ethical concerns resulting from your participation in this study, please contact Dr. Dina Shafey, Associate Director, Office of Research Ethics at dshafey@sfu.ca or 778-782-9631

Attached with this letter please find a copy of the Consent Form which you will be asked to sign indicating your understanding of the study purpose and your agreement to participate.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Yours Sincerely,



Greg Gerber, Ed.D. Candidate, Faculty of Education, Simon Fraser University.

CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

(To be completed by persons who wish to indicate their desire to participate in the research study, *The effects of digital media and communications technologies on post-secondary teaching and learning environments: a phenomenological approach with recently appointed university faculty.*

Dear Mr. Gerber:

I wish to participate in the study described in the Study Information Letter. I may be contacted via email at:

(Your usual or preferred email address): [Click here to enter text.](#)

or by telephone at: [Click here to enter text.](#)

I understand that I will be asked to sign a Consent Agreement at the time of my interview session and that I will retain a copy of the Agreement for my Records.

NAME: [Click here to enter text.](#) DATE: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM via email to ggerber@sfu.ca

Thanks very much for your assistance with this research project.