



Office of Research Administration
Akron, OH 44325-2102

NOTICE OF APPROVAL

Date: November 18, 2016
To: Susan Ramlo,
Department of Engineering and Science Technology
From: Sharon McWhorter **SM**
IRB Number: 20161110
Title: Q Methodologists' Practices Related to Factor Analysis

Approval Date: November 17, 2016

Thank you for submitting your IRB Application for review. Your protocol represents minimal risk to subjects and matches the following federal category for exemption:

- Exemption 1** – Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal educational practices.
- Exemption 2** – Research involving the use of educational tests, survey procedures, interview procedures, or observation of public behavior.
- Exemption 3** - Research involving the use of educational tests, survey procedures, interview procedures, or observation of public behavior not exempt under category 2, but subjects are elected or appointed public officials or candidates for public office.
- Exemption 4** – Research involving the collection or study of existing data, documents, records, pathological specimens, or diagnostic specimens.
- Exemption 5** – Research and demonstration projects conducted by or subject to the approval of department or agency heads, and which are designed to study, evaluate, or otherwise examine public programs or benefits.
- Exemption 6** – Taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies.

Annual continuation applications are not required for exempt projects. If you make changes to the study's design or procedures that increase the risk to subjects or include activities that do not fall within the approved exemption category, please contact the IRB to discuss whether or not a new application must be submitted. Any such changes or modifications must be reviewed and approved by the IRB prior to implementation.

Please retain this letter for your files. This office will hold your exemption application for a period of three years from the approval date. If you wish to continue this protocol beyond this period, you will need to submit another Exemption Request. If the research is being conducted for a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation, the student must file a copy of this letter with the thesis or dissertation.

Approved consent form/s enclosed



Susan Ramlo, PhD
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Professor of Physics
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You are invited to participate in a study being conducted by Susan E. Ramlo, PhD, Professor of General Technology-Physics at the University of Akron. The study is entitled Q methodologists' practices related to factor analysis. The purpose of this study is to investigate the views of Q methodologists related to the factor analytic stage within Q methodology. No identifying information will be collected during this study.

Should you agree to participate you can expect the time to perform the Q-Sort to be about 20 minutes.

Completion of the Q-Sort will serve as your consent to participate in this study. You may keep this form for your records. Your confidentiality will be protected throughout the study. Any data obtained from you (Q-Sort) will be kept confidential and will not be viewed by anyone but the researcher. All data will be retained in a locked cabinet or other locked storage area. The data will be kept for no more than two (2) years and will be destroyed upon completion of the project. There are no anticipated benefits or risks to you as a participant.

If you have any questions about the research project, you can contact Dr. Ramlo at 330-972-7057 (sramlo@uakron.edu). This research project has been reviewed and approved by The University of Akron Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects. Questions about your rights as a research participant can be directed to Ms. Sharon McWhorter, Associate Director, Research Services, at 1-330-972-7666 or sm48@uakron.edu.

Thank you for your participation!

Sincerely,

Susan Ramlo, PhD
Professor of General Technology-Physics & Professor of Physics
The University of Akron

APPROVED
IRB
Date 11/17/13
The University of Akron