**TITLE:** The Kink and Flourishing Survey

**SPONSOR:** The Alternative Sexualities Health Research Alliance

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:**
 Richard A. Sprott, Ph.D.
 *The Alternative Sexualities Health Research Alliance*

 Julie Lehman, LMFT
 *The Alternative Sexualities Health Research Alliance*

 **STUDY-RELATED PHONE NUMBER(S):** 510-919-4488
 **STUDY-RELATED EMAIL:**  flourishingkink@proton.me
 **KEY INFORMATION
 To start, here are some key facts about this study:**
  ● The purpose of this study is to investigate flourishing, thriving and healing through kink activities and relationships.
 ● This survey may eventually be used for future scientific and healthcare purposes; for example, researchers might study what elements lead to experiences of healing.
 ● This study involves an internet survey that will ask you approximately 252 questions. The survey should not take more than 60-90 minutes of your time.
 ● This study will not provide any benefits to you directly, but it may assist in broadening the scientific understanding of kink and help educate healthcare providers.
 ● The scientists conducting the study believe that there is virtually no risk to you in taking this survey. You can stop at any time.

icwelcome **Consent to Take Part in a Research Study**   Welcome. We invite you to take part in a research study of kink health led by Richard Sprott, Ph.D. and Julie Lehman, LMFT at The Alternative Sexualities Health Research Alliance (TASHRA) and the research team at TASHRA.

 This study was developed in conjunction with community members and academic researchers involved in TASHRA.

 The purpose of the study is to investigate the physical and mental health of kink-involved people. We will ask about the experiences of healing, and the conditions that lead to an outcome of healing from past trauma; personal growth; and experiences of thriving because of kink activities and kink relationships.

 You will never be identified as a participant in the research, including in any publication or presentation. There will be approximately 600+ adults participating in this study. All participants have some background in kink, and are able to complete this English-language survey.

**Risks and Benefits of the Study**
 There is no benefit to you personally if you participate in this research study. There may be benefits to science, healthcare, and members of the kink community if the study is successful.

 The risk of harm to you as a result of this study is very low, but two possible risks that we have identified are:
 • a “data breach” that involves someone other than the researchers getting access to the information you provide.
 • it is possible that some study questions may cause distress to some people who take the survey.

To minimize the possibility of a data breach, the study team will try to ensure that study data are always encrypted and appropriately managed so that only the researchers and services contracted to support the research, such as the company that hosts the survey questionnaires, have access to your information. These people are prohibited from disclosing any information about you personally. However, any form of communication over the internet does carry some risk of loss of confidentiality. The survey will ask about topics, such as sexual behaviors, relationship dynamics, and past trauma, and may potentially lead you to recall emotional experiences. If you choose to participate in the survey you can skip and not answer any question that makes you uncomfortable, or that you do not wish to answer for any reason.

**Who can I contact if I have questions about this study?** If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about the research project, or think you have experienced emotional distress from being this study, you can contact Richard Sprott at richard@tashra.org, flourishingkink@proton.me, or phone 510-919-4488.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject or complaints regarding this research study, or you are unable to reach the research staff, you may contact a person independent of the research team at the Biomedical Research Alliance of New York Institutional Review Board at 516-318-6877. Questions, concerns or complaints about research can also be registered with the Biomedical Research Alliance of New York Institutional Review Board at www.branyirb.com/concerns-about-research. The IRB is a committee that reviews research studies to help protect the rights and welfare of study subjects.

**Payment**  You will not be paid for being in this study.

**Providing Your Consent**
 Please note that your participation in this study is voluntary. Your refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled, and you may discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. Your alternative is to not participate in this study. If you are currently in a power / authority exchange relationship, by signing you also confirm that you participate freely without any pressure or command from your Master / Mistress, Dominant, or other person who you have given authority to in a power-exchange relationship.

 A description of this clinical trial will be available on www.ClinicalTrials.gov, as required by U.S. Law. This Web site will not include information that can identify you. At most, the Web site will include a summary of the results. You can search this Web site at any time.

 Information that you provide may be reviewed by the research sponsor and people who work with the sponsor. It may also be reviewed by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) responsible for oversight of this study, to ensure that the rights of subjects are protected. We may publish the results of this research. However, we will keep your name and other identifying information confidential. We protect your information from disclosure to others to the extent required by law. We cannot promise complete secrecy.