

Participant Information Sheet/Consent Form

Title	Being different: An advantage in entrepreneurship
Chief Investigator	Professor, Dr. Pia Arenius
Associate Investigator	Professor, Dr. Johan Wiklund

What does my participation involve?

1 Introduction

You are invited to take part in a new exciting research project linking insights in psychology and neuroscience to entrepreneurship. The project is called *Being different: An advantage in entrepreneurship*. You have been invited because you are involved in the startup of a new business.

This is a Participant Information Consent Form, which tells you about the research project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pia Arenius and/or Johan Wiklund. You find our contact information at the end of this document.

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you decide take part in the research project, you will be asked to sign the consent section. By signing it you are telling us that you:

- Understand what you have read
- Consent to take part in the research project

2 Purpose of the research

This research project explores how psychological traits are associated with entrepreneurship. Specifically, we are interested in traits associated with ADHD, dyslexia, and impulsivity. There is anecdotal evidence that highly successful entrepreneurs such as Steve Jobs, Richard Branson, and David Neeleman exhibit these characteristics. While such traits can be dysfunctional in regular employment, there is reason to believe that in entrepreneurship, they may actually be advantageous. For example, the impulsivity, high activation level and action orientation of people with ADHD; are characteristics that fit this uncertain entrepreneurship context and that could potentially be leveraged to generate entrepreneurial success. In this study, we aim to acquire knowledge of how these traits pan out in the organizations that entrepreneurs create.

3 What participation in this research involves

As participant of the study you will be asked to do:

- ▶ sign the Informed Consent Form prior to involvement in the research
- ▶ respond to an online or paper-based survey and a possible follow-up 6 months later

4 Possible benefits of taking part

All participants will receive a summary of the most important results of the study. Moreover, we will organize seminars at different locations in Melbourne, where you will have a chance to receive more detailed feedback and engage the researchers in dialogue about specific issues or results.

5 Do I have to take part in this research project?

Participation in any research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage. You may also refuse to answer any questions that you do not wish to answer during the observation.

If you do decide to take part, you will be given this Participant Information and Consent Form to sign and you will be given a copy to keep.

Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the researchers or with RMIT University.

6 What are the risks and disadvantages of taking part?

Psychological distress

It is not anticipated that participation in the survey will lead to any harms (psychological or other). However, you may experience some discomfort or mild anxiety in answering survey questions. In case you feel discomfort regarding your responses to any of the survey questions or if you do not wish to answer a question, you are free to skip it or cease the survey. If you feel that some of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting or If you become upset or distressed as a result of your participation in the research project, you are also free to skip a question, take a break or cease the survey. If there is any need, please discuss with your family and friends, and seek an appropriate counselling service. You can contact the MindSpot Clinic (Tel. 1 800 61 44 34), a free counselling service providing help on anxiety and depression problems. You can also contact the researchers to discuss available support.

If you have any concerns about your participation in this project, which you do not wish to discuss with the researchers, then you can contact the Ethics Officer, Research Integrity, Governance and Systems, RMIT University, GPO Box 2476V VIC 3001. Tel: (03) 9925 2251 or email human.ethics@rmit.edu.au

Online surveys

This project will use an external site to create, collect and analyse data collected in a survey format. The site we are using is Qualtrics. If you agree to participate in this survey, the responses you provide will be stored on their host server. All responses are anonymous and your individual responses cannot be traced. Once we have completed our data collection and analysis, we will import the data to the RMIT server where it will be stored securely for five year. The data on the host server will then be deleted and expunged.

7 What if I withdraw from this research project?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. If you decide to withdraw from the project, please notify a member of the research team.

You have the right to have any unprocessed data withdrawn and destroyed, providing it can be reliably identified.

8 What happens when the research project ends?

Once we have analysed your data, we will contact you by email and offer you the opportunity to review your data with us. You will also receive a report on the results of the project by email. The results of the project will be available by December 2018.

How is the research project being conducted?

9 What will happen to information about me?

By signing the consent form you consent to the research team collecting and using information from you for the research project. Confidentiality and privacy will be strictly maintained during all stages of the research. No information you provide will be directly passed on to you or your organization. We will only publish results of statistical analysis, without any personal information. It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. All the data collected in this study will be stored at the RMIT secure server, it will be password protected and it will be destroyed after seven years.

In accordance with relevant Australian and/or Victorian privacy and other relevant laws, you have the right to request access to the information about you that is collected and stored by the research team. You also have the right to request that any information with which you disagree be corrected. Please inform the research team member named at the end of this document if you would like to access your information.

Any information that you provide can be disclosed only if (1) it is protect you or others from harm, (2) if specifically allowed by law, (3) you provide the researchers with written permission. Any information obtained for the purpose of this research project that can identify you will be treated as confidential and securely stored.

Finally, the questions in the survey are not being used for diagnostic purposes. If you have any concerns about your responses to these questions, you should discuss these with a medical practitioner or other suitably qualified professional.

10 Who is organising and funding the research?

This research project is being conducted by Professors Pia Arenius and Johan Wiklund. This research has been funded by RMIT University and by the Fulbright Program.

11 Who has reviewed the research project?

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). This research project has been approved by the RMIT University HREC.

This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2007). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

12 Further information and who to contact

If you want any further information concerning this project, you can contact Professor Pia Arenius on tel. 0416 210 392 or any of the following people:

Research contact persons

Name	Pia Arenius
Position	Chief investigator, Professor, Dr.
Telephone	0416 210 392
Email	pia.arenius@rmit.edu.au

Name	Johan Wiklund
Position	Associate investigator, Professor, Dr.

Email

jwiklund@syr.edu

13 Complaints

Should you have any concerns or questions about this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the researchers listed in this document, then you may contact:

Reviewing HREC name	RMIT University
HREC Secretary	Peter Burke
Telephone	03 9925 2251
Email	human.ethics@rmit.edu.au
Mailing address	Research Ethics Co-ordinator Research Integrity Governance and Systems RMIT University GPO Box 2476 MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Consent Form

Title	Being different: An advantage in entrepreneurship
Chief Investigator	Professor, Dr. Pia Arenius
Associate Investigator	Professor, Dr. Johan Wiklund

Acknowledgement by Participant

By clicking the button below/ signing this form, I declare that:

I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet.

I understand the purposes, procedures and risks of the research described in the project.

I freely agree to participate in this research project as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the project without affecting my relationship with RMIT.

I understand that I will have access to a copy of this document that I may download and retain.