



Expecting a child. A study of how the individual's views of society are impacted by pregnancy and childbirth.

Information to research subjects

You are partner of a pregnant woman, which are participating in the study "Expecting". We would like to ask you if you would be willing to participate in a research project. This document provides information about the project and what it means to participate.

What kind of project is it and why do you want me to participate?

Background

Becoming pregnant is one of the most important events of life. In spite of this, there is a lack of research on how pregnancy and childbirth impact the individual's view of society. This project is the first research project to systematically investigate how a pregnant woman's and her partner's views of society are impacted by pregnancy and childbirth.

We turn to you who are a partner of a woman in the early stages of pregnancy so that we can follow you during and after pregnancy. By partner we mean you who are married or living together/apart with the pregnant women and you who are biological or non-biological parent of the child/children to be born. The project is a collaborative project between midwives and obstetricians at the Sahlgrenska University Hospital and the Sahlgrenska Academy, and political scientists at the Department of Political Science and the SOM (Society, Opinion, Media) Institute, all at the University of Gothenburg.

There is quite a lot of research on how and why people change their views of society. But so far in the research, pregnancy and childbirth have not been regarded as processes that have political significance. In this project, we are interested in how the individual's interest in social questions increases or decreases, and how perceptions of and opinions about society change during pregnancy and early parenthood.

An understanding of these processes is decisive for a society to be able to respond to citizens in this situation in ways that are sensitive to their needs. This project is also needed to increase knowledge about parents' experiences of social support and to explain why women and men exhibit differences in how they engage with various social questions and what they think about them. Because pregnancy and childbirth affect a majority of people, and because they are often life-changing events, this project is needed to provide a comprehensive picture of how perceptions of society are created and altered, and how we should understand the differences between different women and men.

Purpose

There are two overarching questions that we would like to answer with the help of your participation in this study: 1) To what extent and how is the pregnant woman's partner's view of society impacted by pregnancy and childbirth? 2) How do effects of pregnancy and childbirth on societal views differ between different individuals?

How is the study done?

Once you have given your consent to participate in the study, the first survey will be sent to your e-mail address. It takes about fifteen minutes to complete and you can complete it using all the usual types of electronic devices such as an iPhone, Android smartphone, iPad or PC.

After that, you will receive five more surveys spread out over slightly longer than two years. The first of these will be sent to your e-mail address when your pregnant partner is in roughly week 22 of the pregnancy. Once you have answered the survey, you will receive a gift card to the value of SEK 100 as a thank you for your participation.

You will then receive a survey when your pregnant partner is in roughly week 36 of the pregnancy, and additional surveys when your baby is 2 months, 1 year, and 2 years old. If both you and your partner participate in the study, your answers will be analysed individually and jointly.

Researchers at the Department of Political Science and at the Laboratory of Opinion Research (LORE) at the SOM Institute, University of Gothenburg, will be responsible for sending out the surveys. LORE has extensive experience of working with web-based surveys and have been using similar methods since 2002.

Research has shown that the individual's state of health, experiences, the course of their pregnancy and the birth can all impact the individual's political views and trust in institutions such as the healthcare system. If the pregnant woman agrees to participate in the study, we will retrieve registry data on her medical development and birth outcomes from the Swedish Pregnancy Register (<https://www.medscinet.com/gr/engelska.aspx>). That way, we do not need to ask questions about the pregnancy and the birth of your child in the surveys.

Possible consequences and risks of participating in the study

All in all, we do not see any risks associated with your participation in the study. To prevent intrusions on your privacy through sensitive personal data being disclosed or falling into the wrong hands, we have strict procedures for data processing that are described below.

We will not ask you questions that could invoke a strong and unpleasant emotional response, but at the same time there is always the possibility that you will be emotionally affected by the survey's questions about society. You have the option of a follow-up conversation with one of the researchers if you wish. The research project will be carried out by and in collaboration with researchers with world-leading competence on how to formulate survey questions without causing offence.

What happens to my data?

The surveys you fill in during the study will be stored in an encrypted folder which can only be accessed by the researchers in this project. This folder is stored on the University of Gothenburg's servers and covered by strict data protection regulations, such as the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Personal data such as names, e-mail addresses and personal identity numbers from the surveys you fill in during the study will be replaced by a code so that you cannot be individually identified. If the pregnant woman agrees, the responses to the surveys are then stored in a data set linked with data from the Swedish Pregnancy Register. Only those researchers in the project who are responsible for processing the surveys will have access to the encryption key. The data will be stored for 10 years to allow review of the data. Your answers will be processed in a way that will prevent access to them by unauthorised persons.

Under the GDPR, you are entitled to request information regarding what personal data is processed in the study, free of charge, and where necessary to have any errors corrected. You are also entitled to have personal data about you erased, and to limit the processing of your personal data. The easiest way to do this is by contacting the principal researcher Elin Naurin on e-mail elin.naurin@pol.gu.se or

by phone to +46(0)31-786 1243. If necessary, the Data Protection Officer at the University of Gothenburg can assist with this. Johanna Wallin is the Data Protection Officer and she can be reached by phone on +46(0)766-183232. Her e-mail address is johanna.wallin@gu.se and postal address is Box 100, SE-405 30 Gothenburg, SWEDEN. If you are unhappy with how your personal data is being processed, you have the right to submit a complaint to the Swedish Data Protection Authority, which is the supervisory authority.

How can I get information about the results of the study?

When the results from the study are published, no individuals will be identifiable. The results of the study will be presented at group level in scholarly journal articles and books, as well as in more easily accessible reports and texts. The journal articles will also be made available on the website. We will hold a number of seminars presenting the results of the study which will be open to the public. These seminars will be advertised on the project's website.

Insurance and compensation

You are not covered by any insurance via the project but you are covered by the hospital's patient insurance when you are in the hospital.

Compensation of SEK 100 will be paid for participation the study in the form of a gift card when you answer survey number 2, which is in approximately week 22 of the pregnancy.

Participation is voluntary

Your participation in the study is entirely voluntary and you may choose to terminate your participation at any time. If you choose not to participate or want to terminate your participation, you do not need to give any reason for doing so, and it will not have any impact on your current or future care or treatment. If you wish to terminate your participation in the study, you will be able to choose to also erase your data, including the data from the analysis of your pregnant partner's responses to the surveys.

Who is responsible for the study?

The principal for this research project is the University of Gothenburg.

Participating researchers are:

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