

Reed College  
Human Subjects Research Committee (IRB)  
Project Approval Form 2003/2004

NOTE: Please download to your computer and use Word to supply requested info.

**COVER PAGE**

Project Title: **Nigerian Video Film and Nigerian Expatriate Cultural Identity**

Submission Date: **8/4/04**

Name of Primary Investigator: **Sara Mott**

Address: **MS#616 Reed College 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. Portland, OR 97202**

Faculty Advisor (if applicable): **Prof. Charlene Makley**



Signature of Faculty Advisor: (signature indicates that the proposal has been read and approved.)

Please indicate your agreement to the following stipulation:

I will promptly report changes in the proposed study and any unanticipated problems involving risks to participants, including adverse reactions, to the Human Subjects Research Committee.



Signature of Primary Investigator

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If your submission is **similar to** a submission that has been approved previously (within the past two academic years, 2001-2003), please identify that proposal by Project Name and Primary Investigator. Because we are changing the format of proposals so radically (fall, 2003), you will need to fill out this new form fully. However, the process of review will be aided by reference to the previous proposal.

**A. BASIC PROTOCOL INFORMATION:**

1. Is this study being performed at sites other than the Reed College campus?

YES  NO

**If YES, list other sites:**

**Interviews will take place at a mutually agreed upon public space.**

2. Is this study being funded by the federal government or by some other agency that requires certification of review by the Reed College HSRC?

YES  NO

**If YES, list funding information (including agency and protocol number) and append a copy of the funding application.**

3. Does the research require approval from one or more non-Reed organization(s) or IRB(s)?

YES  NO

**If YES, does the other organization/IRB require review by Reed's HSRC (IRB)?**

YES  NO

Attach application to other organization and, if approval has been granted, documentation of the approval.

**NOTE:** If the study is not federally funded and will be run at an off-campus site, AND if the research has been approved by an appropriate off-campus IRB, STOP HERE. Submit only the Cover Page, this page of the application, and the approved application to the off-campus IRB.

4. Although the IRB ultimately determines which type of review your protocol will receive, please consult the guidelines in the document entitled "Categories of Review" and then check the category of review you believe applies.

Exempt  
 Expedited  
 Full

5. Please indicate whether the primary focus of your research will be on one or more of the following populations:

Children (individuals <18 years) **COMPLETE APPENDIX A**  
 Individuals who are or may be decisionally impaired  
 Prisoners  
 Individuals who live outside the US **COMPLETE APPENDIX B**  
 Non-English speakers **COMPLETE LANGUAGE SECTION, APPENDIX B**  
 Elected or appointed public officials or candidates for public office

**B. SUMMARY** (all categories of review, 3-5 sentences)

1. Provide a brief summary of the purpose of the research.

**By conducting interviews with Nigerian expatriates living in Portland, I hope to uncover how cultural attitudes and values are transmitted through media consumption (for example, by viewing video films) and create a sense of cultural continuity even in the wake of diaspora. I am very interested in studying patterns of video consumption, including responses towards content and narrative and the social practices associated with their viewing (meaning with whom the interviewee primarily watches a film, whether or not discussion takes place during or after, etc.).**

**C. BACKGROUND** (only if your proposal requires Full Review, 500 words maximum)

1. Provide a brief summary of prior, relevant research findings and the importance of the knowledge you expect to gain.

**D. PARTICIPANTS** (all categories of review)

1. Does your research involve only accessing an existing database(s)?  
 YES  NO

**If YES**, list the database(s) and then **SKIP TO** Section G, and fill out items 2-4.

2. Describe the participant population.

**Participants shall be adult Nigerian expatriates living in the Portland area.**

**NOTE:** If your study involves only...

- the observation of public behavior of elected or appointed public officials or candidates for office
- research on normal educational practices in accepted educational settings, in which any presentation or publication of the data will not identify individual participants

**...STOP HERE and do not submit the remaining pages of this form.**

3. Identify all criteria for inclusion and exclusion of participants. Provide rationales where these may not be obvious.

a. Inclusion:

**Adult Nigerians and possibly their non-Nigerian spouses, if applicable, who regularly consume media (including newspapers, magazines, and particularly video films) produced in Nigeria. The goal is to find adult Nigerians**

**who can relate their experiences and identities as Nigerians to the Nigerian media they consume.**

b. Exclusion:

**My research does not include children.**

4. Recruitment

**NOTE:** If your study involves only the observation of public behavior, check here  and **SKIP TO** Sections G and H.

a. How will potential participants be identified?

**NOTE:** Attach recruitment ads and/or letters if appropriate.

**I have initiated contact with the president of the Nigerian Community in Oregon and SW Washington (NCOSWA), Efosa Odighizuwa. He has agreed to be interviewed and, depending on the outcome of the interview, may be willing to introduce me to other appropriate participants.**

If it is not obvious from the recruitment ad or letter:

b. How will potential participants be screened for inclusion and exclusion criteria?

c. What will they be told about the purposes of the research before being asked for consent to participate?

**I will be completely open about my intentions to write a thesis based on the interviews. I will explain to the fullest extent possible my interest in understanding Nigerian expatriate responses to Nigerian media. Consent to conduct interviews will be directly requested and recorded on audio tape.**

**E. PROCEDURES** (all categories of review EXCEPT as indicated in Section D)

1. Provide the following information:

a. Expected duration of individual participation: **This will depend upon the interviewee's needs and desires. I expect interviews to last no more than a few hours, with follow up interviews upon request and based upon mutual agreement.**

b. Study location(s): **As stated above, interviews will take place at mutually agreed upon public locations.**

c. Type or amount of compensation to participant, if any: **None.**

2. Provide a specific description of what each participant will be asked to experience or to do.

**NOTE:** Append all questionnaires, surveys, and sample items from computerized tasks.

**NOTE:** For structured interviews, provide interview protocol. For unstructured interviews, describe the goals of the interview and any topics to be avoided. Approved research protocols may be listed by name.

**The interviews will be largely unstructured. Attached is a list of questions that may be used to get the interview started. The thrust of the interview will be towards determining attitudes towards Nigeria and Nigerian media, with the goal of uncovering the sources of and responses towards the interviewee's perceived Nigerian identity.**

**F. RISK/BENEFIT ASSESSMENT** (all categories of review EXCEPT as indicated in Section D)

1. Benefits

Describe the potential direct and indirect benefits, if any, to participants.

**NOTE:** Incentives for participation should not be included here.

2. Risks

- a. Indicate whether the research involves any of the following by checking in front of applicable items:

Deception

Procedures that may result in mental or emotional stress, such as induction of negative mood, damage to self-esteem, manipulation of attitudes, exposure to aversive stimuli

Procedures that may involve physical harm to participants, such as ingestion of any substance, physical exercise, invasive physiological measurements

Presentation of materials and/or behaviors commonly regarded as socially unacceptable within the setting of the research

Procedures that might be regarded as invading privacy

Possible/probable disclosure of information that could be harmful to participant (e.g., criminal behavior, immigration status, information that might affect academic or employment status, information that could affect the participant's reputation or be considered stigmatizing)

- b. For each of the risks indicated above:

- i. Describe why the procedure is necessary. If possible, provide at least one previous reference upon which your procedure(s) is/are based, indicating and justifying any changes you have made to this procedure.

**NOTE:** Append additional pages if necessary.

- ii. Describe how you will minimize any risks posed.

**My research requires that autobiographical accounts be given. However, participants will be informed of their right to refuse to answer any question and to withdraw any part of the interview. Furthermore, I will specifically avoid asking questions about immigration status, or any other questions that may present undue risk to the participant.**

### G. CONFIDENTIALITY ISSUES

1. Will you be audio/video taping or photographing participants?

YES  NO

If YES:

Provide a rationale for taping/photographing. Describe confidentiality procedures, including what will become of records after use (e.g. shown at scientific meetings, erased), the final disposition of the records (e.g. destruction, archiving), and a reasonable timeline for this disposition.

**The audio taping of interviews is a fairly standard procedure in the course of ethnographic research. For these interviews, I would like to audio tape them so as to be able to remember in detail the interviewee's responses. Often times in the course of interviews what seemed unimportant may, upon reflection by the researcher, be of great significance. As these interviews present minimal risk to the participants, audio recording should not pose any additional threat, though explicit consent will be requested. I do intend to save these recordings for possible use in future projects, but I will store them in a locked file cabinet in my apartment that no one else will have access to. I reserve the right to share the recorded interviews with my thesis advisor if academic advice is needed regarding issues of transcription and interpretation.**

**NOTE:** Be sure to include a separate signature line for permission to tape or photograph in the informed consent document. Where written consent is waived by the IRB, participants should be asked to confirm their consent as part of the recorded material.

2. Will you be collecting any obvious identifiers (names, social security numbers, detailed physical descriptions, genealogies, addresses, etc.?)

YES  NO

3. Will you be collecting data that, when considered in light of the potential participant pool, could lead to the identification of an individual participant? Examples include autobiographical accounts or identifiable patterns of demographic information.

YES  NO

If YES to either of these questions (2. or 3.):

- a. Specify to the extent possible what information will be collected and why.  
**Pseudonyms will be used in all write-ups, including my thesis. I expect and need autobiographical accounts to be given, although I will make clear before the interview begins my intention to use these accounts in my thesis, which will, upon completion, be publicly available. I will also make it known before the interview begins that at any point in the course of the interview the participant has the right to terminate the exchange and/or request destruction of the audio tape.**
  - b. Specify the procedures for coding and/or storing the data so that confidentiality of individual participant data is protected.  
**I will request that the interviewee choose a name (their own or created) by which they wish to be identified in the interview and all subsequent transcriptions.**
4. If data are coded, will you retain a master list linking study codes and direct identifiers?  
 YES  NO

If YES, explain why this is necessary, how and where you will secure the master list, and how long it will be kept.

5. Please provide the following information about confidentiality of data:

- a. Will information that could identify the participant be shared in any way?  
 YES  NO

If YES, explain.

**Autobiographical accounts are not only necessary but fundamental to my ethnographic research. I intend to use these accounts in my thesis. Participants will be fully informed of this fact before the interview begins.**

- b. Describe your plan for presentation and/or publication, as well as data retention and future use of records.  
**Presentation of the interviews will be in the form of my thesis.**

#### **H. INFORMED CONSENT** (all categories of review EXCEPT as indicated in Section D)

1. Please note whether written informed consent will be sought from all participants, or whether a waiver is being requested. **(If so, complete APPENDIX C.)**

Written informed consent will be sought from all participants.

- Waiver of written consent is being requested. Verbal consent will be sought from participants.
- Waiver of informed consent is being requested.

**NOTE: APPEND ALL CONSENT DOCUMENTS AND/OR SCRIPTS.**

2. Describe the context in which consent will be sought, when consent will be sought, how often consent will be sought (if appropriate), as well as who will be responsible for seeking consent from participants.
- Consent will be requested and recorded on audio tape before the interview begins. The consent script is attached.**

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Appendices to Project Approval Form 2003/2004

Appendix C. Request for Waiver or Alteration of Informed Consent

1. Waiver of Written Informed Consent

Written consent may be waived for this research because:

- The only record linking the participant and the research would be the consent document AND the principal risk to participants is potential harm resulting from breach of confidentiality via the consent document. Each participant will be asked whether the participant wants documentation linking her/him with the research and the participant's wishes will govern.

**OR**

- The research presents no more than minimal risk of harm to participants (for example, none of the risks in Section F.2) and involves no procedures for which written consent is normally required outside of the research context.

If a waiver of written consent is granted by the HSRC, verbal consent must be sought and documented.

- In place of written consent, I will obtain verbal/spoken consent. Describe how verbal consent will be documented.

**I will document verbal consent by audio recording it before the start of the interview. I have attached a consent script to this application.**

- c. Waiver of Informed Consent

In certain cases, the requirement for consent can be waived altogether. **ALL** of the following conditions must be met in order for the research to be eligible for a waiver:

1. The research presents no more than minimal risk of harm to participants.
2. The waiver will not adversely affect the rights and welfare of the participants.
3. The research could not practicably be carried out without the waiver.
4. Whenever appropriate, the participants will be provided with additional pertinent information after participation.

Please outline your arguments in support of this request.

Thank you for your participation in my senior thesis project. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my faculty advisor, Prof. Charlene Makley, the chair of the Human Subjects Research Committee, Prof. Kathy Oleson, or myself. Our contact information is below. If you would like to withdraw all or part of your interview, please contact me by October 10, 2004.

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## Oral PARTICIPANT CONSENT SCRIPT

*“Ethnographic Interviews with Expatriate Nigerian Community Members”*

I, (Sara Mott, Anthropology student at Reed College, Portland, OR USA), invite you to contribute to my Senior Thesis Project (a long independent research paper all students must write to graduate). My thesis is about the role of media such as Nigerian video films in fostering a sense of transnational community and identity amongst Nigerians living abroad. Through this part of the study I hope to learn how messages contained in media (including videos, newspapers, etc.) are received and interpreted by Nigerians abroad. Your personal experience, opinions, and perceptions of Nigerian media, the Nigerian community in Portland, and Nigeria in general will be a valuable asset to this study.

Your participation involves an interview with me, which will take approximately one or two hours. I may ask you if you wish to participate in further interviews at a later date. The interview will be open-ended, and will include questions on your experiences with media forms produced in Nigeria and your opinions on what it means to be a Nigerian living abroad.

With your permission, I will tape record this interview, but if you are not comfortable being tape-recorded I will record your answers by hand. Your participation in this study will be confidential, which means that only my faculty advisor, Charlene Makley, and I will have access to the tapes after the interview. I intend to keep these records for use in possible future projects, but I will keep careful track of them so that no one else gains access, and I will not use your name or any details that could personally identify you in my written documents. If you agree to this, I might quote your exact words in my thesis, again without any identifying information.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. It's important to me that you feel comfortable and know that you may refuse to answer any question at any time, or stop the interview altogether at any time. At any time before the end of the interview, you may request that I erase all or part of your previously recorded answers. You may also contact me before October 10, 2004 to withdraw all or part of your interview.

I will give you my contact information and I will be glad to answer any questions or doubts about my study. You can also address questions or doubts about the project to my thesis advisor, Charlene Makley; I will give you her contact information as well.

## Possible Interview Questions/ Topics

CONSENT—please state your name. Do you, blank, give consent to be interviewed, with the understanding that this interview was undertaken as research for an undergraduate thesis at Reed College, which will be available to the public via the library upon completion? Do you consent

1. Age, Gender, Ethnicity (Yoruban, Ibo, Hausa, etc.)
2. Where did you live in Nigeria?
3. Age when immigrated from Nigeria
4. Reasons for leaving Nigeria? What was it like in Nigeria, from your perspective?
5. Reasons for coming to United States
6. Do you intend to become a naturalized citizen if you aren't already?
7. Friends/relatives/business relations with Nigeria?
  - a) Do you feel like it is still easy to relate to those you left behind? Why or why not?
8. Ever return to Nigeria? What was your experience doing so?
9. What aspects of your life have changed since leaving Nigeria?
10. Is retaining a “Nigerian identity” (cultural or otherwise) significant to you? How do you work to maintain the integrity of that identity?
11. What Nigerian media products do you consume (ie, do you watch video films, read newspapers, participate in online forums, etc)? How often? Under what circumstances?
12. What video films have you watched? Would you characterize your consumption as high/low?
13. What type of video film do you most enjoy? Do you watch them with friends and family? At certain times in your life or during the day/night?
14. Can you tell me about one or more films that stand out in your mind in particular—your favorite, or one you hated, etc. What did you like/dislike?
15. Do you feel that the video films offer an accurate representation of the everyday concerns of Nigerians? What is fantastical about them? Realistic?
16. What major themes do you feel concern Nigerians? Expatriate Nigerians?
17. What do you think of the video film industry in general?

## Questions for distributors

- d. How many video films do you sell during a typical week? Yoruban/Hausa/Ibo (English)
- e. Would you characterize your clientele as mostly Nigerian and Ghanian? What ethnicities?
- f. What are your most popular titles of all-time?
- g. Why do you think that those titles were particularly appealing?
- h. Is there a type (genre) of film that is most popular? Why do you think that genre is most popular (your opinion)?
- i. Also, do you sell more of the Yoruban or the English videos? Why do you think this is so?

- j. Do you yourself watch Nigerian video films? Are you Nigerian? If yes, would you be willing to be interviewed further about your opinions concerning video films, and your experiences as a Nigerian expatriate? (please include contact information if you're willing).