

INFORMED CONSENT

Project Name: Spiritual Belief Attitudes in the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America:

You are being asked to participate in a study investigating the various manifestations of belief cross-culturally between the United States and Germany. For the portion you are about to participate in, researchers would like to explore the trends in the American landscape. Some participants of the survey portion of this study may be chosen to take part in interviews which will examine in-depth your life experiences. The results of this study will be made available to faculties of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Bielefeld University in Germany.

The consent forms will be kept separate from the answers for your protection. Only those on our research team will have access to your records. Should you be interviewed, you will be asked to complete a separate informed consent explaining any additional risks involved in participation. We (the research team) will remove any characteristics which could identify you individually. Know that your information will be kept confidential and in a secure location. Your confidentiality is our utmost importance and we will keep your records private to the full extent of the law.

Although all studies have some degree of risk, the potential risk in this investigation is minimal. However, there are a couple of aspects to this study you should consider before deciding to participate. Our online testing elements used in this study are similar to that of normal test taking procedures that one would find in a classroom setting. Moreover, you will not incur any cost for your participation. The interview can last between one to five hours depending on how much information you wish to share. You have the right to discontinue participation at anytime. Participation is completely voluntarily.

If you have any questions prior to your participation, or at any time during the study, please do not hesitate to contact research director Christopher Silver (423) 425-2267 or Email Christopher-Silver@utc.edu or Research advisor Ralph Hood at (423) 425-2126.

CONTACT INFORMATION OR REGISTER A CONCERN

If you have any further questions you may contact Christopher Silver at (423) 425-2267 or Ralph Hood at 423-425-4274 or to register a concern or file a complaint related to this research you can contact the supervising professor (and IRB Chair) Dr Margaret Roblyer at (423) 425-5567.

AUTHORIZATION: I have read the above agreement and understand the nature of the study. I understand that by agreeing to participate in this study I have not waived any legal or human right, and that I may contact the head researcher or research advisor at anytime (head researcher: Chris Silver (423) 425-2267 or research advisor: Dr. Ralph Hood (423) 425-2126). I agree to participate in this study and release all responses I make on this study to Christopher Silver. I understand that I have the right to withdraw at anytime for any reason without reprisal or prejudice.

The Institutional Review Board of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (FWA00004149) has approved this research project #10-002