

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research  
Institutional Review Board  
528 East Green Street  
Suite 203  
Champaign, IL 61820



March 10, 2008

Assata Zerai  
Department of Sociology  
325 Lincoln Hall  
MC-454

RE: *The Facebook Project: Meaning and Purpose in Everyday Student Life*  
IRB Protocol Number: 08427

Dear Assata:

Thank you for submitting the completed IRB Application for Exemption form for your project entitled *The Facebook Project: Meaning and Purpose in Everyday Student Life*. Your project was assigned Institutional Review Board (IRB) Protocol Number 08427 and reviewed. The research activities involving human subjects are exempt from Title 34 – Public Welfare, Part 46 – Protection of Human Subjects, Subpart A – Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects per the following category:

45 CFR 46.101(b)(2): This exemption applies since this study involves individual interviews with students from the Sociology 100 subject pool. The goal of the research is to assess what the meaning and purpose of Facebook.com is to undergraduate students on an everyday basis and to determine what the value of the social networking technology is to these students. Any disclosure of the participants' responses outside of the research context would not reasonably place them at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to their financial standing, employability, or reputation. Therefore, the category 2 exemption can be applied.

This determination of exemption only applies to the research study as submitted. **Exempt protocols are approved for a maximum of three years.** Please note that additional modifications to your project need to be submitted to the IRB for review and exemption determination or approval before the modifications are initiated. To submit modifications to your protocol, please complete the IRB Research Amendment Form (see <http://www.irb.uiuc.edu/?q=forms-and-instructions/research-amendments.html>).

We appreciate your conscientious adherence to the requirements of human subject research. If you have any questions about the IRB process, or if you need assistance at any time, please feel free to contact me or the IRB Office.

Sincerely,



Sue Keehn, Director, Institutional Review Board

c: Jeff Ginger