

October 24, 2014

Office for Research

Institutional Review Board for the  
Protection of Human Subjects

Mary Wood  
Department of Psychology  
College of Arts & Sciences  
Box 870348

Re: IRB # 14-OR-360, "Beyond Atkins: How do the Prongs Perform During Sentencing?"

Dear Ms. Wood:

The University of Alabama Institutional Review Board has granted approval for your proposed research.

Your application has been given expedited approval according to 45 CFR part 46. You have also been granted the requested waiver of informed consent. Approval has been given under expedited review category 7 as outlined below:

*(7) Research on individual or group characteristics or behavior (including, but not limited to, research on perception, cognition, motivation, identity, language, communication, cultural beliefs or practices, and social behavior) or research employing survey, interview, oral history, focus group, program evaluation, human factors evaluation, or quality assurance methodologies.*

Your application will expire on October 22, 2015. If your research will continue beyond this date, please complete the relevant portions of the IRB Renewal Application. If you wish to modify the application, please complete the Modification of an Approved Protocol form. Changes in this study cannot be initiated without IRB approval, except when necessary to eliminate apparent immediate hazards to participants. When the study closes, please complete the Request for Study Closure form.

Should you need to submit any further correspondence regarding this proposal, please include the above application number.

Good luck with your research.

Sincerely,



Stuart Usdan, Ph.D.  
Chair, Non-Medical IRB  
The University of Alabama



**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS  
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS**

**I. Identifying information**

	Principal Investigator	Second Investigator	Third Investigator
Names:	Mary E. Wood	Karen L. Salekin	
Department:	Psychology	Psychology	
College:	Arts and Sciences	Arts and Sciences	
University:	UA	UA	
Address:	Box 870348	Box 870348	
Telephone:	205-277-8005		
FAX:			
E-mail:	mschnorf@crimson.ua.edu	ksalekin.ua.edu	

Title of Research Project: Beyond Atkins: How do the Prongs Perform During Sentencing?

Date Submitted: 09/09/2014

Funding Source: N/A

Type of Proposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Please attach a renewal application	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Exempt
Please attach a continuing review of studies form					
Please enter the original IRB # at the top of the page					

UA faculty or staff member signature: 

**II. NOTIFICATION OF IRB ACTION** (to be completed by IRB):

Type of Review: \_\_\_\_\_ Full board  Expedited

**IRB Action:**

\_\_\_ Rejected Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Tabled Pending Revisions Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Approved Pending Revisions Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved-this proposal complies with University and federal regulations for the protection of human subjects.

Approval is effective until the following date: 10-22-15

Items approved:  Research protocol (dated 10-23-14)

Informed consent (dated 10-23-14)

\_\_\_ Recruitment materials (dated \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_ Other (dated \_\_\_\_\_)

Approval signature  Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B

### PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

**Study title:** *Beyond Atkins: How do the Prongs Perform during Sentencing?*

**Principal Investigator:** Mary E. Wood, M.A., Graduate Student

**Faculty Supervisor:** Karen L. Salekin, Ph.D.

**What is this study about?** You are being asked to take part in a research study. This study is called *Beyond Atkins: How do the Prongs Perform during Sentencing?* You will receive course credit for your participation as part of the PY 101 course.

**Why is this study important?** We hope to find out how certain people are viewed during sentencing hearings. This information is important to people involved in these types of cases.

**Why have I been asked to participate in this study?** All students in the PY 101 had access to the description of the study. You have been asked to participate in this study because you met the requirements and signed up for the study.

**How many other people will be asked to participate?** Up to 480 other people will participate in this study.

**What will I be asked to do in this study?** You will be asked to listen to an audio recording of trial testimony and then provide responses to that recording. You will discuss the information with your peers and then unanimously decide on a sentence for the defendant. You will also complete several surveys that relate to your attitudes and beliefs about crime and justice. You will also be asked to provide basic information about yourself, for example, your age, gender, and political affiliation. The discussions with your peers may be audio-recorded by the researcher.

**How long will this study last?** Participation can last up to three hours. During the study, if you desire a break – please ask for one and we will take a break. The only cost to you from this study is your time. You will be awarded partial course credit for your participation. Regardless of the time to complete the study, you will be awarded 4.5 credits if you complete the whole study. If you stop your participation during the study, you will be awarded credits for the time you spent. For example, if you participate for two hours, you will be awarded two credits.

**What are the risks and benefits of participation?** The only risk to you is that you may get tired during the study. Because of this, breaks will be taken if requested. Although there are no direct benefits to you, you may learn more about how the legal system works and/or about sentencing. You may also feel good about knowing that this information could shape the legal system in the future. Individuals involved in the legal system may also benefit from the information learned in this study.

**How will my privacy be protected?** All of the surveys in this study will be completed on your own. Group discussions in this study may be audio recorded. The only people with access to these recordings will be the trained members of the research team. The recordings will be destroyed once they are typed in written format by one of the researchers. Because identifying information is not collected with your data (see below), there will be no way to match what you said with your identifying information. Your comments will be matched to your participant number, but not your name.

**How will my confidentiality be protected?** No identifying information will be paired with your data. You will provide your name and CWID at the end of the study for the purpose of awarding credit. This information will not be paired with your data in any way. Informed consent documents will be kept separate from the data. Also, only trained individuals will have access to the data from this project.

**What are the alternatives to being in this study?** The alternative to being in this study is to participate in another assignment for course credit. Please contact your instructor for information about this option.

**UA IRB Approved Document**  
**Approval date:** 10-23-14  
**Expiration date:** 10-22-15

**What are my rights as a participant in this study?** Taking part in this study is voluntary. It is your free choice. You can refuse to be in it at all. If you start the study, you can stop at any time. There will be no effect on your relations with the University of Alabama.

The University of Alabama Institutional Review Board ("the IRB") is the committee that protects the rights of people in research studies. The IRB may review study records from time to time to be sure that people in research studies are being treated fairly and that the study is being carried out as planned.

**Who do I call if I have questions or problems?**

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about the study right now, please ask them. If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about the study later on, please email Mary E. Wood at [mschnorf@crimson.ua.edu](mailto:mschnorf@crimson.ua.edu) or Karen L. Salekin at [ksalekin@ua.edu](mailto:ksalekin@ua.edu)

If you have questions about your rights as a person in a research study, call Ms. Tanta Myles, the Research Compliance Officer of the University, at 205-348-8461 or toll-free at 1-877-820-3066.

You may also ask questions, make suggestions, or file complaints and concerns through the IRB Outreach website at [http://osp.ua.edu/site/PRCO\\_Welcome.html](http://osp.ua.edu/site/PRCO_Welcome.html) or email the Research Compliance office at [participantoutreach@bama.ua.edu](mailto:participantoutreach@bama.ua.edu).

After you participate, you are encouraged to complete the survey for research participants that is online at the outreach website or you may ask the investigator for a copy of it and mail it to the University Office for Research Compliance, Box 870127, 358 Rose Administration Building, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0127.

I have read this information sheet. I have had a chance to ask questions. I agree to take part in it.

I will receive a copy of this consent form to keep.

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Appendix Q  
**Debriefing Form**

Dear Participant,

Thank you for your participation in this study. The purpose of this study was to investigate how certain factors are perceived by jurors during capital mitigation. The results of this study may influence how attorneys and/or mental health professionals approach capital mitigation in the future. We were particularly interested in how information about intellectual disability (ID) was evaluated.

Please do not share with others about your participation in this study. It is important that our data is not influenced by bias in any way and this includes information shared among potential participants. If you have additional questions about this project or the purpose of the study, please contact the principal investigator directly. Her contact information is below.

You are entitled to withdraw your data from the current study given that you were not fully informed of the purpose of the study at the outset. If you wish to have your data withdrawn, please contact the principal investigator at the email address below. You will not be penalized if you decide to have your data withdrawn.

Thanks,

Mary E. Wood, M.A.  
Principal Investigator  
mschnorf@crimson.ua.edu

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