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Appendix A: Interview guide, final version

1. Can you start by telling me about the current circumstance of your life? For instance things like where you live and work, who are the important people in your life and what interests you have.

2. Now can you tell me about your family background and childhood?
   - What job or education did your mother and father have?
   - How would you describe your experiences at school?
   - Are there any other events or aspects of your childhood that you feel contributed significantly to your life?

3. Can you briefly tell me about your working history since you finished school?

4. What, if any, are your views on feminism?

5. What are your beliefs, attitudes or values towards sex?
   - Have you always had these particular ideas about sex?

6. Tell me about your first sexual experience.
   - What was it about him that was attractive to you?
   - What was the meaning of experience for you?
   - Would you say this experience changed you in any way?
   - What sort of safe sex practices did you engage in with him?

7. Subsequent experiences: What do you feel have been the most significant relationships in your life?
   - In what way was your sexual practice with him different than with your previous sexual partners?
   - Can you give me an example of how it was different with him? Like what specifically did he do that made it different?
   - What sort of safe sex practices happened with him? Why was it more/less difficult to engage in safe sex with him? What was it about him that made it harder/easier?

8. Have you ever had an orgasm?
   - Y: Do you always have an orgasm when you have sex? How do you feel if you do not achieve orgasm during sex?
   - N: How do you feel about never having had an orgasm? How do your male partners feel about it? What influence does that have on your own feelings?

9. How do you see that your sexual experiences have changed through your life?

10. What is it that do you find most pleasurable about sex?
    - What constitutes good sex for you?

11. What were your reasons for participating in this study?
Title of study: Feminine Sexualities: The active sexual subject and new paths for HIV prevention

Summary of project:
Recent research has indicated that it is sometimes difficult for women to practise safe sex in their relationships with men. This is particularly problematic because of the current situation with AIDS – women's risk of contracting HIV is increased in situations when it is difficult to practise safe sex. The reasons for the difficulties that women experience are not entirely clear but it appears that the kinds of relationships women have with men are very important. This project therefore aims to explore women’s experiences with sex in order to find out what it is about women’s lives and sexual relationships that facilitate or obstruct efforts to practise safe sex.

What will be required from you:
If you choose to take part in this study, you will be asked to participate in an interview lasting approximately 1 ½ - 2 hours. Some of the interview topics will be personal and will ask about your past and current sexual experiences. Other interview topics will be general questions about your current and past life circumstances and personal background. The interview will be relaxed and unstructured and you will not be forced to answer any questions that you don’t want to answer.

Do you have to participate?
Participating in this study is entirely voluntary. You will be able to withdraw your consent at any time without prejudice.

Confidentiality:
The information you provide during the interviews will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Your interview will be audiotaped and later transcribed into a word processing program. During transcription your name will be changed as well as any other information that might identify you. Only the interviewer will know your identity. Your name will not appear in any papers resulting from this study.

Contact information:
If you are interested in participating or if you have any questions about the study, please contact Joanne Bryant at the University of Sydney Cumberland Campus on 9351 9789. This study is being conducted as part of a doctoral research program supervised by Dr. Toni Schofield who is located at the School of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences (02) 9351 9577.

Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research study can contact the Manager of Ethics and Biosafety Administration, University of Sydney, on (02) 9351 4811.
CONSENT FORM

Title of study: Feminine Sexualities: The active sexual subject and new paths for HIV prevention

I, ________________________________________________ (please print your name) agree to participate in this research project with the understanding that:

• my participation is voluntary and that I can withdraw my consent at anytime without prejudice.

• all information I provide will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and that my identity will remain hidden to all except the study interviewer.

I have read the Subject Information Statement and understand the purpose of the study.

Signature: ________________________________________________

Date: _________________________

Witness’ name: ____________________________________________

Witness’ signature: _______________________________________

Date: __________________________