

Stories on the Skin: Tattoo Culture at FAU

Investigators: Dr. Karen J. Leader, Principal Investigator; Patricia McCarthy, Research Assistant



Thank you for your interest in participating in our research study. The purpose of this survey is to gather statistical and opinion data about tattoos and tattooing at FAU, as part of a larger creative project. It should take you no more than 10 minutes to complete this survey. There are sections for both tattooed and non-tattooed persons. You may skip any questions that make you feel uncomfortable, and you are free to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. The risks involved with participating in this study are no more than one would experience in regular daily activities. Potential benefits that you may receive from participation include a deeper understanding of the meanings and motivations behind tattooing, and greater familiarity with the university community you are part of once the results are made available.

If you experience problems or have questions regarding your rights as a research subject, contact the Florida Atlantic University Division of Research at (561) 297-0777. For other questions about the study, you should call the principal investigator: Karen Leader, 561-297-3196. By completing the attached questionnaire/survey, you give consent to participate in this study.

You must be 18 years old to participate.

Age

Year in college

What is your College?

Select the department which houses your major program

Primary campus

Grade Point Average

Gender

What is your ethnicity (race)?

- Asian
- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latina/o
- Native American
- White/Caucasian
- Other



What is your sexual orientation?

- Bisexual
- Heterosexual
- Homosexual
- Transgendered
- Other

Where would you place yourself on the socio-economic spectrum?

- Poor
- Lower middle-class
- Middle-class
- Upper middle-class
- Wealthy

Where would you place yourself on the religious spectrum?

- Not religious
- Religious but not observant
- Moderately observant
- Very observant

Where would you place yourself on the political spectrum?

- Very conservative
- Conservative
- Moderate
- Liberal
- Very liberal

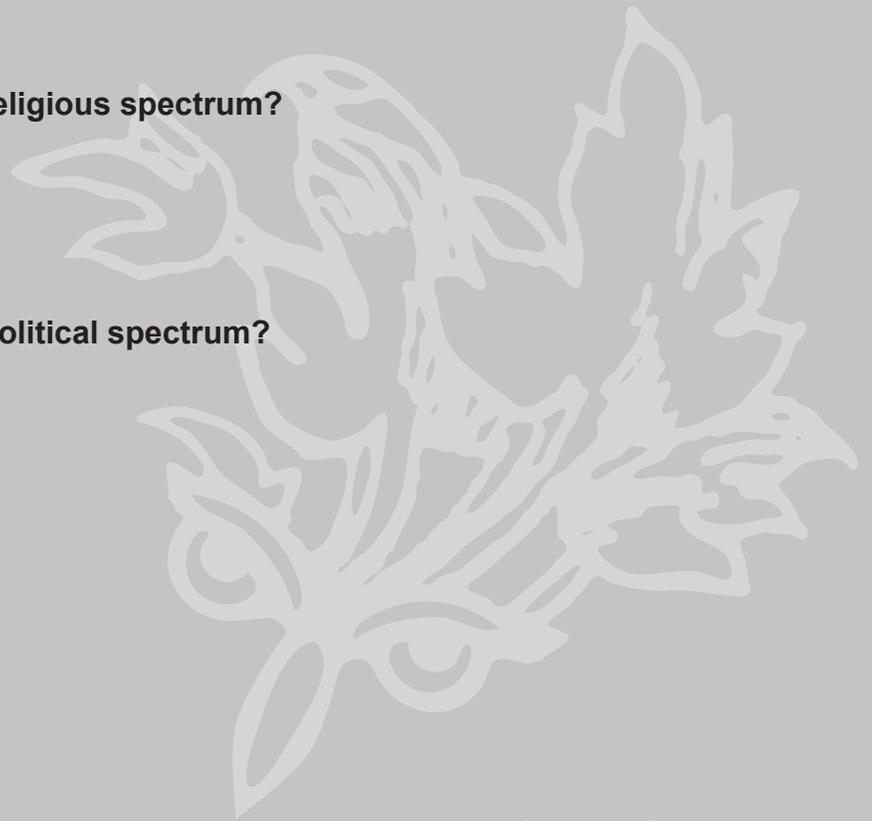
Do you vote?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Every election

Do you have one or more tattoos?

Yes - No

(The answer to this question directed the participants to specific questions for person with and without tattoos, with general questions for both on the last page of the survey.)



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Do you have one or more tattoos?

Yes - No (ANSWERED - NO)

Questions for person without tattoos

Have you ever thought of getting a tattoo?

Yes - No

Please rank the top 3 reasons you have not gotten a tattoo. Enter 1 for the most important reason, 2 for the second most important reason and 3 for the third most important reason.

Parents would disapprove

Partner wouldn't like it

Don't like pain

Never had the money

Social stigma

Job discrimination

Afraid of disease

Religious reasons

Other

Have you ever had a tattoo that you subsequently had removed?

Yes - No

Would your opinion change about someone if you found out they had a tattoo?

Yes, for the better

No, not at all

Yes, for the worse

Would your opinion change about someone if you found out they were heavily tattooed?

Yes, for the better

No, not at all

Yes, for the worse

Do you think you will ever get tattooed?

No chance

Not likely

Could happen

Definitely



Do you have one or more tattoos?
Yes - No (ANSWERED - YES)

Questions for person with tattoos

How many times have you been tattooed?

- 1
- 2-3
- 4-7
- 8 or more

How long ago did you get your most recent tattoo?

- Within the last month
- 2-6 months ago
- 7-12 months ago
- More than a year ago

How likely is it that you will continue to add tattoos to your collection?

- Not likely
- Somewhat likely
- Very likely

How old were you when you got your first tattoo?

If you were a minor when you got any of your tattoos, did your parents give permission?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

There are many reasons to get a tattoo. Do any of these apply to you? Please choose up to three, and rank them in order of importance, where 1 is most important.

- To express myself
- To be unique
- To fit in
- To be rebellious
- To feel mature
- To feel more attractive
- To commemorate a life event
- To be like a friend, lover or other
- Empowerment
- Fashion
- Sexual attractiveness
- Just wanted it (them)



Does/Do your tattoo(s) relate to any particular community or tradition? Choose all that apply.

- Ethnic
- Cultural
- Religious
- Military
- Athletic
- Club
- Gang
- Music
- Prison
- Other
- None of the above

Do you participate in any of the following activities associated with the tattoo community?

- Read tattoo blogs, listservs, social networking sites
- Hang out in a tattoo studio when not getting a tattoo
- Go to tattoo conventions
- Read tattoo magazines
- None of the above

Is (are) your tattoo(s) visible to the general public?

- Always
- Usually
- Sometimes
- Almost never
- Never

When visible, do you enjoy showing your tattoo(s)?

- Yes - No

Do you ever cover it (them) up?

- Yes - No

Do you cover them up for any of the following reason? Choose all that apply.

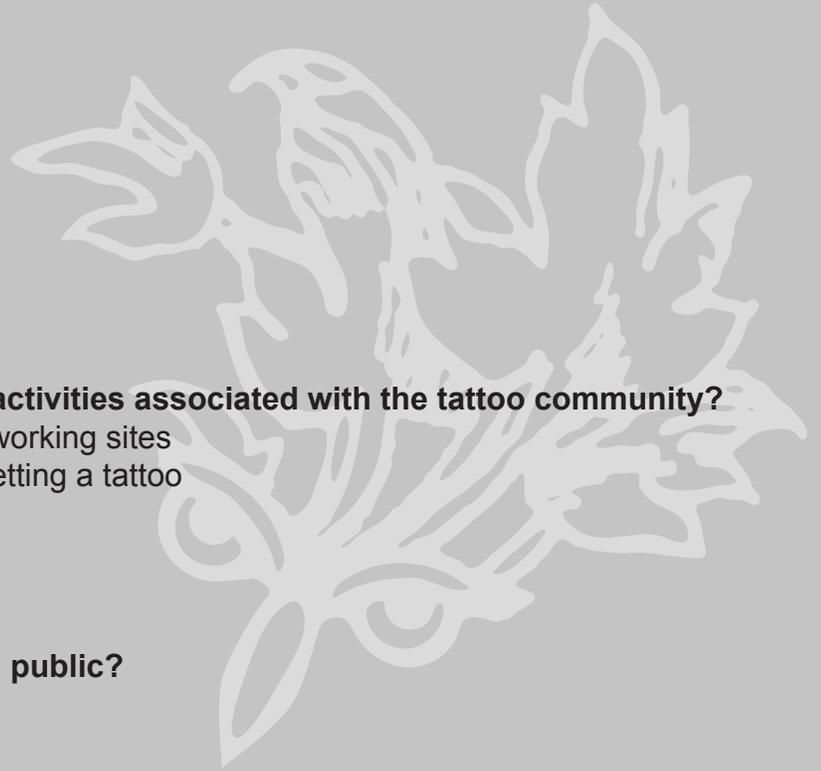
- Job
- School
- Parents/family
- Religion
- Other

Do you feel special as a tattooed person?

- Always
- Usually
- Sometimes
- Almost never
- Never

Has anyone ever made you feel special because you were tattooed?

- Yes - No



Has anyone ever made you feel bad because you were tattooed?

Yes - No

Do you believe you have ever been discriminated against because you are tattooed?

Yes - No

Do you think your tattoo(s) have ever frightened someone?

Yes - No

Have you ever regretted getting tattooed?

Yes - No

Have you ever had a tattoo removed?

Yes - No

Have you ever had a tattoo altered?

Yes - No

Have you ever had a tattoo covered by another tattoo?

Yes - No

Was it your decision to get tattooed or did you have to be encouraged?

My own decision

I was encouraged

How much time passed between making the decision and getting it done?

None, it was spontaneous

1-4 weeks

2-6 months

7-12 months

More than a year 5

Were you anxious?

Not at all

Somewhat

Very

Was it painful?

Not at all

Moderately

Very

Did you know what you were looking for when you went to get your tattoo(s)?

Yes - No



If no, were you happy with the result?

Yes - No

Are you still happy with it?

Yes - No

Did you choose a particular artist?

Yes - No

Did you bring a picture or other explanatory materials?

Yes - No

Did you contribute to the design?

Yes - No

Did you consider it a collaboration?

Yes - No

Were you happy with the result?

Yes - No

Are you still happy?

Yes - No

If more than one tattoo, did you use the same artist for each?

Yes - No - Not applicable

What gender is your tattoo artist?

Female

Male

Used both

If more than one tattoo, did your process change from your first to subsequent tattoos in terms of preparation or involvement?

Yes - No - Not applicable

Do you consider your tattoo(s) a work (works) of art?

Yes - No - Varies

Is it (are they) unique?

Yes - No - Varies

Is it (are they) beautiful?

Yes - No - Varies

Is it (are they) of high technical quality?

Yes - No - Varies



Does it (do they) express something about your personality?

Yes - No - Varies

Is it (are they) part of your identity?

Yes - No - Varies

Is it (are they) part of your body image?

Yes - No - Varies

Are you more likely to describe yourself as a person with a tattoo, or a tattooed person?

A person with a tattoo(s)

A tattooed person

Do you have a regular story or narrative that you tell when strangers ask about your tattoo(s)?

Yes - No

Do you tend to describe your tattoo(s) in textual (what is pictured) or descriptive (how it looks) language?

What is pictured

How it looks

Do you think of tattooing more as the image itself or the experience of getting and being tattooed?

The image itself

The experience

Has the “meaning” of your tattoo(s) changed over time?

Not at all

Somewhat

Quite a bit

Completely

Is there an element of secrecy in your tattoo'(s)' meaning?

Yes - No

Do you have a tattoo that you yourself cannot easily see?

Yes - No

Some believe that tattooing is addictive. Do you agree or disagree?

Agree

Disagree

Would you be interested in participating in the next phase of Stories on the Skin?

Yes - No

On to more general questions...

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General questions for person with and without tattoos

Do you believe tattoos are treated differently by society than in previous generations?

- More accepted
- About the same
- Less accepted

Do you see being tattooed as a form of resistance to mainstream society?

- Yes - No

Current statistics show more women than men getting tattoos. Does this surprise you?

- Yes - No

The incidence of body art on young adults in the United States is higher in the South. Does this surprise you?

- Yes - No

A branch of the military has banned certain types of tattoos. Do you agree or disagree with this move?

- Agree
- Disagree

The State of Florida has recently tightened restrictions on tattooing, specifically regarding age and parental consent. Do you agree or disagree with this move?

- Agree
- Disagree

Were you aware that employment recruiters have a generally negative opinion of visible tattoos?

- Yes - No

In a university setting, non-tattooed people and tattooed people tend to have the same approval levels for tattoos. Does this surprise you?

- Yes - No

Thank you for your time and thoughts.

Please click the submit button below to complete the survey.

You must be 18 years of age or older to participate in this survey.

Please exit the survey site by clicking the submit button below.

**Look for the results soon on our website:
storiesontheskin.org**

