



RESEARCHING THE MOTIVATIONS OF USING AND NOT USING NOVEL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES IN INTERNET- BASED INTERVIEWS

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BACKGROUND

- Werse & Müller, 2010:
 - Qualitative study on synthetic cannabinoid users
- Deluca et al, 2012:
 - Psychonaut study of internet forums
- Other qualitative studies on sepcific novel substances
 - Claire & Hout, 2014;
 - Kjellgren & Jonsson, 2013
- Online-Surveys on the motivations for using NPS:
 - Werse & Morgenstern, 2012
 - Soussan & Kjellgren, 2016
- Current study aims to look into the motivations of users and NON users of NPS

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the motivations for taking established substances or NPS?
- What are the risks and harms perceived in taking established substances and NPS? How are they counteracted? How should they be counteracted?
- What are the perceptions of the drug market and of drug users?
- Are there preferences in substance type regardless of safety and legality?

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- Are there preferences in substance type regardless of safety and legality?

 Do they differ by preferred substance?

METHODS

- 10-20 semi-structured interviews
- regular drug users:
 - regular NPS users
 - users that are particularly opposed to the use of NPS
 - across Germany
- online chats
- incentive
- qualitative content analysis

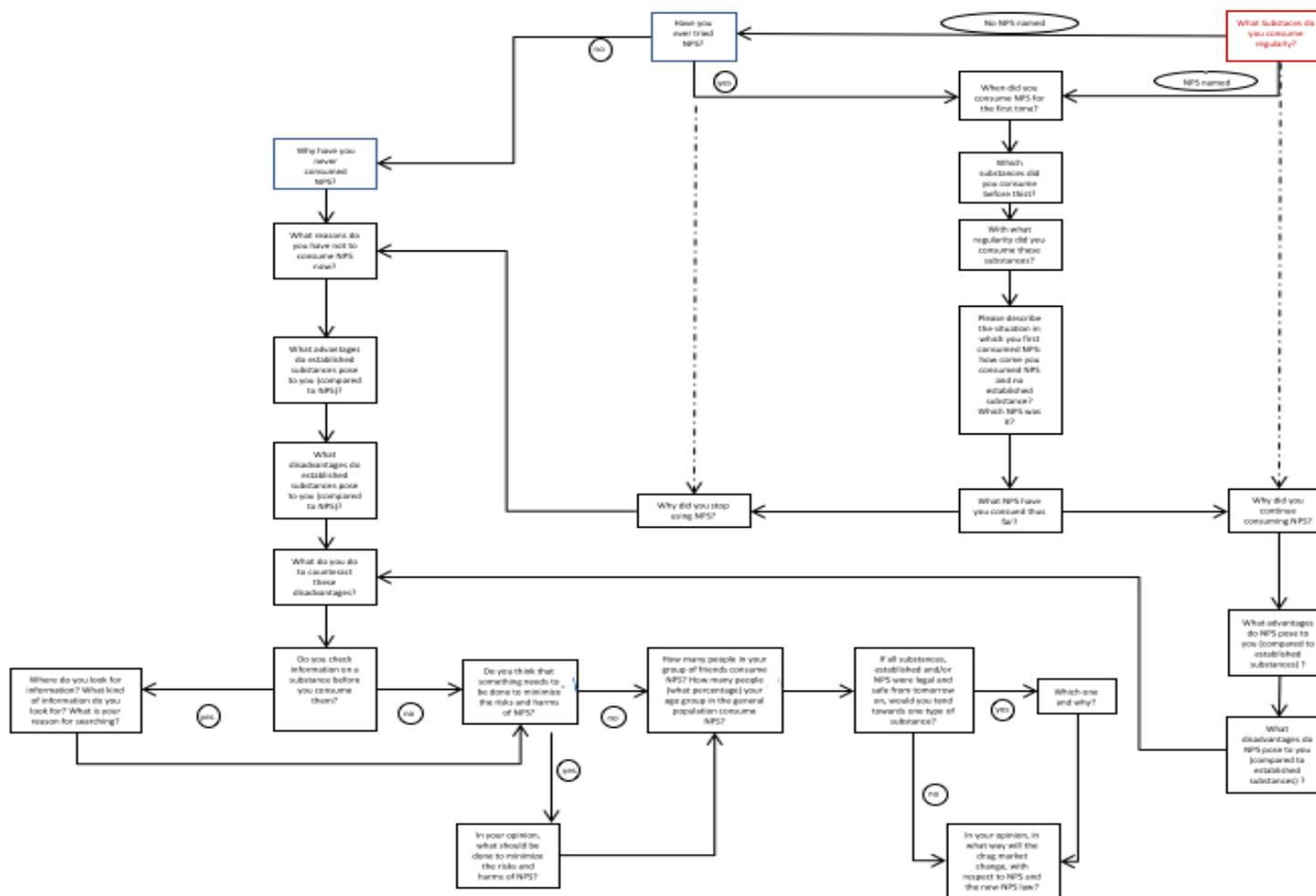
RECRUITMENT

- Via Preliminary Studies
- Network
 - Phar-Mon NPS since 2015
 - Network of stakeholders in NPS: research, treatment, harm reduction
 - Partners that are in contact with regular NPS users were asked to promote study
- Facebook Advertisement

PRELIMINARY STUDIES

- Thread posted in a drug-user forum
 - What are the reasons you use NPS?
 - Land der Träume
 - Research Chemicals
- Moderated for 3 days (until no new answers were posted)
- Inform questions for interviews
- Particularly discussed topics:
 - Curiosity, new perceptive experiences, and the convenience of buying NPS from online retailers were named as reasons for using
 - Reasons against using NPS were the anxiety around the unknown effects and little established research around the substances
 - Additionally frustrations with the current legal status of most psychoactive substances as well as the lack of control on the purity and dosage of established substances were discussed
- A general distrust in my intentions was voiced

QUESTION MAP



PROBLEMS WITH RECRUITMENT

- Initially 3 contacts from preliminary study
 - When contacted outside of the forum, only 2 replied
 - Both voiced their concern on the “intentions” of the study
 - “...even if you say this is all anonymous, all you need is a screenshot, that you show the police, and you can bust me”
 - General distrust?
- In the network
 - General distrust from users
 - Wanted something to fill out rather than an interview
- Forum also seemed distrusting and hostile towards non-users

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- Try new forums
 - Studies not well received, adverstizing even less
 - Suggestions?
- Face to face interviews?
 - Could have the opposite effect
 - Less flexible in terms of time and place (recruitment)
 - Snowball
- Try different population
 - NPS users intially in contact with the treatment system
 - Different population = different core question = different results

SUMMARY

- Naiveté
 - qualitative research is completely different from quantitative research
 - recruitment more difficult than initially expected
 - finding my voice in the population more difficult than initially expected

- Distrust in researchers
 - Convincing someone you have no agenda other than research?
 - Convincing someone you are probably on their side



Thank you !

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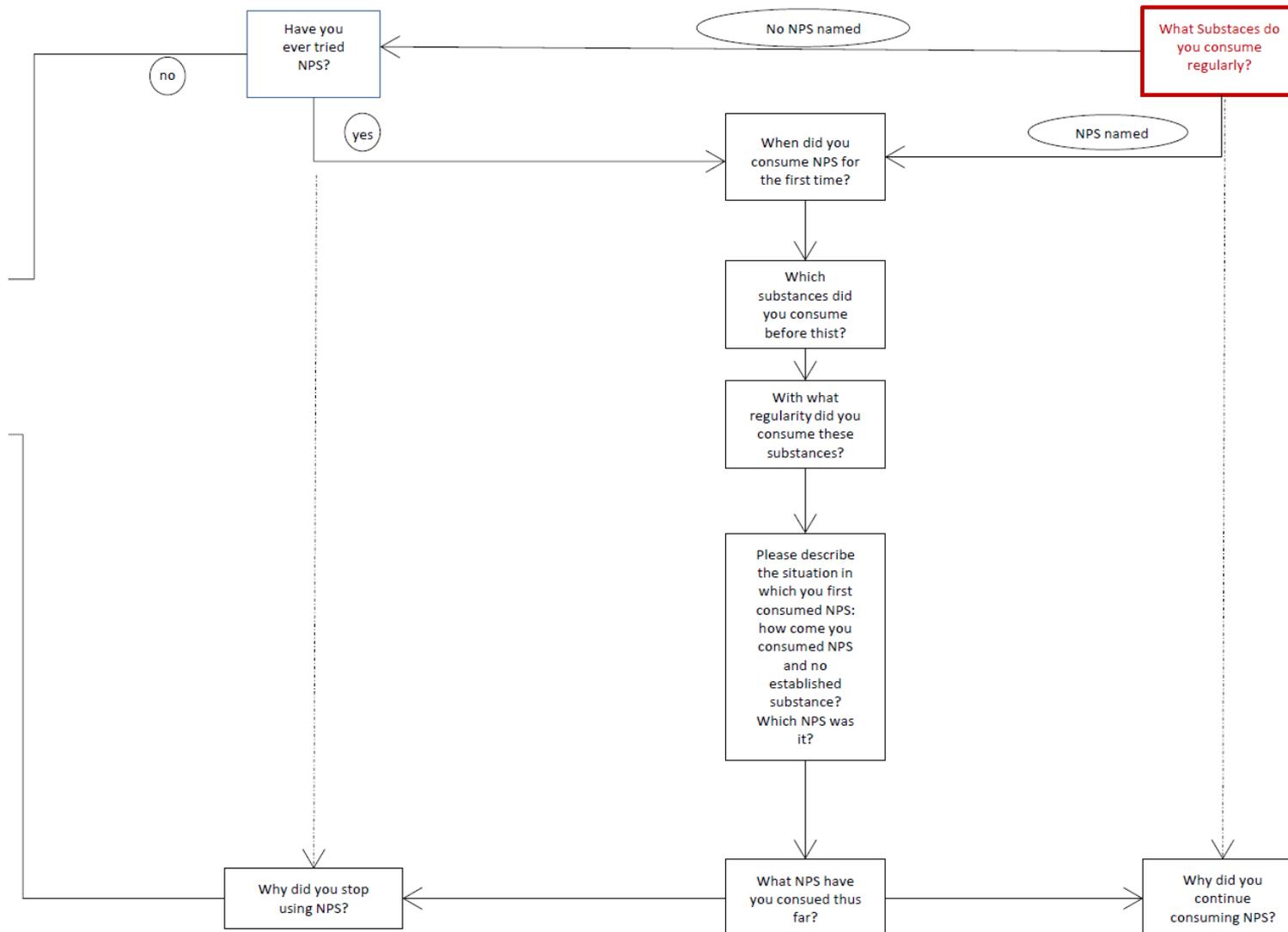
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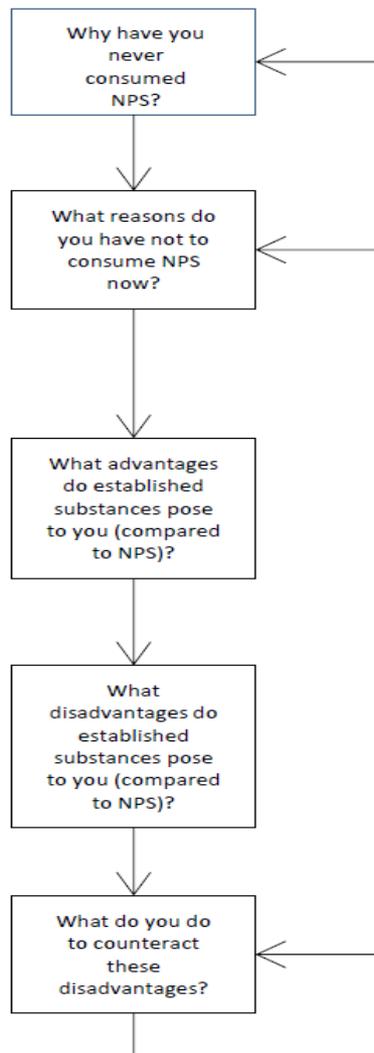
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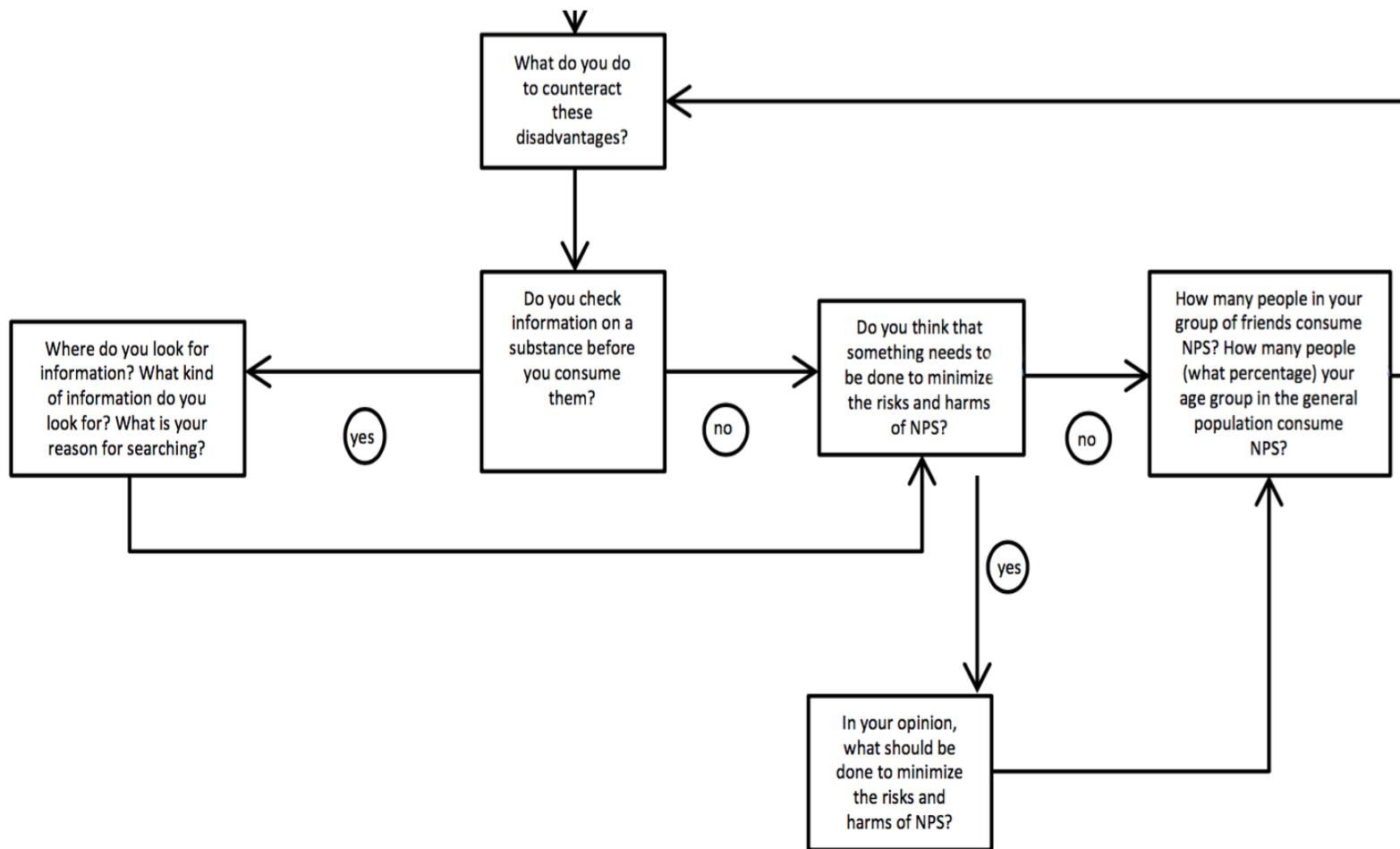
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