

18 June 2021

**Dr Upasana Gitanjali Singh (10937)**  
School Of Man Info Tech & Gov  
Westville Campus

Dear Dr Singh,

**Protocol reference number:** HSSREC/00002880/2021

**Project title:** Understanding digital capital and its potential for higher education, during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond: the case of three contact based universities in South Africa (SA)

**Non-Degree**

### **Approval Notification – Expedited Application**

This letter serves to notify you that your application received on 02 June 2021 in connection with the above, was reviewed by the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC) and the protocol has been granted **FULL APPROVAL** with the following condition to be met:

- **Add HSSREC details on the Informed Consent letter**

**Any alteration/s to the approved research protocol i.e. Questionnaire/Interview Schedule, Informed Consent Form, Title of the Project, Location of the Study, Research Approach and Methods must be reviewed and approved through the amendment/modification prior to its implementation. In case you have further queries, please quote the above reference number. PLEASE NOTE: Research data should be securely stored in the discipline/department for a period of 5 years.**

This approval is valid until 18 June 2022.

To ensure uninterrupted approval of this study beyond the approval expiry date, a progress report must be submitted to the Research Office on the appropriate form 2 - 3 months before the expiry date. A close-out report to be submitted when study is finished.

**All research conducted during the COVID-19 period must adhere to the national and UKZN guidelines.**

HSSREC is registered with the South African National Research Ethics Council (REC-040414-040).

Yours sincerely,



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**Professor Dipane Hlalele (Chair)**

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#### **Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee**

**Postal Address:** Private Bag X54001, Durban, 4000, South Africa

**Telephone:** +27 (0)31 260 8350/4557/3587 **Email:** hssrec@ukzn.ac.za **Website:** <http://research.ukzn.ac.za/Research-Ethics>

Founding Campuses: ■ Edgewood ■ Howard College ■ Medical School ■ Pietermaritzburg ■ Westville