

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

STUDY TITLE

Feast for the eyes: Using photography to explore peoples' understandings of and relationships with food.

INVITATION

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

The purpose of this study is to understand more about peoples' understanding of food within their local communities.

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

You have been invited to participate because you are an adult resident of the St. Georges Estate in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. We are interested in people's understandings of food and we think you will have ideas and experiences which we think are important for researchers and policy makers to understand.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART?

No! It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign a consent form. You are however still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. You may request withdrawal of your data by 14th July 2022 which is two weeks after the end of the data collection and the start of our data analysis. You will have the final say on whether you share your photographic images in the workshop, with the researchers and in the exhibition.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF I TAKE PART?

You're invited to participate in an 8 week photographic course with 1.5 hour workshops. You will be asked to take photographs each week, talk about your experiences of taking the photographs and listen to other people's experiences. During the workshop you will learn skills in photography. With your consent, the discussion will be audio recorded and researchers will take notes on what you say and do. We will invite you to take part in a 1 hour interview or focus group once the workshops have finished. With your consent, we will exhibit a selection of your photographs.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGES AND RISKS OF TAKING PART?

The primary disadvantage of participating in this study is the time taken to participate. Participating in the research is not anticipated to cause you any discomfort. The potential physical and/or psychological harm or distress that can be generated by discussing food will be kept to the minimum through the activities chosen, and the experience of the researchers and photographer. Dr Elaine Swan has received training in counselling skills and the researchers and photographer are aware of the importance of maintaining boundaries with participants, and for the wellbeing of everyone involved. By employing photographic research methods and an open structure to the discussions, the researcher will encourage participants to raise themes that are of importance in their own lives, making it clear that activities can stop or be redirected at any time.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

By taking part in this study you are helping to expand knowledge on things that impact you in your life. Specifically, this research aims to understand how you feel about the food you eat, and how your understanding of food changes through taking photographs and learning from other people on the course.

Taking part in this project will also mean you get the opportunity to engage creatively with other people using photography and you will develop skills in photography. You will also be invited to submit your photographs to an exhibition and a magazine. We aim to share your ideas and experiences with policy makers.

WILL MY INFORMATION IN THIS STUDY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential and private. Confidentiality and privacy will be ensured by us adhering to the guidelines for storing, managing and processing data set out in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the UK Data Protection Act 2018. After the interview/workshop, only the researchers will have access to your input. We will keep all personal information about you (e.g. your name and other information about you that can identify you) confidential, that is we will not share it with others. We will also anonymise the written transcripts produced by the transcriber. We will store your data separate from the consent form to de-identify you.

We cannot guarantee anonymity and because of the nature of the workshops and the photographs. But all participants in workshops are requested to consent to keep all information disclosed within the workshops confidential, and not discuss the workshop with or in front of anyone who was not involved unless they have the relevant person's permission. Participants should note that personal data will be retained for the duration of the project which will be February 2025 and research data for ten years starting from January 2022. This research project may involve the use of University of Sussex Zoom. Details of the platform's privacy notice can be found here: <https://explore.zoom.us/en/privacy/>.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WANT TO TAKE PART?

To opt in for the study, please agree to take part by signing the consent form and making yourself available for the workshops.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH STUDY?

The results of this research study will be used to inform a number of academic pieces of work. These may include: articles in published academic journals, academic book chapters, public presentations, conferences and/or events. Copies of any research output will be made freely available to all participants, although participants should note that this process is planned to take place over a 4 year period, with data retained for the length of that period. When writing up the findings from this study, we would like to reproduce some of the views and ideas you shared with us. We will only use anonymised quotes (e.g. from the interview/focus group with you), so that although we will use your exact words, we will do our best to ensure you cannot be identified in the publications, although we cannot guarantee this.

WHO IS ORGANISING AND FUNDING THE RESEARCH?

Research will be undertaken by members of the Management Department and Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex. The project is part of a larger UKRI research study entitled 'Transforming Food Systems for Disadvantaged Communities', which is administered at the University of Reading.

WHO HAS APPROVED THIS STUDY?

The study has been improved by the Social Sciences & Arts Cross-Schools Research Ethics Committee (SSARTA) at the University of Sussex. The ethical review application numbers is ER/ES483/4.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

If you require any additional information, please contact Dr Elaine Swan by emailing e.swan@sussex.ac.uk. Any concerns regarding the way in which the study has been conducted should be directed toward Dr Ruth Stirton (Chair of the C-REC who reviewed the project) by emailing r.stirton@sussex.ac.uk.

INSURANCE

The University of Sussex has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

THANK-YOU

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. Any participation is greatly appreciated.