**Au Pairing After the Au Pair Scheme**

**Information sheet**

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**Title of Study: Au Pairing After the Au Pair Scheme**

*Name of researcher: Rosie Cox* *r.cox@bbk.ac.uk* *and Nicole Busch* *nl.busch@bbk.ac.uk*

This study has been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council to explore the effects of the ending of the Au Pair Visa in 2008. We would like to hear your views about the effects of this change and what has been happening to au pairing in the UK since the visa was abolished.

If you agree to participate you will agree a convenient time and place for me to interview you for about an hour. You are free to stop the interview and withdraw at any time.

The interview will be recorded but you may ask for this to stop at any time. All information will be anonymised.

The analysis of our interview will be used in publications arising from this research such as academic journal articles, a book and a report to the funding body. You will not be identifiable in the write up or any publication which might ensue unless you ask to be.

**Consent form**

**Title of Study: Au Pairing After the Au Pair Scheme**

*Name of researcher Rosie Cox and Nicole Busch*

I have been informed about the nature of this study and willingly consent to take part in it.

I understand that the content of the interview will be anonymous (delete if not applicable).

I understand that I may withdraw from the study at any time.

I am over 16 years of age.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Interview questions**

# Host family interviews:

**1) Can you tell me a bit about yourself and your family?**

Possible prompts:

* Where do you live?
* How many bedrooms are there in your house?
* How many people live in the house and are they adults or children?
* Children’s ages?
* Do you and your partner if you have one work outside the home?
* If so, what do you do (occupation)? Are you employed, self-employed, freelance?
* How is your work going? Is it busy/ long hours? Have you suffered from the recession?
* Would you mind saying what your household income is (based on decile categories shown on a card)?

**2) Could you tell me a bit about the person you employ to look after your child/children?**

Possible Prompts:

* What employment category did you use to advertise/recruit? Au pair? Au pair/nanny? Other?
* Why do you employ someone to look after your children in the home? Discuss whether other childcare options/ tax credits etc influenced decision?
* How did you recruit this person? Eg internet, agency, word of mouth?
* Did you organise their employment before they left their country of origin?
* If so, how did you arrange this? If not, how did you make contact with this person?
* Where is your au pair from?
* Did you particularly want to hire a foreign-born person? If yes, did it matter to you where the person was from? Did you have past experience of employing people from this country of origin?
* How long have they been employed by you?
* Did immigration restrictions/the lifting of restrictions influence your decision about who to hire? For example, did the fact that after 2004 more people became legally available to work here influence your decision?
* Do you know about the ending of the au pair visa/ category in 2008?

# 3) Could you tell me about the pay and duties of your au pair?

Possible prompts:

* What are your au pair’s duties?
* How many hours are they expected to work?
* How much do you pay them?
* Are you satisfied with the arrangement?
* Do you have a formal contract?
* Do you pay tax on your employee’s behalf? If not, does your au pair pay tax?
* Do you pay national insurance for your au pair?
* Do you pay sick pay, holiday pay?
* Would you organise maternity pay if your au pair became pregnant?
* Do you regard your arrangement as a formal employment contract or an informal arrangement?
* If the arrangement is formal, do you think this is the norm in the UK?
* If the arrangement is informal, do you think this is the norm in the UK?

# 4) Do you have any other issues about au pairing that you would like to mention / discuss.