

## ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Our research looks into how people over 50 spend their time and who they see, talk to, or do things with.

We are particularly interested in whether people over 50 spend most of their time with people of their own or other generations, and where and how they come across other people (of their own and other generations).

We are also interested in hearing about people's experiences of ageing and whether their relationships influence their feelings about their age, their generation, and if they identify with a 'generation' at all.

Some people taking part in this project will also be part of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). For ELSA participants, this will be a chance to expand on some of what you said in the ELSA questionnaires.



### *What does participation in the project involve?*

For most people, taking part in the project will involve two interviews, each lasting between one and two hours. The interviews usually take place at home or anywhere that you feel comfortable. They most often resemble a conversation rather than a question and answer session.

We will also provide an easy-to-complete diary that will allow you to record some of your personal contacts on a given day or during a given week. We will usually discuss what you wrote down in the diary in the second interview.

In a select number of cases, and if you are interested and willing, we might also ask you to take part in one or two other activities. One such activity might be for us to explore your local area together so that we can talk about your feelings about the place and its people. We also plan to ask some people to take part in a group discussion so that we can hear their views about, for example, relations between generations, ageing, and their perceptions of history, society, and change.

Because we are interested in the contacts that people have with other generations, we will also be speaking to people of younger 'generations' too. So, if you know any younger (or older) people – friends, relatives, colleagues, etc – who you think might be interested in taking part, then feel free to let us know!

### *How do I contact you?*

If you would like to take part, or would just like more information, you can phone or e-mail Stewart Muir (contact details are on the back page of this leaflet). Stewart will then call you back to arrange a convenient time for the interview. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the project. If you decide to become involved, you are free to withdraw from the project at any time without giving a reason.



## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE INFORMATION I PROVIDE?

### *Ethical Practice*

Any information you give us will be held securely. Real names will not be used in any publications or reports. The anonymised data may be archived for use by other researchers and for training purposes.

This project will abide by the British Sociological Association's statement of ethical practice (you can view this at <http://www.britisoc.co.uk/equality/63.htm>).

### *How Will the Research Be Used?*

The project's findings will be published in a variety of forms: these might include reports, articles, books and oral presentations. The findings will be of interest to academics and to others who are interested in understanding family life and ageing.

ESRC National Centre for

**R**esearch  
**M**ethods

## FURTHER INFORMATION

This project is part of the ESRC's National Centre for Research Methods. The Centre is overseeing projects at Universities across England. The Manchester based part of this centre is called 'Realities' because it is about researching everyday life.

This project began in October 2008 and will run until 2011.

For more information about the project, please contact one of the project team:

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The University  
of Manchester

## Your Generation

A research project on  
ageing and contact  
between generations

