

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

You have been invited to take part in the research project, *Self-building: the production and consumption of new homes from the perspective of households*. I am currently recruiting self-building households to participate in indepth case studies. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important that you understand why the research is being undertaken and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and feel free to ask if you need any further information.

What is the purpose of the study?

This project is a systematic enquiry into self-building in Britain today, taking seriously the need to know who is using self-build, what their characteristics are and to what extent they succeed in their aims. Through a variety of different research methods, it aims to understand the outcomes of self-building for individual households, in order to broaden understandings of how the self-building is constituted in the UK. I will be conducting research between November 2012 and December 2014. This will be accompanied and followed by the analysis and dissemination of the research data. The project will conclude September 2015.

Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been asked to participate because you and your household have decided or have undertaken the building of your own home, whether through a collective or community-led project or as an individual household. I am interested in recruiting participants from a range of socio-economic backgrounds, family composition, at all stages in the lifecycle, and irrespective of gender and ethnicity. Furthermore, I hope to recruit participants at all stages in the process of self-building, from those just embarking on the initial stages of their projects, through to those who have completed their projects within the last ten years.

Do I have to take part?

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 and be asked to sign an initial consent form. However, because of the nature of the research methods used the assessment of consent will continue to take place throughout the case study. You will be able to withdraw from the project at any time until 31st March 2015 when the data from the case studies will have been analysed.

What will happen if I do take part?

I will organise a visit to your home (or your build-in-progress) at a time that suits you. The purpose of this visit is to trace the process of self-building from the perspective of households as well as the perspectives of individuals within these. To collect data, and in consultation with you, I will use a variety of research methods which can include: (1) semi-structured interviews focussing on the experience of self-building, (2) the collection of residential, housing and employment histories, (3) participatory visual research and analysis (further information about this will be supplied to participants when the case studies are being designed and organised), (4) participant observation in the home and around the neighbourhood. This process will ideally take place over two-three consecutive days, but if that is not convenient for you, I can arrange to visit you on

two-three separate occasions. Similarly, the participatory dimensions of the research can, in part, be conducted at Goldsmiths in which case, your expenses will be covered by the project.

What are the benefits of taking part?

You will be invited to attend one of the dissemination events taking place at a self-build show in 2015, and your travel expenses and entry costs will be covered by the project. Beyond this, it is anticipated that the findings of the research will be relevant for planning professionals, policy makers and other stakeholders and intermediaries involved in the promotion, regulation, and facilitation of self-build in Britain today.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

All case studies will be treated with the utmost confidentiality; I will ask your agreement to record any data (visual, interview etc.). Electronic data files will be stored on an encrypted, password-protected computer, backed up regularly to an encrypted hard drive accessible only to the research. Additionally, data files will be given a code that can only be linked to the individual by a list kept by myself in a locked filing cabinet at the Goldsmiths. Any audio recording will be transcribed by myself or a vetted associate who will sign a confidentiality agreement not to copy the data. In relation to the use of images in dissemination, there will be ongoing consultation with households supplying visual data prior to these being made public. Any interview excerpts and visual data used within dissemination will be anonymised with identifying features of respondents obscured in the case of visual data.

What will happen to the results of the research?

The results of the research will be disseminated through a range of outlets including academic publication and conference papers, presentations at various self-build exhibitions around the UK, a research report and a one-day workshop for practitioners. The progress and findings of the project will be communicated through the project website <https://www.gold.ac.uk/sociology/research/researchprojects/self-building/> and blog <http://selfbuildproject.wordpress.com>.

Who is organising and funding the study?

The research is being undertaken by Dr. Michaela Benson (Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Goldsmiths College). The study is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council through their Future Research Leaders Programme (Grant Number ES/K001078/1).

Who has reviewed the study?

The research has been approved by research governance at Goldsmiths. If you have any concerns over the way that the research has been conducted, please contact the research office (research-office@gold.ac.uk)

If you decide you want to take part, or if you require any further details about the project, please contact me:

Dr. Michaela Benson

Michaela.benson@gold.ac.uk

020 7919 7179