

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 intermediaries working in the promotion, regulation and governance of self-build in the UK to be interviewed. 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 May 2015. 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 are an intermediary on either a national or local level involved in the promotion, regulation and organisation of self-building or in providing services to those who choose to build their own homes.

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 to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time until 30th April 2015 when the data will have been analysed.

What will happen if I do take part?

I will set up an interview at a time that is convenient to you. I anticipate that interview will take approximately an hour, and can be carried out either over the phone or face-to-face. The interview will be semi-structured and designed to collect information and assess the current regulation and governance of self-build in the UK. If you are a local intermediary, the interview will also be designed to identify the extent and nature of self-building in your local area, the challenges and opportunities at the local level for the development of self-build properties.

What are the benefits of taking part?

There are no direct benefits to the participants of the research project. However, 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. With this in mind, at the end of project you will be invited to a one-day workshop specifically designed to communicate the research findings to practitioners. This will be supplemented with a 15-page research report.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

All interviews will be treated with the utmost confidentiality; I will ask your agreement to record the interview and the data file 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 Goldsmiths. 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. The recording will be transcribed by myself or a vetted associate who will sign a confidentiality agreement not to copy the data. Any excerpts that are used for publication will be anonymised with any information that might identify individuals removed.

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:

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