**Information Sheet for Research Participants**

***Investigating Interdisciplinary Research Discourse: the case of Global Environmental Change***

ESRC Project No. [ES/K007300/1] August 2013 – August 2015

Centre for Corpus Research, University of Birmingham

Principal Investigator: Dr Paul Thompson

Co-Investigator: Prof Susan Hunston

Research Fellows: Dr Akira Murakami and Mr Dominik Vajn

 **October 2014**

**Introduction and Purpose**

In cooperation with the international scientific publisher, Elsevier, we are investigating the discourse of interdisciplinary research (IDR) through comprehensive and innovative linguistic analyses of the full holdings of a successful IDR journal, *Global Environmental Change* (GEC). In addition to texts from GEC, we are analysing samplings of five other IDR journals and five discipline-specific journals.

To complement our analyses of texts, we are also conducting surveys and interviews of people involved in the journal publication process: editors, reviewers and authors. The data can help us to explain some of the phenomena that we observe in the texts, the influence of editorial policies, for example, or the ways that authors from different disciplines collaborate to write texts.

**Procedures**

If you agree to participate in the research, I will conduct an interview with you at a time of your choice. The interviews will be conducted either over the phone or Skype and will take around 20 minutes to complete. We aim to conduct the interview by the end of November 2014.

The interview will involve questions about your experiences doing research in interdisciplinary fields, writing for interdisciplinary audiences, and editing and reviewing articles for interdisciplinary journals. As our research is focused on language, we are particularly interested to find out whether you have noticed any differences in the use of language in disciplinary and interdisciplinary contexts. We are also interested in the influence the editorial and reviewing process has on the articles sent for publication, particularly in interdisciplinary journals.

With your permission, I will audio record and take notes during the interview. The recording is to aid the accuracy of the information you provide and will be used for transcription purposes only. If you choose not to be recorded, I will take notes instead. If you agree to being recorded but feel uncomfortable at any time during the interview, I can turn off the recorder at your request. Or if you do not wish to continue, you can stop the interview at any time.

I expect to conduct only one interview; however, a survey will be made based on the findings from the interviews and you will be asked at the end of the interview whether you want to be contacted about that in the future.

**Benefits**

We have set up a website on which information about the project will be given, with updates on recent developments and a series of blogson questions and issues surrounding interdisciplinary discourse. Readers will be encouraged to respond to the blogs by adding comments. We also plan to publish a set of training materialsfor use in workshops that prepare researchers for IDR work, as well as guidelines for editors and research councils on IDR discourse. The findings can inform editorial and publisher policy decisions, review processes and the guidance provided to authors. We will also invite participants to attend one-day seminarsat which the research team will report on project progress and engage in formative discussion with the user groups.

**Confidentiality**

Your study data will be handled as confidentially as possible. Interview recordings and transcripts will be held and used on an anonymous basis, with no mention of your name, but we may refer to the group of which you are a member. If results of this study are published or presented, individual names and other personally identifiable information will not be used. The data will not be used other than for the purposes described above and third parties will not be allowed access to them (except where required by law). However, if you request it, you will be supplied with a copy of *your* interview transcript so that you can comment on and edit it as you see fit. When the research is completed, we may save the transcripts for use in future research at the Centre, subject to your approval.

**Questions**

If you have any questions about this research or need some clarification about any of the statements included in the Information Sheet or the Consent Form, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at *0121 414 5680* or *d.vajn@bham.ac.uk*.

Alternatively, if you wish to discuss this research with the Principal Investigator, please contact Dr Paul Thompson at *+44 (0)121 414 5688* or *p.thompson@bham.ac.uk*.

**Consent for Participation in Interview Research**

This consent form is to agree to participate in a telephone or Skype interview as part of the research project conducted by Dr Paul Thompson from the University of Birmingham, which is outlined in the Information Sheet provided.

I, the undersigned, confirm that (please tick box as appropriate):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | I have read and understood the information about the project, as provided in the Information Sheet |[ ]
| 2. | My participation in this project is voluntary. I understand that I will not be paid for my participation. I may withdraw and discontinue participation at any time before April 2015. |[ ]
| 3. | I understand that if I feel uncomfortable in any way during the interview session, I have the right to decline to answer any question or to end the interview. |[ ]
| 4. | I understand that the researcher will not identify me by name in any reports using information obtained from this interview and that my confidentiality as a participant in this study will remain secure. |[ ]
| 5. | If requested, I will be supplied with a copy of the interview transcript so that I can comment on and edit it as you I fit. |[ ]
| 6.  | I agree that the transcript of the interview may be kept by the Centre for Corpus Research beyond the period of this research project, strictly for research purposes. |[ ]
| 7. | I have read and understand the explanation provided to me. I have had all my questions answered to my satisfaction, and I voluntarily agree to participate in this study. |[ ]
| 8. | I have been given a copy of this consent form. |  |

****

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature and Date Dominik Vajn

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name

For further information, please contact:

Dr Paul Thompson

Room 235, Arts Building Email: p.thompson@bham.ac.uk
University of Birmingham Telephone: +44 (0)121 414 5688
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT