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**Participant Information Sheet – museums**

**Study Title:** Ludic Geopolitics: children’s play, war toys and re-enchantment with the British military

We are conducting visitor observation at the ‘War Games’ exhibition as part of the above named research study. This sheet is designed to tell you about this research study. Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

The study examines children’s play with military action figures. The aim is not to judge whether war play is good or bad, but to better understand how children make sense of contemporary war and conflict through their play.

**Why has this exhibition been chosen?**

The project team are working in partnership with the V&A Museum of Childhood, who designed this exhibition. The team are conducting visitor observation at the various sites this travelling exhibition will visit. This will allow them to identify any differences in how visitors respond to the exhibition in different areas of the country.

**What are you observing?**

We are looking at how different visitors engage with the objects on display and the interactive features of the exhibition. This includes how long they spend in a particular area, how they use different interactive features and the kinds of things they talk about as they look different objects.

**Do I have to take part?**

If you do not wish to be observed you can ask the researcher not to include any information about your visit in their notes.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

We will aim to minimise the inconvenience of visitor observation. You will not be identifiable from any observation notes.

**Will my participation be kept confidential?**

As you will not be identifiable for any observation notes, you will not be identified in any final reports or publications. Any data collected will be stored securely on university computer hardware, and backed up to a hard drive also kept in a secure location at the university. Only the five researchers working directly on the project will have access to data. These researchers are Dr. Tara Woodyer and Dr. Diana Martin (University of Portsmouth), Dr. Sean Carter and Dr. Philip Kirby (University of Exeter), and Prof. Klaus Dodds (Royal Holloway). At the end of the study, the collected data will be archived with the Economic and Social Data Service, which is part of the UK Data Service. This is a database resource used by researchers, teachers and policy makers.

**What if there is a problem?**

If you have concerns about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researcher, who will do their best to answer your questions. You can contact Tara Woodyer (lead researcher) on 023 9284 2510 or at tara.woodyer@port.ac.uk. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can contact the head of the university’s Geography department, Simon Leonard, on 023 9284 2501 or at simon.leaonard@port.ac.uk.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

We intend to publish the results of this study in academic journals, reports for professional organisations and a book. We also intend to include data from this study in a website run by Tara Woodyer, which includes material from her previous studies.

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

This research is sponsored by the University of Portsmouth (in collaboration with the University of Exeter and Royal Holloway, University of London), and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. Neither the collaborating universities nor the research council will benefit from any significant financial gain as a result of this study.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

Research undertaken by the University of Portsmouth is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has also been reviewed by an independent group of people, as part of the Economic and Social Research Council funding process.

**Further information and contact details**

If you want further information about the study please feel free to contact the lead researcher, Tara Woodyer, on 023 9284 2510 or at tara.woodyer@port.ac.uk.

**Concluding statement**

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. You are welcome to keep a copy of this information for your reference.