

**Participant Information Sheet – adult interviewees**

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

We would like to invite you to take part in our research study. Before you decide we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Talk to others about the study if you wish. 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 have I been invited?**

You have been invited to take part as you have been identified as someone who is well placed to talk about the licensing, design and promotional practices of military action figures.

**Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide to join the study. We will describe the study and go through this information sheet. If you agree to take part, we will then ask you to sign a consent form.

**What will I have to do?**

We would like to interview you about the licensing, design and promotional practices of military action figures. Interviews typically last for about an hour and are relatively informal in nature. Ideally, we would like to record the interview. This will allow us to review the material as a team after the interview.

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

We will aim to minimise the inconvenience of participation, and we will not ask you to divulge any sensitive information. Any data used in final reports, will be anonymised at your request, however, it is likely that the brand, company or institution you work/ed for will be identifiable.

**Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

Any data used in final reports and/or online/print publications will be anonymised at your request. 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. Special software will be used to securely delete audio data from recording devices. Only the five researchers working directly on the project will have access to identifiable 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. You will be able to review any data collected from you and decide if you are willing to have this included in the archived data. There is no obligation for you to agree to this.

**What will happen if I don’t want to carry on with the study?**

You have the right to stop participating in the study at any time, without giving a reason, and without any adverse consequences. We would expect to retain any data collected up to this point.

**What if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern 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 Dr. 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 of Portsmouth’s Geography department, Dr. Simon Leonard, on 023 9284 2501 or at simon.leonard@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. You will not be personally identified in any report/publication unless you have given consent, however, it is likely that the brand, company or institution you work/ed for will be identifiable.

**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, Dr. 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. If you decide to participate we will provide you with a copy of this information to keep and ask you to sign a consent form to confirm you understand what this study and your participation in it involves.