SCiMMK

Smart Cities in the Making: Learning from Milton Keynes

INFORMATION SHEET

We would like to invite you to take part in the *Smart Cities in the Making* research project. Before you decide whether to take part or not it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please consider the following information carefully – and please do also ask if you require any more information.

What is the purpose of the study?
The past decade has seen the widespread emergence of what are now often called 'smart cities'. Smart cities are understood to use the data produced by digital technologies to enhance sustainability, economic growth and openness. Currently, although local community and citizen participation is often asserted to be a prerequisite for a successful smart city, almost nothing is known about how the development and rollout of smart policies and technologies actually engage city residents, workers and visitors. Through a number of in-depth case studies of smart technologies in Milton Keynes, this project will generate a much better understanding of how people in a smart city actually engage with smart technologies.

What will the study do?
This will involve:

1. seeking informed opinion from policy makers, citizens and practitioners on the issue of smart cities and their practical implementation by way of interviews;
2. observing and or taking part in activities related to smart cities in order that the issues that are raised can be understood, first hand;
3. organising group discussions in order to explore the issues that relate to smart cities.

Who is organising and funding the research?
The research is funded by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council. The research team is led by Professor Gillian Rose; the Co-Investigators are Dr Nick Bingham, Dr Matthew Cook, Prof Parvati Raghuram and Prof Sophie Watson and the Research Associates are Dr Miguel Valdez, Dr Ed Wigley and Dr Oliver Zanetti.

Why have I been asked to take part?
We are seeking a range of policy and practitioner people as well as members of the public, to help us better understand what happens when a city like Milton Keynes aims to go 'smart'.

Do I have to take part?
No. You do not have to take part. However, we believe that you have something important to contribute to our study. If you agree to take part you will be asked to sign a consent form. But please note that you will still be free to withdraw at any time and we will not ask you to give any reasons if you choose to do so. If you choose to withdraw, you must let us know by 28 February 2018 and we will destroy any data you have given us.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?
Benefits include being able to feed into a better understanding of the thinking, lived experiences and practicalities involved in smart cities. You may also find working with social scientists to be interesting and mutually informative.

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What does taking part mean?
We will ask you to take part in one of the activities listed in the 'What will the study do?' section above. We ask you for your formal consent to your participation, and we will also discuss with you the kinds of data we will be collecting.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?
We hope that the experience of taking part will be enjoyable. There may be a small risk that we will ask you to discuss experiences related to using technologies that were unpleasant.

How will data be collected, handled and stored?
With permission, interviews and discussion groups will be recorded, transcribed and stored on secure servers at The Open University. Field observations will be entered into notebooks and then typed and will also be stored secure servers at The Open University. All data will be strictly confidential and will be available in the first instance only to members of the research team. At the end of 2018, once this study has been completed, the anonymised data (where possible) will be made available to the National Data Archive. Data will therefore be available to third party researchers from 2019. Any remaining data held by The OU will be destroyed 5 years after the project ends.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?
When we ask your consent to participate in the study, you will have the opportunity to say exactly how you want your data to be collected and used. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can say so and we will honour that wish.

What will happen to the results of the research study?
All those who take part in the research will be sent a summary of research findings. The research findings are also likely to be published in academic journal articles and books.

Who has reviewed the study?
This study has been reviewed and approved by The Open University's Human Research Ethics Committee. Prior to this, and in order to secure funding, the research was reviewed for the ESRC by three anonymous academic peer reviewers.

Who do I contact about the project?
You can contact us via the project website, where you can also find upates on the progress of the project: http://www.scim-mk.org/.

Or you can email:

Prof Gillian Rose	gillian.rose@open.ac.uk	(project lead)
Mrs Joyce Coleman	joyce.coleman@open.ac.uk	(project administrator)

Or write to:
Mrs Joyce Coleman, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.

THANKYOU FOR READING THIS INFORMATION SHEET