

# Face2Face

Thank you for taking an interest in the project **Face 2 Face: Tracing the Real and the Mediated in Children and Young people's Cultural Worlds**. This information sheet tells you more about it and the kinds of activities it involves. Once you have read this you may want to talk about the project with your parent/carers, a youth worker or a friend before deciding if you really want to take part.

## What is the Face 2 Face study?

This is a research project that explores new ways to understand young people's lives. We are interested in:

- **Everyday** lives of young people, the ordinary stuff you do and care about
- **Time**: including the small timeslots into which a day is broken up (school time, play-time, family-time, free-time, screen-time) and then longer time frames such as how life changes with the seasons, the cycles of things going in and out of fashion.
- **Digital** and social media and how they form a part of everyday life and relationships.

## What could I expect if I take part?

If you take part in the study you will become a co-researcher. This means that we will support you in making multi-media records of your everyday life. We will treat you as an expert and will also help you to document different aspects of your life through the following activities:

- **A family and an individual interview**: here, we will talk with you and any other members of your family willing to be involved. Then we will talk to you on your own, asking you to choose two special objects to discuss (they could be real or digital), one that represents your past and one that represents the present or future. These will start a conversation with the researcher, which will be recorded.
- Documenting a typical '**day in a life**': we will do this twice over the course of a year, once in the winter and once in the summer. The researcher will support you to document an ordinary day using photographs, audio and observation.
- **A final individual interview**: we will look back over your year's involvement with us and reflect on it.

We also hope that co-researchers will be involved in events to present the research to various different audiences including an event at the Brighton Fringe Festival.

## When will it take place and how long will it take?

The project will take place over a year, and would involve you in a number of activities and events during this time. Between December and January 2014 we would hope to carry out the family interview and the special objects interview, followed by the first 'day in a life'. Between April and June 2014 you would be involved in another 'day in a life' and the reflective interview.

## What will happen to information I give you?

Over the course of the research we will make a range of recordings. These might include:

- Audio recordings of interviews
- Audio recordings of the background sounds of various settings that you spend time in, for example: school, the neighbourhood, hanging out with friends, sport activities etc.
- Visual records: photographs and video of online and offline spaces, favourite things etc.
- Written records: these may be notes of time spent observing activities during 'a day in a life', written reflections made by co-researchers as well as typed up copies of recorded interviews.

We will work with you to edit these records into a unique **multi-media document** about your life. This will eventually be a public document, available on a website that anyone can access. Therefore it is very important that you are happy with its content and are closely involved with creating it. We will not make any material public without your consent or permission. For an example of a multi-media 'day in a life' document from a linked study that we have been involved in, see: <http://modernmothers.org/monicaflash/monica.html>

We aim to 'archive' all of the records at the end of the research process in the Mass Observation Archive at the University of Sussex and the Timescapes archive at the University of Leeds. These are collections of records of everyday life that began in the 1930s that are a valuable resource for all kinds of historians and researchers. However we will only do so with your consent and we will check with you at the end of the project so that you can remove any material that you decide you would rather not share. If you change your mind and decide that you no longer want to be involved in the study you have the right to withdraw from the research at any time and if you wish us to destroy the documents that we have made with you during the project we will do so.

During the project you will be asked to sign a consent form to confirm that you are happy to hand over copyright of your data to the Mass Observation Archive. Copyright is a form of legal protection that prevents others from using or reproducing your data without permission. By allowing the Mass Observation Archive to have the copyright of your data, you provide it with the ability to protect your data and to allow others to use it only when they have been given permission.

### **Confidentiality and safety**

Taking part in this project means creating a public document that represents your personal and social world. It cannot therefore be completely confidential (that is, not shared with others) or anonymous – for instance, you will probably be recognisable to people who know you well already. However we will work together to make sure that what is public is respectful, positive, and does not reveal information that is too personal or private. We will do this by:

- Focusing on what you do rather than who you are
- Avoiding photographs of faces and changing the names of people and places.
- Helping you to 'curate' your own records, which means choosing what to include and reflecting on the consequences of sharing personal information with future audiences

As researchers we accept a shared responsibility for young people's well-being. This means doing everything we can to make the research process an interesting and positive experience for you, and avoiding any harm coming to you as a result of being involved. If we have concerns about your safety or of others close to you, we are required to pass these concerns on to relevant agencies. If we were worried about you we would talk to you first.

### **What do I get out of it?**

We hope that everyone involved in this study will have a positive experience and will gain new skills. Each co-researcher will receive a certificate of participation and expenses incurred by young people as part of the study will be met. This is your chance to capture aspects of your everyday life at a particular age, in detail. Without doubt, this will be fascinating to people in the future, whether yourself when you are older, any children and grandchildren you may have, or historians and others who want to understand life in Britain in the early 21st century.

### **Who are the researchers?**

The Face 2 Face team are based at the Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth (CIRCY) at the University of Sussex (Dr Kate Howland and Prof Rachel Thomson), in collaboration with the University of Brighton (Dr Sara Bragg) and the Open University (Prof Mary Jane Kehily). We are an experienced research team that includes expertise in researching children and young people's lives, cultures and digital media use. To find out more about our work see our website [www.sussex.ac.uk/esw/circy](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/esw/circy). The overall director of the project is Professor Rachel Thomson ([r.thomson@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:r.thomson@sussex.ac.uk)). The Research Fellows are Liam Berriman ([l.j.berriman@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:l.j.berriman@sussex.ac.uk)) and Ester McGeeney ([e.mcgeeney@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:e.mcgeeney@sussex.ac.uk)). We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Get in touch!

### **What happens next?**

If you are interested in taking part, then a researcher will talk with you to find out a bit more about you. Only a small number of young people can join the project, so expressing interest does not guarantee that you will actually be involved. Our aim is to have a diverse group of young people living in different family and social situations and with kinds of access to digital media. If you are invited to take part then your parent or carer will also need to consent to your being involved.