

Information Sheet and Consent Form

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please write your full name here _____

Thank you for agreeing to participate in my study. This sheet is to explain my project and ensure that your participation is based on your informed consent.

I am an anthropologist from the University of Birmingham in the UK, and I am also affiliated to Wits University in Johannesburg. My study is about making wills in South Africa, today and in the past. For the historical part of the research, I am using publicly available archives. For the present-day part, I am talking to practitioners working in wills and estates. And I am talking to people who themselves are making wills, have already written one, or who have decided not to. I would like to understand the place of wills in how people plan for the future, and to learn what effects they have.

I am recording my research data in the form of daily fieldnotes, and through interviews. During interviews, I either take notes, or I record our conversations to write up later – depending on what you are comfortable with. All the information you give will be treated in confidence. Your participation in the study will be completely anonymous, unless you specifically wish for your name to be used. You have the right to withdraw from the research project at any time within three months of participation. If you withdraw, data from your interview(s) will be destroyed.

Based on my research, I hope to write a book and academic papers about will-making. I would also like to write reports and online updates. These are to highlight how wills affect the lives of South Africans, and contribute to a public understanding of the benefits, challenges or difficulties brought by inheritance. I will be organising events in Johannesburg in 2018, to broaden awareness and ensure that you can hear my research conclusions.

If you would like to have your real name used in my writing, please tick here ☐

Signed:

Date:

If you have any questions please feel free to ask.

Contact email: m.bolt@bham.ac.uk

Contact telephone: 081 277 3898

Thank you, once again.