

Participant Information Sheet For Adults: Reader Interviews

UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Number: 15397/003

YOU MAY KEEP THIS INFORMATION SHEET

Title of Study: An investigation into the effects of fiction and nonfiction reading on critical thinking

Department: Information Studies

Name and Contact Details of the Researcher(s): Helena Hollis

helena.hollis.14@ucl.ac.uk

Name and Contact Details of the Principal Researcher: Dr Oliver Duke-Williams

o.duke-williams@ucl.ac.uk

1. Invitation Paragraph

You are being invited to take part in a PhD research project. Your participation is entirely voluntary. Before you decide if you wish to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Contact us by email if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for reading this.

2. What is the project's purpose?

The purpose of this research study is to investigate how reading different kinds of material may impact the ways in which people think critically.

3. Why have I been chosen?

You have been chosen because you are an adult (18 years of age or older) who considers themselves to be a reader, reading either fiction or nonfiction regularly.

4. Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you can save this information sheet, and you will be asked to check your consent on a following form. You can withdraw at any time without giving a reason. If you decide to withdraw, you may simply leave the session. You do not have to explain why. You can

also ask the researcher to pause recording at any time and not have some of what you want to say captured. You can also remain in the session but ask to have your answers to any particular questions withdrawn; in this event, your voice will be captured in the audio-recording but will not be transcribed for those questions (audio files will be deleted as soon as transcription is complete).

5. What will happen to me if I take part?

Participation in this study involves engaging in 2x 30-45 minute online conversations about reading and critical thinking with the researcher. You will also be asked to read a text of your choice between the 2 interview sessions (it's entirely up to you what this is, it could be a book, article, story etc.). Session 1 will be a general conversation about your experiences of reading and thinking critically. Session 2 will be more focused on how you found reading your chosen text and the ways it may (or may not) have prompted you to think critically.

First, you will be given a consent form to read and sign electronically, and return to the researcher by email. You can ask the researcher any questions you have about the study before you decide about giving consent. After consenting, you can still change your mind and withdraw that consent - you can cancel the session, and once in the interview you can simply leave the session. You do not have to explain to the researcher why you have chosen to withdraw, it is entirely your choice to voluntarily take part in the conversation and you are under no obligation to do so.

If you do consent, the researcher will ask you questions about reading and critical thinking in an online video and audio format. This discussion will be recorded through the video conferencing platform. The researcher will inform you when the recording function will be switched on and when it will be switched off. The researcher may also take notes, and you will be made aware of this also. You can ask the researcher to turn recording off whenever you wish.

The researcher will ask you various questions to prompt conversation. You do not need to answer any question that you do not wish to. You can also ask questions or bring up other ideas – this is a two-way conversation, and the researcher is not 'in charge' of it.

At the end of the first session, the researcher will send you some questions for you to take away and for you to think about when you read the text you have selected to read in-between the two sessions. You do not have to do so. You do not have to write any answers these questions, they are merely prompts to think about.

In the second meeting, the researcher will ask you about your experience reading and thinking about your selected text. You do not need to answer any of these questions if you do not want to. You can also ask different questions or bring up anything else you would like to in the discussion.

The researcher will transcribe all of the audio that is recorded, and the transcription will include no personal identifying information about you. You will be referred to with a random letter of the alphabet. The recording files will be deleted once transcription is complete. Participants may ask to have their data removed up until the point transcription is complete, as only anonymous data will be kept after this time. The anonymous transcripts will also be shared in a data repository for use by other researchers.

You will not be asked for any sensitive information (for example, information about disabilities, political or religious views, gender or sexuality, etc.) at any point. However, if you do disclose any such information, and if this information is relevant to the research topics of reading and critical thinking, it will be included in the anonymous transcripts. You can contact the researcher and ask to have any such information deleted at any time up until the end of transcription.

6. What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no anticipated disadvantages or risks associated with participating in this study.

7. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no anticipated advantages of participating in this study, other than that reflecting on what you read and how you think critically may be interesting to you.

8. What if something goes wrong?

If you wish to make a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact Dr Oliver Duke-Williams: o.duke-williams@ucl.ac.uk. You will hear back promptly and your concerns will be addressed to the best of our ability.

Should this not be satisfactory, you can contact the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee – ethics@ucl.ac.uk

9. Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

Participation in this study does not require any personal identifying data from you. Though your voice and image will be included in the recording, this will be deleted once transcription is complete and from there on all of your responses will be anonymised. You will not be able to be identified in any ensuing reports or publications.

10. What will happen to the results of the research project?

The anonymous transcripts from the interview conversations will be analysed for trends, and findings will be published or presented in scholarly outlets. These will also be presented in a PhD thesis. This anonymous data (i.e. the transcript of the conversation) will also be shared with other researchers on open science platforms.

11. Local Data Protection Privacy Notice

Notice:

The controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk

This 'local' privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular study. Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found in our 'general' privacy notice:

The information that is required to be provided to participants under data protection legislation (GDPR and DPA 2018) is provided across both the 'local' and 'general' privacy notices.

The categories of personal data used will be as follows:

Audio and video recordings of online video conferencing conversation

The lawful basis that would be used to process your *personal data* will be performance of a task in the public interest.

Your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. If we are able to anonymise or pseudonymise the personal data you provide we will undertake this, and will endeavour to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk.

12. Who is organising and funding the research?

This research project is funded by a departmental scholarship from the UCL Department of Information Studies.

16. Contact for further information

Helena Hollis: helena.hollis.14@ucl.ac.uk

Dr Oliver Duke-Williams: o.duke-williams@ucl.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research study.

CONSENT FORM FOR ADULTS IN RESEARCH STUDIES

Please complete this form after you have read the Information Sheet and/or listened to an explanation about the research. **After electronically signing, please return this form by email to helena.hollis.14@ucl.ac.uk**

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Department: Information Studies

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helena.hollis.14@ucl.ac.uk

Name and Contact Details of the Principal Researcher: Dr Oliver Duke-Williams
o.duke-williams@ucl.ac.uk

Name and Contact Details of the UCL Data Protection Officer: Alex Potts:
a.potts@ucl.ac.uk

This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee: Project ID number: **15397/003**

Thank you for considering taking part in this research. The person organising the research must explain the project to you before you agree to take part. If you have any questions arising from the Information Sheet or explanation already given to you, please ask the researcher before you decide whether to join in. You will be given a copy of this Consent Form to keep and refer to at any time.

I confirm that I understand that by signing and returning this form I am consenting to the following list of statements. I understand that by not giving consent I may be deemed ineligible for the study.

		Tick Box
1.	*I confirm that I have read and understood the Information Sheet for the above study. I have had an opportunity to consider the information and what will be expected of me. I have also had the opportunity to ask questions which have been answered to my satisfaction.	
2.	*I understand that I will be able to withdraw my data up until two weeks after the session	

3.	*I consent to participate in the study. I understand that my personal information will be used for the purposes explained to me. I understand that according to data protection legislation, 'public task' will be the lawful basis for processing.	
4.	*I understand that all personal information will remain confidential and that all efforts will be made to ensure I cannot be identified	
5.	*I understand that my information may be subject to review by responsible individuals from the University for monitoring and audit purposes.	
6.	*I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason up until two weeks after the session I understand that if I decide to withdraw, any personal data I have provided up to that point will be deleted.	
7.	I understand the potential risks of participating and the support that will be available to me should I become distressed during the course of the research.	
8.	I understand the direct/indirect benefits of participating.	
9.	I understand that the data will not be made available to any commercial organisations but is solely the responsibility of the researcher(s) undertaking this study.	
10.	I understand that I will not benefit financially from this study or from any possible outcome it may result in in the future	
11.	I agree that my anonymised research data may be used by others for future research. [No one will be able to identify you when this data is shared.]	
12.	I am aware of who I should contact if I wish to lodge a complaint.	
13.	I voluntarily agree to take part in this study.	
14.	Use of information for this project and beyond: I would be happy for the anonymous data I provide to be shared with other researchers on an open science platform, and archived at the UCL repository.	

	I understand that other authenticated researchers will have access to my anonymised data.	
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I consent to all of the above:

Name _____

Date _____