



Participant Information Sheet for Interviewees

Title of Study: *What is Governed in Cities [WHIG]: Residential Investment Landscapes and the Governance and Regulation of Housing Production (London case-study)*

Department: University College London (UCL), The Bartlett School of Planning

Name of the Principal Researcher: Prof. Mike Raco

Name of the Researcher: Dr Callum Ward

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether or not you wish to take part, it is important to understand why the research is being done and what participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and feel free to ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

1. What is the project's purpose?

This project draws on a comparative, inter-disciplinary methodology to examine the relationships between national and international investment flows into the housing markets of major cities and the governance arrangements and public policy instruments that are designed to regulate them. Our case studies are three of Europe's leading urban centres: the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area; Greater London; and Grand Paris.

The research draws on two streams of analysis. First, we examine investment landscapes and the effectiveness of regulations and policy instruments that are designed to control them. We do this systematically and comparatively. Second, we analyse the types of investment that are shaping housing markets and their impacts on people and places. We explore its sources, objectives, and designed outcomes. The research meets an increasingly urgent need to develop better understandings of the complex relationships between markets, planning controls, and the quality of life of citizens in a context of escalating political tensions between different socio-economic groups and major global economic and social changes.

The project is timely as major cities have been faced with unprecedented development pressures. In recent decades their populations and economies have expanded and their housing markets have become highly attractive locations for global and national financial investment. The result is growing unaffordability and a widely perceived 'housing crisis' and set of new challenges for policy-makers and planners. There is a growing urgency to produce affordable housing for a variety of groups in order for cities to maintain their growth and to meet the needs of their citizens. A failure to tackle housing problems will both limit future growth potential and act as a source of social conflict and discontent.

We will include the URL of the project website once it is set up. The project will start on 1 March 2019 and will end on 28 February 2022.

2. Why have I been chosen?

For the London case-study of the project, we have identified individuals we would like to interview in their professional capacity, in their capacity as elected representatives, or as unpaid/voluntary members of an organized community group. The types of participants we would like to interview include:

- Employees of local or regional authorities;

- Elected politicians (local councilors, members of parliament);
- Employees of professional organisations, business associations or registered interest groups;
- Employees of private companies operating in the relevant sector (e.g. real estate developers, real estate market analysts, employees of investment funds)
- Voluntary members of local residents' associations, neighbourhood associations, or other local community groups/campaigns in the case-study sites for WP6;
- Academic researchers who are local experts on the topic under scrutiny.

The participants have been **identified** through:

- The mapping process of key actors in WP2 and WP3
- Recommendations by academic colleagues, contacts in the public and private sector, and members of the Local Advisory Group;
- Analysis of the general and specialized press (references to key stakeholders involved in relevant debates and developments);
- The publicly available directories of elected representatives of relevant institutions;
- The publicly available organogram/list of key contacts mentioned on the web sites of public institutions, professional organisations, business associations, registered interest groups, private companies and community groups/campaigns. In some cases, a phone call to the contact number/communication officer mentioned on the institutional website of an organization will be made to identify the relevant person to be contacted;
- Through a snowball technique, additional contacts may be recommended by the interviewees during an interview and subsequently contacted.

3. Who is leading and funding the research?

The London part of the research project is led by Principal Investigator **Prof. Mike Raco, with co-Investigators** Prof. Jessica Ferm, Prof. Nicola Livingstone, Prof. Iqbal Hamiduddin, Dr Sonia Freire Trigo, Dr Danielle Sanderson, and Dr Callum Ward (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/planning/people/academics>). It is partly funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) under the Open Research Area (ORA) 2017 call.

4. Do I have to take part?

Taking part in the study is **entirely voluntary** and it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep, and be asked to **sign a consent form**. You can **withdraw** at any time without giving a reason. If you decide to withdraw, you will be asked what you wish to happen to the data you have provided up to that point. If you so wish, we will destroy the notes or recording of the interview and not use any data you have given us up to that point.

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

A **semi-structured interview** will be conducted with you for approximately one hour or whatever amount of time you can dedicate to the interview. The interview can be arranged for a day and time that is convenient to you. It will be guided by questions related to the above-mentioned objectives of the project. If you agree to take part in an interview, you can **decide if you wish to be anonymized and not quoted personally** in any output of the project (see point 11 below). If you wish to be anonymized, you can tell us whether we can still refer to the organization you represent in the presentation of the findings of the project.

6. Will I be recorded and how will the recorded media be used?

With your **permission**, it will be **audio recorded** with a digital voice recorder. This recording is **purely for internal research purposes** and will only be accessible to the named researchers carrying out of the project (see points 9 and 13 below about the storage and confidentiality of data). We will not publish or broadcast the recording.

If you **do not wish to be audio recorded**, we will **take notes** during the interview (either by hand or with the help of a laptop computer). The interview notes are **purely for internal research purposes** and will only be accessible to the named researchers carrying out the project (see points 9 and 13 below about the storage and confidentiality of data). We will not publish the interview notes.

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

We do not foresee any disadvantage and risk arising from your participation, and as stated in points 5 and 10 you can speak to us anonymously. If you **feel uncomfortable** discussing any topic that is raised during the interview, or do not wish to answer a particular question, simply say so and we will skip that topic or question.

8. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The main benefit for people participating in the project will be **access to the final reports and publications** presenting the overall comparative results of the project. It is anticipated that the project will contribute to and enrich the current debates happening in London and other UK and European cities on the theme of the causes of and solutions to the housing 'crisis'.

9. What if something goes wrong?

Should you wish to raise a complaint regarding your treatment by researchers or a reportable serious adverse event occurring during, or following your participation in the project, the first point of contact is the Principal Investigator, Prof. Mike Raco. Should you feel the complaint has not been handled to your satisfaction, you can contact the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee (ethics@ucl.ac.uk).

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

Yes. All the information that we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept **strictly confidential** and **stored on secure UCL servers**. The only data we will record in our internal notes are your name, professional or organisational affiliation, position, and contact details. If you ask us to be anonymised, you will not be able to be identified in any ensuing reports or publications.

Note on limits to confidentiality:

Confidentiality may be limited and conditional and the researcher has a duty of care to report to the relevant authorities possible harm/danger to the participant or others.

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

The main final outputs of the study will be monographs on each city and a comparative book; academic papers on aspects of housing market investment in each city; and policy reports that emerge from the findings.

which will eventually be made **public** and **available online**. Some publications will be academic in nature and focus (namely articles in peer-reviewed journals and books). Other publications will target a broad audience of policy-makers, business representatives, and other interested parties (such as community groups).

To ensure **accuracy of data** and the **integrity of the information and opinions shared by the interviewees**, at the stage of drafting any publication arising from the project, if any quote, information, or opinion shared by an interviewee is felt to be contentious or potentially misinterpreted, the Principal Researcher will contact the interviewee to propose a draft formulation of the paragraph in which this quote, information, or opinion is referred to, so as to make sure the participant is happy with the formulation.

12. Data Protection Privacy Notice

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

Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found here:
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/participants-health-and-care-research-privacy-notice>

Your personal data will be used for the purposes outlined in this notice and **stored on secure UCL servers**. The **categories of personal data** used will be as follows: your name; your professional or organisational affiliation and position; your professional or organisational contact details and the e-mail address(es) you chose to communicate with us.

The legal basis that would be used to process your *personal data*, according to the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** that came into force on 25 May 2018, 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. You have certain rights under data protection legislation in relation to the personal information that we hold about you. These rights apply only in particular circumstances and are subject to certain exemptions such as public interest (for example the prevention of crime). They include: the right to access your personal information; the right to rectification of your personal information; the right to erasure of your personal data; the right to restrict or object to the processing of your personal data; the right to object to the use of your data for direct marketing purposes; the right to data portability; where the justification for processing is based on your consent, the right to withdraw such consent at any time; and the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) about the use of your personal data. 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. If you remain unsatisfied, you may wish to contact the ICO. Contact details, and further details of data subject rights, are available on the ICO website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/overview-of-the-gdpr/individuals-rights/>

16. Contact for further information

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This study has been approved by the **UCL Research Ethics Committee**: Project ID number: 3633/003.

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering to take part in this research study!