

Information sheet for Party Representatives.

Research project "The Survival of the Mass Party": Information for participants

We would like to invite you to be part of this research project, if you would like to. You should only agree to take part *if you want to, it is entirely up to you*. If you choose not to take part there won't be any disadvantages for you and we will not contact you anymore.

Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the project is being undertaken and what your participation will involve. Please read the following information carefully before you decide to take part; this will tell you why the research is being done and what you will be asked to do if you participate. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

If you decide to take part you will be asked to sign the attached form to say that you agree.

You are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

Description: The Survival of the Mass Party project will produce research, analysis, and understanding about the survival of the mass party organisational model, by studying selected anti-establishment parties. This is an era in which many claim that the "mass parties" of the past century are no longer bridging the gap between citizens and politicians. Large memberships in local branches are disappearing. Citizens are increasingly disengaged from "traditional" politics.

But it is also an era in which new parties are growing, while others are reinventing themselves. Some of these parties criticise traditional counterparts for "losing touch" with people and for a remoteness from the concerns of ordinary citizens. We are studying anti-establishment parties to see if they are able to resurrect mass party organisations and use them effectively.

Our primary objective is to understand why activists invest time and resources in these parties and why the parties build and maintain extensive organisations.

Who have we asked to participate?

We have invited politicians and party members from [name of party] and from parties in other countries to take place.

When and where will the interview take place?

Interviews will take place at a mutually convenient time and location. Interviews will be recorded, subject to your permission, and transcribed at a later date. Hand-written notes may also be taken during the interview.

How long will the interview last?

The Interview will last approximately [TIME]

What will you be asked to do?

You will be asked to discuss issues related to the way the party functions, the relations between different levels of party organisations (for instance: the national, the regional and the local), and the role of members within the party.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

It is unlikely that you will benefit directly, but it is hoped that your participation will inform researchers about how political parties – and specifically parties that have been critical of the establishment - function. If you are interested in being informed about the findings of this study, please contact the lead researcher directly, using the information provided at the bottom of this page.

Are there any risks involved in participating?

There are no risks involved in participating.

Confidentiality of data

The data gathered via your interview will remain confidential, as only members of the research team will have access to it. It will also be de-identified, **if requested by you**. If you do not require this to happen, your name will appear in academic publications and excerpts from this interview could be quoted. If you do require de-identification, then you will not be identified in any publications as the source of any statements.

You will be able to indicate on the Consent Form if you require de-identification. If you change your mind after the interview has taken place, please write to the lead researcher within two weeks of the date of interview.

Depositing the data

With your permission, the transcript originating from this interview will be deposited with the UK Data Service (<https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/>). The service provides users with access to a wide range of data resources to facilitate high quality social and economic research and education. **We will apply access restrictions to this data so that it will be accessed only by the research community.**

You can withdraw permission for your transcript to be deposited (see Consent form) and still participate in the research if you wish to.

Who is organising the project?

Dr Daniele Albertazzi, a Reader in Politics at the University of Birmingham (UK) is organising the research. There are two co-investigators: Professor Scott Lucas, also of the University of Birmingham, and Dr Stijn van Kessel (Queen's Mary University, UK).

How is the data going to be handled?

Confidentiality of data will be ensured in all cases through encryption and secure storage of data on the University of Birmingham servers. Personal data will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of 2018 and University regulations.

Withdrawal

You have a right to withdraw from the project without providing any reasons at any time before or during the interview. After the interview has taken place, if you no longer wish us to use the information that you have provided, please let us know within two weeks after data collection.

In the event that you wish to withdraw the information you have provided, please contact the lead researcher at the address below. Data that have been withdrawn will be deleted and will not be used in the analysis of the research study.

What if I have questions about the project?

If you have any questions, please ask your interviewer, who is a research fellow working on this project. His/Her name is [NAME]. You can contact him/her after the interview at: [contact email address]. To contact the lead researcher (Dr Daniele Albertazzi) directly, please write to: d.albertazzi@bham.ac.uk.

Alternatively, you can write or phone by using the following contact details:

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It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form.