**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Emotional educations: students’ views of the history of belonging and the lessons that can be learned from the history of student mental health**

You are being invited to take part in some research conducted by Dr Sarah Crook from Swansea University.

Before you decide whether or not to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully.

**What is the purpose of the research?**

I am conducting research on how increasing students’ knowledge and understanding of past students’ emotional experiences might be useful to them in the present. This project works with students to illuminate the history of belonging at British universities and to establish the potential impact of this knowledge. Through a series of focus groups it enables participating students to critically examine the experiences of previous generations of students – as shown in student newspapers and Student Union ephemera, alongside medical journals and institutional documentation ¬– and the history of belonging at British universities.

The inclusion criteria for the focus groups are that participants are over 18 and registered students, at any level and within any discipline, at a British university.

The overarching research question is ‘how can thinking historically about belonging at university and its relationship with mental health help today’s students?’. The core objective is to establish what students can learn from past students’ experiences of loneliness and community and how this knowledge can be used to improve present experiences of university.

The project has three outcome aims

* a website, hosted by Swansea University, which will host an exhibition resulting from student interaction with archival material.
* A peer-reviewed academic article on the history of student belonging
* The project will increase participating students’ understanding about the history of belonging and student mental health at universities.

Your participation in this study will take approximately 90 minutes. This is for the focus groups.

**Who is carrying out the research?**

Dr Sarah Crook, Senior Lecturer, Department of History, Heritage and Classics at Swansea University. The research has been approved by the College of Human and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee.

**What happens if I agree to take part?**

You will take part in a focus group with other students. For the first part of the session Dr Sarah Crook will set out the aims of the project. She will then explain some of the broader chronology of higher education provision in order to contextualise the material. She will then give some guidelines about looking at archival materials, setting out some of the questions you might ask while reading it. You will then have the opportunity to read some materials produced by student unions and students in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s about loneliness, belonging and emotional experiences at British universities. You will then discuss these materials with other students and reflect upon the usefulness of knowing about past generations of student experiences. These discussions will be recorded and made into anonymised transcripts. These transcripts will have any identifying information removed. Participating students will have the opportunity to submit material for exhibition on an online site. This can be done anonymously or with named credit, according to the participant’s request. Consent will be recorded through the participants’ consent form,

**Are there any risks associated with taking part?**

The research has been approved by the College of Human and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee. There are no significant risks associated with participation.

**Data Protection and Confidentiality**

Your data will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR). All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential. The notes and/or recording from the focus groups will only be viewed by the researcher, Dr Sarah Crook.

If you choose to submit a blog post, a reflective comment, art work, or recording for exhibition on the project website this will be publicly available. You can choose for this to be made anonymous.

All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected computer file at Swansea University. All paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet at Swansea University. Your consent information will be kept separately from your responses to minimise risk in the event of a data breach.

Please note that, with the exception of the material submitted for online exhibition and where you have stated it, the data we will collect for our study will be made anonymous (through transcription, with names and identifying detail redacted) in the five days following the focus groups. Thus it will not be possible to identify and remove your data at a later date, should you decide to withdraw from the study. Therefore, if at the end of this research you decide to have your data withdrawn, please let us know before you leave.

Anonymised transcripts with identifying details will be deposited with ReShare, in lines with ESRC guidelines.

**What will happen to the information I provide?**

An analysis of the information will form part of our report at the end of the study and may be presented to interested parties and published in scientific journals and related media. All information presented in any reports or publications will be anonymous and unidentifiable.

**Is participation voluntary and what if I wish to later withdraw?**

Your participation is entirely voluntary – you do not have to participate if you do not want to. If you later wish to withdraw your creative contribution from the online exhibition, then you are free to withdraw it at any time, without giving a reason and without penalty. Once the transcripts of the focus group are anonymised it will be difficult to extract data.

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The data controller for this project will be Swansea University. The University Data Protection Officer provides oversight of university activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at the Vice Chancellor’s Office: [dataprotection@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@swansea.ac.uk).

Your personal data will be processed for the purposes outlined in this information sheet.

Standard ethical procedures will involve you providing your consent to participate in this study by completing the consent form that has been provided to you.

The legal basis that we will rely on to process your personal data will be: processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. This public interest justification is approved by the College of Human and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee, Swansea University.

The legal basis that we will rely on to process special categories of data will be: processing is necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes.

**How long will your information be held?**

The recordings of the focus groups will be destroyed as soon as they are turned into anonymised transcripts. This will be within two weeks of the focus groups. The researcher, Sarah Crook, will hold anonymised transcripts of the focus groups for five years. This will allow it to be used for the research, writing and publication of an article in an academic journal. They will then be destroyed by her. The anonymised, unidentifiable transcripts will also be held by ReShare with the ESRC in line with their guidance and this will be for no longer than necessary.

**What are your rights?**

You have a right to access your personal information, to object to the processing of your personal information, to rectify, to erase, to restrict and to port your personal information. Please visit the University Data Protection webpages for further information in relation to your rights.

Any requests or objections should be made in writing to the University Data Protection Officer:-

University Compliance Officer (FOI/DP)

Vice-Chancellor’s Office

Swansea University

Singleton Park

Swansea

SA2 8PP

Email: dataprotection@swansea.ac.uk

**How to make a complaint**

If you are unhappy with the way in which your personal data has been processed you may in the first instance contact the University Data Protection Officer using the contact details above.

If you remain dissatisfied then you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Information Commissioner’s Office,

Wycliffe House,

Water Lane,

Wilmslow,

Cheshire,

SK9 5AF

www.ico.org.uk

**What if I have other questions?**

If you have further questions about this study, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Dr Sarah Crook

Department of History, Heritage and Classics,

Swansea University

[s.r.e.crook@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:s.r.e.crook@swansea.ac.uk)