

## **Information Sheet**

### *Interviews*

**Title of Project:** The Politics of Food and Housing in Changing Times

**Researcher name:** Celia Plender

#### **Invitation and brief summary:**

I am a Social Anthropologist working in the Department of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology at the University of Exeter. From 2015-17 I conducted research with [name of food coop] as part of my PhD research. I am now writing a book based on the PhD which looks at food co-op practices during the period of austerity. I am also developing a new project on food and housing issues in London, and how community groups respond to them. The new project will give me the opportunity to better understand:

- the issues that people are dealing with in relation to food and housing
- how they are responding to these issues
- what kinds of community groups are out there
- how community groups are trying to address food and housing issues
- the aims, values and structures of these groups

I will conduct online interviews and focus groups for the new project with participants of food and housing groups. I may also ask participants if they are willing to share photos of the group's activities.

This project will only run from October 2020 to September 2021, but I plan to develop a proposal during this time for a longer (three year) project on food and housing in London. I am keen to hear what matters to food and housing groups and what kind of research might be useful to them so that I can try to build some of these interests into the longer project.

#### **What will taking part involve?**

An interview of around 60-90 minutes. This will be relaxed and informal. With permission this will be digitally audio recorded. This will either be conducted online or over the phone depending on what works better for you. I am interested in finding out more about:

- your experiences with food and housing groups, how you became involved and why
- your opinions on them, their activities, ethos and group dynamics
- any other community organising or activism that you have been involved with
- your thoughts about the food and housing situation in London and any experiences you have had in relation to it

- your opinions about British politics and policies in relation to food, housing, welfare

### **Are there any benefits or risks involved?**

I hope that this research will create an opportunity to raise awareness of some of the food and housing issues that people are dealing with, the work that community groups are doing to tackle these, and the effects of government policies and of Covid-19. The project may also create opportunities to build connections and share knowledge between groups.

Although I expect that most people involved with the study will find participation positive, I am aware that sharing experiences related to food or housing insecurity, austerity or Covid-19 could bring up painful memories for some people. I understand that these are sensitive topics. You are under no pressure to take part in this research, or to discuss anything that you do not want to if you do take part. You are also welcome to withdraw at any point before research is published (see below). If you would like details of support services, I can also share these with you.

### **What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?**

You can stop taking part in this research at any time before research is published. You do not have to give a reason. You can also request that your data is destroyed if you want to. I will start publishing and presenting material from this research from June 2021 onwards. Once I have published any data related to you it will not be possible to withdraw that data from the project.

### **What will happen to the results of this study?**

As well as a funding proposal for a longer project on food and housing, this research will be used to:

- present at academic conferences
- write academic articles and books
- write reports to be shared with community groups
- give feedback to people and community groups that have participated in the research through workshops and small group events
- write pieces for the media

### **Confidentiality**

Although I will name food and housing groups (with permission), you will be pseudonymised by default (i.e. your name will not be used and any information that makes you easily identifiable will be removed).

With permission, I will digitally audio record interviews. The recordings and all other data will be stored on the University of Exeter's secure server. I will keep the data until September 2031. This will give me time to use it for the current research, the longer project and any outputs from them. Your data will then be destroyed. With your permission, I will also keep your name and contact details securely until September 2031 so that I can share outcomes from the research with you.

The interview will be professionally transcribed. You are welcome to see the transcript and let me know about any amendments you would like me to make to it. With your consent, a fully pseudonymised version (i.e. with your name and any information that makes you easily identifiable removed) will be deposited in the UK Data Archive: <https://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>

### **Research funding and ethics**

This research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. The study has been ethically approved by the University of Exeter, College of Social Science and International Studies Ethics Committee.

### **Further information and contact details**

For more information about the research or to take part, feel free to contact me:

Dr Celia Plender

Email: [c.plender@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:c.plender@exeter.ac.uk)

If you have concerns/questions about the research you would like to discuss with someone else at the University, please contact my project mentor at the University of Exeter:

Associate Professor Katharine Tyler: [k.tyler@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:k.tyler@exeter.ac.uk)

Or the Ethics Committee: [ssis-ethics@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:ssis-ethics@exeter.ac.uk)

**Thank you for your interest in this project.  
Please do get in touch at any time if you have questions.**