



Participant Information Sheet – Online Reading Group

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us 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!

Research team: Dr Melanie Lovatt and Dr Valerie Wright

This research is about people's hopes, desires and concerns about the future. Longer life expectancies mean that we all have more future time than has been the case in the past. What does this mean for individuals and society more generally? Should people of all ages be equally interested in our collective futures? How might social and environmental changes affect how people of all ages think about the future? We are interested in what you think about the future and your future.

In this series of five online reading groups we will discuss five different novels depicting fictional accounts of older age, time and relationships between older adults and people of different generations. You'll have a say in the books we choose to read. We'll be thinking about:

- How these novels represent age, time and relationships between people of different generations (both within the family and beyond)
- What these novels tell us about how society views older age and how this could change in the future
- How relationships between people of different generations might lead to alternative futures

You will also be asked to keep a diary of reflections on your involvement in the online reading groups and the novels we will read. This can be audio-recorded or written (we will provide appropriate materials and guidance).

You have been invited to take part in the study because you are over the age of 18 and are interested in reading novels about the future, its relevance to people of different ages, and imagining different possible futures.

It is your choice whether or not to take part and you can change your mind and you are completely free to refuse to participate or engage with any discussion points you don't want to. You have the right to withdraw from this project at any time without giving reasons and without consequences to you. You do not need to participate in both elements of the online reading groups, you can decide which you would like to participate in, the reading groups and/or the participant diary.

If you decide to withdraw we will not collect any more data from you. However, any data collected up until the point that you withdraw may be kept and used in the data analysis.

If you would like to participate in the study, you will be asked to attend an online introductory meeting where the aims of the project and the consent process will be further explained. You will then be asked to give verbal informed consent to take part in a series of **five** reading groups to be held online via an appropriate online forum (to be confirmed). Each reading group will meet online for approximately 1.5-2 hours. **The reading groups will be audio-recorded and transcribed so that we can analyse the discussion.** We would also like to take **screenshots** for use in presentations and publications about the project but we understand if you would not like your photograph to be used. **If you do consent to this you will be asked to give verbal informed consent.**

You will keep the novels that we read.

Confidentiality in the study will be ensured at all times and your personal details will be anonymised. A pseudonym of your choice will be attributed to the resulting transcripts of the series of online reading groups. If you would prefer, we will choose a pseudonym for you. You cannot use your own name as this may identify other participants in the group.

Please note that assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of wrongdoing or potential harm is uncovered. In such cases the University may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies.

As part of the project we will be recording personal data relating to you. This will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Under GDPR the legal basis for processing your personal data will be public interest/the official authority of the University. You have the right to request to see a copy of the information we hold about you and to request corrections or deletions of the information that is no longer required. You also have the right to object to us processing relevant personal data however, please note that once the data are being analysed and/or results published it may not be possible to remove your data from the study.

All recordings, data and research associated with the project will be stored within the University of Stirling on 'Research Drive' a secure data centre on the Stirling Campus, in accordance with the provisions of the GDPR and accessed only by the researchers directly involved in the project. Recordings or related research data kept in the form of computer files will be stored using password-protected PCs to which only researchers working on the project will have access. All additional equipment used in data collection such as digital recorders and cameras will be stored safely and securely.

The researcher team will use extracts from the transcripts and screenshots of the online reading groups in scholarly academic publications and presentations. Extracts from the transcript of the audio recording may also feature on the project website and social media channels and may be discussed in broadcasts. Extracts from the audio recording and transcript will also be used by the research team for educational purposes. Screenshots from the reading groups will also feature on the project website, social media channels and will be used by the research team for educational purposes.

In addition, the University of Stirling is committed to making the outputs of research **publicly accessible** and supports this commitment through our online open access repository **STORRE** Unless funder/publisher requirements prevent us this research will be publicly disseminated through our open access repository.

Your personal data will be kept for at least ten years as outlined above. All data from the project will be deposited in the UK Data Archive Service (in line with the funder's requirements) and the metadata will be made available via the **University of Stirling's research data repository DataSTORRE.**

Due to the nature of this research, it is very likely that other researchers may find the data to be useful in answering other research questions. We will ask for your explicit consent for your data to be shared in this way and, if you agree, we will ensure that the data collected is untraceable back to you before letting others use it.

This project is funded by the Economic and Social and Research Council [ES/S011889/1].

We hope that you find being involved in this project an enjoyable and interesting experience.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions you may have.

Please keep this information sheet for reference.

You can contact us at the following e-mail address or telephone numbers.

Many thanks for your help

Melanie and Valerie

Faculty of Social Sciences

RG Bomont Building, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA

Contact for Further Information

Dr Melanie Lovatt, melanie.lovatt1@stir.ac.uk

Dr Valerie Wright, Valerie.Wright@stir.ac.uk

*The ethical approaches of this project have been approved via The University of Stirling General University Ethics Panel, Ethics Approval Reference: GUEP 828, however if you have any concerns regarding the conduct of the research project you can contact **Professor Fiona Copland** - fiona.copland@stir.ac.uk.*

You have the right to lodge a complaint against the University regarding data protection issues with the Information Commissioner's Office (<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>).

The University's Data Protection Officer is Joanna Morrow, Deputy Secretary. If you have any questions relating to data protection these can be addressed to data.protection@stir.ac.uk in the first instance.