

# **Parcel-sending as a peri-pandemic and post-crisis strategy of creating mutable connections in Moldovan transnational life**

**Dr. Sanda Caracentev**  
Department of Anthropology, LSE

## **Information for participants**

Thank you for considering participating in this study which will take place between 15.12.2022-15.03.2023. This information sheet outlines the purpose of the study and provides a description of your involvement and rights as a participant, if you agree to take part.

### **1. What is the research about?**

This project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council UK and is about understanding how Moldovan migrants and their families make sense of uncertainty through parcel-sending via small van companies and builds on previous doctoral research on staying in touch across borders. Another goal is to understand how parcels can be used to show solidarity with people most affected by change, specifically, Ukrainian refugees in Moldova. Recorded semi-structured interviews (using both open-ended and fixed-answer questions), film and photography will be used to collect data for this project. Recording the interviews is necessary to ensure that the information you provide is reflected correctly, and in the context you discussed it. Interview recordings are not shared with anyone, but fully anonymised transcripts are made available as part of research data.

### **2. Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. You do not have to take part if you do not want to. If you do decide to take part, I will ask you to sign a consent form which you can sign at the meeting. Alternatively, you may give verbal consent at the beginning of the interview recording.

### **3. What will my involvement be?**

You will be asked to take part in an interview about your experience of sending, receiving and/or distributing parcels via Moldovan private parcel van companies. If you are a Moldovan migrant or their family member, or if you distributed parcels sent by Moldovan migrants to Ukrainian refugees, you will be asked about your experience of sending or receiving parcels during the Covid-19 pandemic and/or in the aftermath of the Ukrainian war breaking out. The interview is expected to last an hour maximum.

### **4. How do I withdraw from the study?**

You can withdraw from the study at any point until 15.03.2023 without having to give a reason. If any topics or questions during the interview make you feel uncomfortable, you do not have to answer them. Withdrawing from the study will have no effect on you. If you withdraw from the study, I will not retain the information you have given thus far, unless you are happy for me to do so.

### **5. What will my information be used for?**

I will use the collected information for my ESRC research project that will result in several academic papers, articles and presentations, as well as future research. The anonymised data will also be used in dissemination events and deposited in a data repository available to other academics.

### **6. Will my taking part and my data be kept confidential? Will it be anonymised?**

The records from this study will be kept as confidential as possible. Only myself will have access to the files and any audio tapes. Your data will be anonymised – your name will not be used in any reports or publications resulting from the study. All digital files, transcripts and summaries will be given codes and stored separately from any names or other direct identification of participants. Any hard copies of research information will be kept in locked files at all times.

**Limits to confidentiality:** confidentiality will be maintained as far as it is possible, unless you tell us something which implies that you or someone you mention might be in significant danger of harm and unable to act for themselves; in this case, we may have to inform the relevant agencies of this, but we would discuss this with you first.

## **7. Who has reviewed this study?**

This study has undergone ethics review in accordance with the LSE Research Ethics Policy and Procedure.

## **8. Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The LSE Research Privacy Policy can be found at:

[https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/Secretarys-Division/Assets/Documents/Information-Records-Management/Privacy-Notice-for-Research-v1.2.pdf?from\\_serp=1](https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/Secretarys-Division/Assets/Documents/Information-Records-Management/Privacy-Notice-for-Research-v1.2.pdf?from_serp=1)

The legal basis used to process your personal data will be Public Task. The legal basis used to process special category personal data (e.g. data that reveals racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, health, sex life or sexual orientation, genetic or biometric data) will be for scientific and historical research or statistical purposes. To request a copy of the data held about you please contact: [glpd.info.rights@lse.ac.uk](mailto:glpd.info.rights@lse.ac.uk)

## **9. What if I have a question or complaint?**

If you have any questions regarding this study please contact the researcher, Dr. Sanda Caracentev, on [s.caracentev@lse.ac.uk](mailto:s.caracentev@lse.ac.uk). If you have any concerns or complaints regarding the conduct of this research, please contact the LSE Research Governance Manager via [research.ethics@lse.ac.uk](mailto:research.ethics@lse.ac.uk).

If you are happy to take part in this study, please sign the consent sheet.