**How Do Citizens Think About the Future? The Nature, Origins and Role of Expectations in Political Life**

My name is Dr Matthew Barnfield and I am a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Government at the University of Essex. I would like to invite you to participate in a research study. The purpose of the study is to investigate how people think about government policy. Before you decide whether to take part, 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.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

The purpose of the study is to investigate how people think about government policy. This study forms part of an ongoing research agenda around how people think about politics.

**Why have I been invited to participate?**

You have been invited to participate because you are a member of the Prolific platform where this study is being conducted.

**Do I have to take part?**

Participation in this research is voluntary. You do not have to be in this study. If you decide to be in the study and change your mind, you have the right to drop out at any time. You may skip questions or stop participating at any time.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you decide to participate, you will fill out a questionnaire online using a computer. During the questionnaire, you will be presented with a series of questions about you, how you think, and what you think about certain hypothetical government policies.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

In this study, you will not have any more risks than you would in a normal day of life. Participation will take up around 5 minutes of your time.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

If you complete the survey, your Prolific account will be credited £0.75.

**What information will be collected?**

Information that is stored in your Prolific profile including your age, gender, education, and political preferences will be collected, but you will not be identifiable from this information. Data from your responses to questions in the survey will be collected.

**Will my information be kept confidential?**

We will keep your records private to the extent allowed by law. The researcher will have access to the information you provide. Information may also be shared with those who make sure the study is done correctly (University of Essex Ethics Committee). We will use a study number rather than your name on all study records. The information you provide will be stored in password-protected cloud storage. Your name and other facts that might point to you will not appear when we present this study or publish its results. The findings will be summarized and reported in group form. You will not be identified personally. As we are not recording your personal details, we will not be able to remove your data from the study after you submit it. The data may be shared, in entirely anonymous form, for access by future researchers via an online depository such as the Open Science Framework (osf.io).

**What is the legal basis for using the data and who is the Data Controller?**

The data collection and processing are compliant with GDPR guidelines. The Data Controller is the University of Essex ([dpo@essex.ac.uk](mailto:dpo@essex.ac.uk)).

**What should I do if I want to take part?**

If you want to participate in the study, click ‘I agree to participate’ on the consent page at the beginning of the survey. If the study reaches the maximum number of participants before you do this, you may be timed out and unable to participate.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

The results of the study are likely to be published in the form of conference papers and scientific journal articles and possibly as part of a book in the future. You will not be identifiable from these results.

**Who is funding the research?**

The study is funded by the South East Network of Social Sciences (part of the Economic and Social Research Council).

**Who has reviewed the study?**

The study has been reviewed and approved by Ethics Sub-Committee 3 at the University of Essex (reference: ETH2223-0950).

**Concerns and Complaints**

If you have any concerns about any aspect of the study or you have a complaint, in the first instance please contact the principal investigator of the project, Dr Matthew Barnfield, using the contact details below. If you are still concerned, you think your complaint has not been addressed to your satisfaction or you feel that you cannot approach the principal investigator, please contact the departmental Director of Research in the department responsible for this project, Professor Han Dorussen (hdorus@essex.ac.uk). If you are still not satisfied, please contact the University’s Research Governance and Planning Manager, Sarah Manning-Press (sarahm@essex.ac.uk). Please include the ERAMS reference, which can be found at the foot of this page.

**Researcher Details**

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