

# Digital Intimacies

How gay and bisexual men use smartphones to  
negotiate their cultures of intimacy

## Interview Participant Information Sheet



**Digital Intimacies** is a project which aims to explore the experiences of gay and bisexual men in the UK and how they use smartphones to shape their intimate lives and relationships.

**You are being invited to participate in this research.** Before you decide whether or not to take part, it's 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. Get in touch if there is anything that isn't clear or if you would like further details.

## **Who can participate?**

We would like to speak with cis and trans gay and bisexual men who:

- live in Edinburgh or the East of Scotland
- are 18 years or older
- and who regularly use smartphones.

We welcome self-identifying gay and bisexual men, as well as men of any age, race, disability, religion and/or HIV status.

## **What will your participation involve?**

The interview will take place online (using Zoom, Microsoft Teams or Skype), by phone, or if it is advised, in person. The interview will last for around 1 to 1 ½ hours. During this time, we will take a look at some materials which reflect how gay and bisexual men's use of their smartphones is portrayed in culture and media (e.g. pictures, videos, memes, apps, etc) and discuss them together. We may also ask you to share media that is relevant to you, but this is entirely optional.

You will be encouraged to take an active role in selecting the topics we discuss. You will also be free to refuse any questions you would rather not answer or request to move away from a particular topic. We aim

to ensure accurate representation of the views of all who are involved, and you will be welcome to review the transcript before it is finalised.

You can decide how much information you share with us during this research. We hope the content of our discussion will be interesting to you and may raise some issues which you will enjoy thinking and talking about. In thanks for your time, we will offer you a £25 gift voucher.

## **What will happen to the interview material?**

You do not have to disclose any personal information about yourself. Interviews will be audio recorded and transcribed, but your participation will be kept confidential and anonymous. You can request that we turn the recording device off at any time if you would like to ask a question or make a comment which will not be used in the study. Any personal information collected about you during the project will be kept confidential and anonymous, and we can have a discussion about how to keep your experiences unidentifiable.

Once the project is finished, all data (interview recordings and transcripts) will be kept safely at the University of Edinburgh. If you give your consent, it may be used by other researchers with the University of Edinburgh's approval, under the strict rules governing the anonymity of your information. But your name, or any material that might identify you will never be used or given to anyone.

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be asked to sign a consent form. You will still be free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

## **Find out more**

Find out more about the project Digital Intimacies at:

[@digintimaciesUK](https://www.uea.ac.uk/digital-intimacies)

April 30, 2020

**Digital Intimacies** is a project which explores how gay and bisexual men use smartphones to negotiate their cultures of intimacy. This research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The project is led by Jamie Hakim (Media Studies) at the University of East Anglia. Ingrid Young, University of Edinburgh, is the co-investigator on this study.

Any questions about the research or your involvement can be directed to our project email [digital.intimacies@uea.ac.uk](mailto:digital.intimacies@uea.ac.uk) or to Ingrid Young [ingrid.young@ed.ac.uk](mailto:ingrid.young@ed.ac.uk) who leads the qualitative research of the study.

This study has received Ethical Approval from the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Edinburgh. If you have any concerns or complaints about this research, please contact the Deputy Director of Research (Ethics & Integrity) at [ethics-ssps@ed.ac.uk](mailto:ethics-ssps@ed.ac.uk).

If you have any queries about how the project data is managed, you can contact the University Data Protection Officer, Dr Rena Gertz, at [dpo@ed.ac.uk](mailto:dpo@ed.ac.uk).

**Thank you for reading this.**



April 30, 2020