**DIY Biology Community Survey 2021**

**About This Project: Information for Research Participants**

The DIY Biology Community Survey 2021 is part of a PhD research project conducted by Anna Verena Eireiner at the University of Cambridge. This study examines DIY (Do-It-Yourself) Biology, a grassroots movement that pursues life sciences outside traditional academic, military, or industry laboratories. While DIY biologists share a hacker ethos, they operate independently of established institutional guidelines, making the movement both innovative and controversial.

At the heart of this research is a comparative study of DIY biology in Germany, the UK, and Canada. Although the movement is internet-native and globally connected, its reception and evolution vary significantly across national contexts. Some countries embrace DIY biology as a force for innovation, while others associate it with risks, particularly in discussions of biosafety and regulation. This study investigates how national cultures, identities, and socio-economic objectives shape these differing visions.

To explore this, the project addresses key research questions:

* How do practitioners envision DIY biology?
* How do these visions relate to national cultures, identities, and policies?
* How do country-specific DIY biology communities, their identities and practices, emerge and evolve?
* How can policymakers engage with the challenges of DIY science in a culturally appropriate and socially robust way?

This research takes a qualitative, ethnographic approach, drawing on multiple methods to analyze the social and political dimensions of DIY biology. By bridging the gap between a globally networked movement and national policy frameworks, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the evolving relationship between science, technology, and society.

**Dissemination of Results**

All data will be anonymized in a way that no individuals will be identifiable in any published or presented results. This study is conducted in strict accordance with the Ethics Review guidelines of the University of Cambridge, ensuring that all responses remain confidential and securely handled (ethics@sociology.cam.ac.uk).

* A workshop presentation summarizing and discussing the survey findings at the Global BioSummit in Boston (online or in-person)
* Policy recommendations presented to relevant stakeholders (e.g. Public Health Agency of Canada)
* Open-access research publications, conference presentations/posters, research networks, data sharing and other relevant academic dissemination

**Contact**

Your participation is invaluable in shaping a more nuanced and empirically grounded understanding of DIY biology. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the researcher: Anna Verena Eireiner (ave23@cam.ac.uk)