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Participant information and consent form

Coworking spaces and the urban ecosystem: the future of coworking post-Covid19

**Brief Project Outline:** *Coworking spaces (CWS) are an essential part of the digital economy, providing high-speed internet connectivity with platforms, contractors and clients for freelancers and remote workers. Providing spatial co-location and networking opportunities, CWS also facilitate and curate learning, innovation, project-working and start-ups. Covid-19 disrupts these spaces. In this project, the Co-Working Research Collective will chart the transformation of UK CWS in the context of the pandemic and its aftermath. The project centres on a multi-city study of three CWS-intensive locations (Bristol, Manchester and Brighton & Hove) based on in-depth interviews with CWS representatives, local policymakers and stakeholders. It will investigate both organizational and regional responses to Covid-19, examining strategies for safe reopening, financial survival and operational change, aswell as how local policymakers and stakeholders in urban ecosystems incorporate CWS into recovery and revitalization plans. Outputs include project briefs, podcasts, a stakeholder workshop and coproduced report, as well as academic papers.*

**Why have I been invited to participate?** *You have been invited to participate as a key informant who can provide commentary and information on the CWS sector nationally or for one of the city-regions under focus in the proposal. Participants are selected from among actors and advocates in the CWS sector and participants in the broader material and financial dynamics (e.g. real estate) of the ecosystem.*

**Do I have to take part?** *No. Participation is voluntary.*

**Can I withdraw at any time?** *Yes, you can withdraw at any time during the survey/interview without giving a reason. You can withdraw your data until 30/06/2021, at which point research based on the data will have been published'*

**What do I have to do?** *You will be interviewed for approximately one hour via an online video conferencing platform. The interview will be recorded and transcribed.*

**How will the findings be used?** *The transcription of the interview will be anonymised and analysed and represent part of findings presented in academic papers and other outputs. The intended audiences for the outputs include practitioners developing co-working and makerspaces; users of these spacers; urban and governmental policymakers; other academics.*

**What are the possible advantages of taking part?** *Your participation in the project will help inform research to guide local and national policymakers on the optimum forms of support required by the co-working space sector to survive and thrive in and beyond the current health and economic crisis.*

**Will my participation in the study be kept confidential?** *Interview data will be stored on servers owned and protected by the University of Bristol, which shall be secured using a password encryption. All data will be anonymised, with pseudonyms given to participants and the organisations they represent.* *Participants will not be identified as a named individual in any report/publication.*

**What will happen to the data collected? –** *Data will be stored in University storage facilities e.g. the University of Bristol Research Data Storage Facility (RDSF) which provides secure, long-term storage for research data. Repositories will preserve research data for a minimum of 20 years. Data will be transferred between project collaborators using encrypted email. UK data will be shared through the University of Bristol’s Research Data Repository and the Digit Data Observatory. As part of the terms of the project funding (from the ESRC DIGIT Research Centre) we are required to deposit any research data created or repurposed for the project to the Digit Observatory, and make it available for access via the Digit Observatory. As per the Digit Data Plan, all data in the Data Observatory will then be passed to the ESRC Data Archive for reuse and archiving - http://www.dataarchive.ac.uk. Data will be released within six months of data gathering completion.*

**Who has reviewed the study?** *The University of Bristol School of Management Research Ethics Committee:* [*management-ethicscommittee@bristol.ac.uk*](mailto:management-ethicscommittee@bristol.ac.uk)

## Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledg

**YES NO**

**Have you:**

* been given sufficient information about the study? **□ □**
* had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study? **□ □**
* received satisfactory answers to all questions you asked? **□ □**
* received enough information about the study for you to make a decision

about your participation? **□ □**

**Do you understand:**

That you are free to withdraw from the study and free to withdraw your data even after giving consent

* at any time? **□ □**
* without having to give a reason? **□ □**

**DO YOU CONSENT THE RESEARCHER:**

* tape-recording and transcribing the interview? **□ □**
* citing anonymised quotations of yours in publications from this research? **□ □**

## I hereby fully and freely consent to my participation in this study

Participant’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name in BLOCK Letters: ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­

If you have any concerns related to your participation in this study please direct them to the School of Management Research Ethics Committee: [management-ethicscommittee@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:management-ethicscommittee@bristol.ac.uk)