



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS

Storytelling and Imaginal in Sufism:

Narratives of Islamic Environmental Ethics from Children and Parents in Sufi Families

You are being invited to take part in research on construction of Islamic environmental ethics and values in families through Sufi storytelling. Dr Hamide Elif Üzümcü, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, is conducting and Dr Kholoud Al-Ajarma, a Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh, is mentoring this research. Before you decide to take part, it is important you understand why the research is being conducted 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 1) to explore how Sufi stories guide family life practices in addressing Islamic environmental ethics, 2) to investigate how children/young people, aged 12-15, use storytelling to articulate their understanding of Islamic environmental ethics. The research involves Sufi families in the UK and aims to enhance sociological and public understandings of how to nurture the way of seeing the environment, more attuned to the challenges of climate change and more conducive to pro-environmental practices. Storytelling in Sufi culture, as an instrumental tradition for negotiating and cultivating virtues, offers a novel perspective on family engagement with environmental issues. It contributes to a broader understanding of the Sufi movement in the West as an ecological tradition.

The research participation involves an online interview with you as a Sufi parent (with your spouse if possible), an online interview with your child aged 12-15, and an online or in-person workshop with your child.

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART?

You are invited to participate in this study because you are eligible as a parent of a child aged 12-15, based in the UK and engage with Sufi-related traditions or are part of a Sufi Order.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART?

No – it is entirely up to you. If you do decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. Deciding not to take part or withdrawing from the study will not affect your participation rights and privacy. Please note that your data may be used in the production of formal research outputs (e.g. journal articles, conference papers, theses and reports) prior to your withdrawal and so you are advised to contact the research team at the earliest opportunity should you wish to withdraw from the study. In the event of withdrawal, all your data will be promptly destroyed. If you choose to withdraw after the interview has concluded, you will have



a two-week window to request the removal of your interview data as well as any associated designs or stories. Following this period, your data will be fully anonymised, and the analysis will commence.

If you do decide to take part, please keep this Information Sheet. You will be asked to sign an Informed Consent Form to show that you understand your rights in relation to the research, and that you are happy to participate.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DECIDE TO TAKE PART?

You will be asked a number of questions in an interview about your family relations with the environment, your Sufi virtues and perspectives towards environmental care, Sufi stories such as Quranic parables, sayings, *Sira* (life stories of prophets), *Kissa* (Quranic parables), *Menkibe* (narrative legends of mystics), tales, hymns as well as Sufi literary heritage and anecdotes narrated in family life in relation to environmental values, and your demographic information (i.e. age, ethnicity) in an interview. The interview will ideally be held together with spouse, where possible. If not, it will be held with you as a parent.

It will take place in a safe environment at a time that is convenient to you, over Microsoft Teams (or a comparable platform). We will audio record your responses (and will require your consent for this), so the location should be in a fairly quiet area. The interview should take around 1 to 1,5 hours to complete. The collected Sufi stories will be archived in an academic repository, such as the UK Data Archive, for public access upon your consent, contributing to contemporary representations of Sufi families.

An interview will separately take place with your 12-15 aged child as well regarding the same themes over Microsoft Teams (or a comparable platform). It will be audio-recorded and should take around 1 hour.

The interviews will be recorded and transcribed automatically, with the transcriptions anonymised, and securely stored on a encrypted cloud service for 5 years from the end of the project, to ensure the participants' confidentiality and anonymity. After this period, the identifiable data will be destroyed.

Finally, after the interview, when convenient, a workshop will be held with your child either online or in-person based on your preference, to capture their imaginal reflecting their environmental ethics. Your child will be given a Sufi environmental literary text (i.e. a short story from Farid ud-Din Attar's *The Conference of the Birds*) in advance to stimulate their imaginal. They will then write or draw a story reflecting their relations with environment, as they prefer. Subsequently, they will narrate their written or designed stories to the researcher. Either you or your child, as you deem appropriate, will send their workshop activity outcome (a written or drawn story) to the researcher via email or Whatsapp for research analysis.

The workshop session will be audio and video recorded. Recording will be destroyed after transcription of the interview. With your and your child's consent, their works will be showcased in the 'Digital Museum' on the research project's website, upon



anonymisation. After the project concludes, the project website will be archived by the UK Web Archive. Children's works, whole, cropped or amended, will also be used in presentations, online and print media for communications, teaching and future research upon anonymisation.

The researcher may take observational field notes for their reflections and may also capture anonymized photos with consent during the fieldwork. These data will be used for academic dissemination upon anonymisation.

Anonymised and de-identified data will be deposited in an open-access academic data archive, such as UK Data Archive, so it can be used for future research and learning.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

There are no direct benefits, but by sharing your experiences with us, you will be helping Dr Hamide Elif Üzümcü and the University to better understand how Sufi narrative tradition is involved in everyday family life to construct values, virtues and ethics of the environment. Your participation indirectly allows to portray contributions of Sufi thinking towards environmental interaction and advocacy, archival of contemporary Sufi storytelling tradition, helping bridge conversations among religions and beliefs, deconstructing anti-Islamist prejudgments, but also providing insights for informing public sustainability policies and initiatives such as eco-parenting/schooling and ecoversities alliances.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS OR DISADVANTAGES ASSOCIATED WITH TAKING PART?

There are no significant risks associated with participation. You are advised to only say what you feel comfortable sharing, and you can stop the participation in an activity or take a break at any time. The interview with you takes around 1 to 1.5 hours. Your child's interview takes around 1 hour. The workshop with your child should take about 1 to 1.5 hours. Each can take place on the same or different days, as you prefer. The questions of the interview with you and your child as well as the workshop with your child are non-invasive. The recorded data will be accessible only to the researchers. The transcriptions of interview and workshop data collected will be anonymized.

WILL MY TAKING PART BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

Your data will be processed in accordance with Data Protection Law. All information collected about you and your child will be kept strictly confidential. Unless they are anonymised in our records, your data will be referred to by a unique participant number rather than by name. If you consent to being audio recorded, all recordings will be destroyed once they have been transcribed. Your data will only be viewed by the researcher/research team. All electronic data will be stored on an encrypted cloud service and all paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet. Your consent information will be kept separately from your responses in order to minimise risk.



The University of Edinburgh is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you and your participating child in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Edinburgh will keep identifiable information about you for 5 years after the study has finished.

For general information about how we use your data go to:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/records-management/privacy-notice-research>

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE RESULTS OF THIS STUDY?

The results of this study may be summarised in published articles, reports, lectures, presentations and other research study conducted by the researcher (follow-up studies and/or comparative studies). You will not be identifiable from any published results. Quotes or key findings will always be made anonymous in any formal outputs unless we have your prior and explicit written permission to attribute them to you by name. Anonymised information from this research may be combined with other data for the purposes of academic dissemination and may be kept for future research. A summary of the findings from the study will be made available to participants who indicate they would like to receive this. This summary will be sent to participants by email.

WHO IS ORGANISING AND FUNDING THE RESEARCH?

This study has been organised by Dr Hamide Elif Üzümcü, the Postdoctoral Research Fellow for this research and Dr Kholoud Al-Ajarma, Host Mentor for this research, and sponsored by the University of Edinburgh.

The study is being funded by the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) and at the University of Edinburgh.

WHO HAS REVIEWED THE STUDY?

The study proposal has been reviewed by the Ethics Committee of the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Edinburgh. Dr Hamide Elif Üzümcü has been approved as a member of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme for the purposes of this research.



WHO CAN I CONTACT?

If you have any further questions about the study, please contact the lead researcher, Dr Hamide Elif Üzümcü, hamideelif.uzumcu@ed.ac.uk

If you would like to discuss this study with someone independent of the study please contact Tom Lea, General Manager of the Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in Contemporary World, Tom.Lea@ed.ac.uk

If you wish to make a complaint about the study, please contact:
Dr Kholoud Al-Ajarma, Host Mentor, kholoud.alajarma@ed.ac.uk

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