



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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 whether to take part it is important you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the below information carefully.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

The purpose of the study is to understanding how Sufi stories guide families in engaging with the environment, and how children/young people, aged 12-15, use storytelling to express their understanding of Islamic environmental ethics.

The research involves Sufi families in the UK. It is important because it helps us understand how Sufi teachings are involved in family lives and guide their relationships with the nature.

By looking at Sufi stories and how families use them, we can learn new ways to see and take care of the environment, and to study the Sufi culture as an ecological tradition in family life.

The research participation involves an online interview with one or both of your parents, an online interview with you, and an online or in-person workshop with you.

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART?

You are invited to participate in this study because you are eligible as a young person aged 12-15, based in the UK, and raised by at least one Sufi parent.

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 stop at any time and without giving a reason. Deciding not to take part or stopping the study will not affect your rights.

Please remember that your anonymised information might be used in research papers and reports before you decide to withdraw from the study. If you want to withdraw,



please let the research team know as soon as possible. If you decide to withdraw, all your information will be deleted.

If you want to withdraw after the interview, you have two weeks to ask for your interview data and any related information to be removed. After that time, your data will be made anonymous, and we will start analysing it.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DECIDE TO TAKE PART?

If you do decide to take part, please keep this Information Sheet. You will be asked to complete an Assent Form to show that you understand what taking part involves and that you are happy to participate.

You will be asked a number of questions your relations with the environment in your family life, your Sufi virtues and perspectives towards environmental care. We will talk about Sufi stories narrated in your family life in relation to environmental values, and your demographic information (i.e. age, ethnicity).

The interview will take place in a safe environment at a time that suits you, over Microsoft Teams (or a comparable platform). We would like to audio/video record the interview on Microsoft Teams. We will ask you if you are happy for this to be recorded and you can ask us to stop recording at any time. The interview should take around 1 hour to complete. If you would like your parent / guardian to be present, please let the researcher know.

The interview will be transcribed automatically, with the transcriptions anonymised, and securely stored on a password protected cloud service, to ensure confidentiality and anonymity of your information.

The Sufi stories you narrate will be stored in an academic archive, like the UK Data Archive, where the public can access them, but only with your and your parents' permission.

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

The workshop session should take about 1 to 1.5 hours and will be audio and video recorded. Recording will be destroyed after transcription of the interview. With your

and your parents' consent, your 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. Your work will also be edited to be used in presentations, online and print media for communications (like on book covers), teaching and future research upon anonymisation.

The researcher may take observational field notes for their reflections and may also capture anonymised photos with consent during the fieldwork.

Anonymised 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.

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 or take a break at any time. The interview takes around 1 hour. The workshop 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 as well as the workshop are non-invasive. The recorded data will be accessible only to the researchers. The transcriptions of interview and workshop data collected will be anonymised, so no one will know it is you.

WILL MY TAKING PART BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

All the information we collect during the course of the research will be kept confidential and there are strict laws which protect your privacy at every stage.

HOW WILL WE USE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU?

We will need to use information from you for this research project.

This information will include your name, contacts details, age, gender, level of education, ethnicity, religious belief, ages and genders of your siblings, years spent in the UK and home country. People will use this information to do the research or to make sure that the research is being done properly.



People other than the research team will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your information (data) will be given a code number instead.

We will keep all information about you safe and secure for 5 years after the study has finished. After that, your information will be deleted.

If you agree to being audio/video recorded, all recordings will be destroyed once they have been written up. Your data will only be viewed by the researcher/research team. We will use a separate company to help write up what you say, such as Otter.ai. All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected cloud service and all paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet.

We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

- You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason
- and we will delete all information about you that we have. If you withdraw within 2 weeks after the interview. After that, we will then keep all information about you that we already have.
- We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means that we won't be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

For further information about data privacy for research participants please refer to:
<https://data-protection.ed.ac.uk/privacy-notice-research>

- the project description available on <https://www.ias.ed.ac.uk/profile/dr-hamide-elif-uzumcu>
- by asking one of the research team
- by sending an email to cahss.res.ethics@ed.ac.uk

The University of Edinburgh is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you 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 information which we can recognise as being from you for 5 years after the study has finished and data which we can't recognise you from for a minimum of 5 years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE RESULTS OF THIS STUDY?

The results of this study will be written up by the research team and made available to the public in journals, reports and presentations. People will not be able to tell you took part in the research from these results.

In the results, the researchers might want to include something you said, but your name will not be used, unless you have agreed with the researchers that this is okay. If you agree, your anonymised information may also be kept for future research. This information will not have your name or personal details on it.

If you would like to find out about the results of the study, please let the research team know either by telling us or sending an email. This will be sent to you or your parents/guardians 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.

The study is being funded by the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) and the Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World at the University of Edinburgh.

WHO HAS REVIEWED THE STUDY?

All research is looked at by an Ethics Committee to make sure that people who take part are protected. 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. 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. Also, for this research, Dr Hamide Elif Üzümcü has been approved as a member of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups scheme.

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

If you have any questions about the study, please contact the lead researcher, Dr Hamide Elif Üzümcü, hamideelif.uzumcu@ed.ac.uk or host mentor, Dr Kholoud Al-Ajarma, kholoud.alajarma@ed.ac.uk

If you have any questions or have anything you are worried about, and would like to talk about it with someone who is not involved in 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: College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Research Governance Team, cahss.res.ethics@ed.ac.uk