

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

COVID Generosity Project

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take some time to read the following information carefully.

WHAT IS THIS RESEARCH ABOUT?

This research is about human giving or generosity in the UK against the backdrop of the current pandemic. We want to explore generosity from the perspectives of those who give and receive as well as people's different understandings of giving and the role it should play in our society going forward. This information sheet relates to the interview part of the research. People can also contribute through writing/drawing stories but there is a different process for this. Another part of the research is analysing news media to see how much stories of giving are reported. We recognise the evidence that shows how social inequalities exist in UK society and are wondering about how human giving might be filling in gaps left by government policies. We have been funded by the British Academy and the Leverhulme Trust to do this research and are hoping to find out the value of giving in these extraordinary times. This research will last for two years and ends on June 30th, 2022.

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

Any adults (18 and over) living in the UK can take part in this study. We would like to hear from people from all walks of life so that we can better understand how giving happens in different locations and situations.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART?

It is totally up to you to decide whether to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. It is also important for you to know that you can withdraw your data from the project up until 1st November 2021. To do this you will need to contact one of the researchers - Liz McDonnell (COVIDgenerosity@sussex.ac.uk).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF I TAKE PART?

If you decide to take part, you will first be asked to complete a consent form. After this we will make a time to interview you online due to COVID-based restrictions on research. We will send you a link to an online secure meeting using Microsoft Teams. The interview will take roughly an hour but could be shorter or longer depending on what you want to say. With your permission, we would audio record the interview and if you wanted, we could send you a copy of the transcript. We will also ask you for some demographic information so we can understand how different identities and situations might shape experiences of receiving generosity. If you agree, we might also contact you in a year's time for another interview – to see how your thoughts and experiences have developed.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGES AND RISKS OF TAKING PART?

We really hope that sharing your experiences of human giving will be an enjoyable process. However, we also acknowledge that the COVID pandemic has created many challenges for people and for some has involved significant losses and made big changes in their lives. Some of the issues you reflect on when thinking about receiving giving might bring up difficult feelings. We will be sensitive to these issues and offer signposts to further support if you would like us to.

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WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

People can find it helpful to tell stories about their lives. Also, by contributing to this research and sharing your stories, other people can learn about the effects of human giving. This kind of information helps build a picture of human actions that make a difference, particularly in stressful and difficult times.

WILL MY INFORMATION IN THIS STUDY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

We will keep all your personal data (i.e. the consent form, the demographic information form, your interview transcript) confidential (subject to legal limitations). This means that when we store your data during the project, we will separate out the information that might identify you personally, from your stories and interviews. We will also take care of your data by keeping it in password protected computers and/or in locked filing cabinets. As soon as we have published findings from the research, we will destroy your consent form and demographic information form. We have to keep your interview transcripts for 10 years but we will keep these in an anonymised form which means the data cannot be connected to any information that would identify you. After 10 years of keeping your anonymised data safe and secure, we will destroy it.

It is a condition of our research funding that our research data must be shared and made available to other people. We will do this through the UK Data Archive. This allows other researchers for example, to re-use the data. We can't do this without your permission though, so we will ask you about this on the consent form. It is okay to be part of the research and not agree to this. Any data we share with the UK data archive will be anonymised and so you will not be personally identifiable.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WANT TO TAKE PART?

If you want to take part in this research, you will first need to complete a consent form that we can send to you on request. This form gives you the opportunity to say yes or no to several different parts of the research process.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH STUDY?

The results of the research study will be published in two forms. The first will be an article in an academic journal and the second will be a short book aimed at a general rather than academic audience.

WHO ARE THE RESEARCHERS?

This research is being conducted by Liz McDonnell and Alison Phipps, who are experienced researchers and lecturers in the Department of Sociology at Sussex University.

WHO HAS APPROVED THIS STUDY?

This research has been approved by the Social Sciences & Arts Cross-Schools Research Ethics Committee (C-REC). This means other people have looked over our research to make sure that our research process protects people from harm and looks after their rights in the study. The ethical review application number of the study is ER/EJM33/22.

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT LIZ McDONNELL (AT COVIDGENEROSITY@SUSSEX.AC.UK) WITH ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RESEARCH. ALSO, IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH THE STUDY HAS BEEN CONDUCTED, YOU CAN FIRST CONTACT TIM PARKINSON (TIM.PARKINSON@SUSSEX.AC.UK), THE RESEARCH INTEGRITY, ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE ADMINISTRATOR WHO WILL DIRECT YOU TO THE CHAIR OF THE C-REC WHO REVIEWED THE PROJECT RESEARCH.

INSURANCE

The University of Sussex has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS INFORMATION SHEET.