

## INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Ethical Clearance Reference Number: MRA-19/20-18437



### YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET

#### **Title of project**

Creative Higher Education and the Covid-19 pandemic

#### **Invitation Paragraph**

I would like to invite you to participate in this research project. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Email us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information at [creativeHEcovid@gmail.com](mailto:creativeHEcovid@gmail.com).

#### **What is the purpose of the project?**

The project aims to map and reflect on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Creative Higher Education and more specifically on creative subject degrees (listed on [www.creativeHEcovid.org](http://www.creativeHEcovid.org)) taught at higher education level in the UK and Internationally. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic most higher education institutions (HEIs) in the UK and abroad have moved their teaching and work online and academics are now providing teaching support from home. However, while this is feasible for subjects where teaching tend to be lecture-based, the impact might be different for degrees where physical and material practice, equipment and spaces play a very important role in learning development and the acquisition of skills. With this project we would like to address the following questions:

- What has been the impact of Covid-19 on your teaching practices?
- What are the limitations / differences of online work in relation specifically to creative subjects?
- What aspects of your teaching are not possible in the current social isolation/ home-learning context?
- What new modes of engagement and opportunities have this crisis promoted?

#### **Why have I been invited to take part?**

You are being invited to participate in this project because you are an academic and/or technical staff at HE level in creative disciplines (at all levels from temporary lecturers to professors and Heads of Departments). We aim to get a representation of different careers stages, gender, and disciplines when possible. We are also interested in hearing from some students of those degrees to hear about the issues and challenges they are facing.

#### **What will happen if I take part?**

If you choose to take part in the project you will be asked to complete an online registration form to gain access to an online platform (using padlet) to facilitate discussion and knowledge sharing. The platform will include brief surveys as well as invitations to take part to a one-to-one online interview or an online thematic focus group. Your participation in the discussion online (or survey/interviews/focus groups) is entirely voluntary and you can decide to take part in just one activity or more. You can also decide not to take part at all. If you decide to take part in any of the research activities, we will remind you at each step of the ethics guidelines and ask for your consent when necessary. The content of the discussion online (or survey/interviews/focus groups) will address questions such as: what

are the challenges of teaching your discipline online? What strategies have you adopted to respond to students' needs and concerns? How is this learning / change going to affect your future work? Participation will take place from when you access the platform – you can decide to visit regularly, at any time and interact with the content. You can choose for your comments/ views to remain anonymous at all stages, however, we ask you to contextualise your contribution via a general description of your title and geographical location (example: lecturer in dance, London). All the data that will be used from the online discussion as well survey/interviews/focus groups will always be treated anonymously. Before your participation in online interviews or focus groups we will ask for your consent to audio record for research purposes but we will always maintain anonymity amongst participants.

### **Do I have to take part?**

Participation is completely voluntary. You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in anyway. Once you have read the information sheet, please contact us if you have any questions that will help you make a decision about taking part. If you decide to take part, we will ask you to send you a consent form and you will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.

### **What are the possible risks of taking part?**

There is no risk in taking part in this research.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

We hope the portal and content shared in the project will be of benefit to practitioners to reflect on their work and the potential of collaboration and cross-learning.

### **Data handling and confidentiality**

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR):

- Your personal data (name and email address) will be stored separately from any of your future data contribution to the project (which will always be anonymous)
- Your name and email address will be stored on a King's College London OneDrive and will only be used to send you information on your participation (consent form, invitation to the portal or to send further information if you decide to take part to an online interview or focus group).
- Once you have contributed to the project with your data (anonymous) in form of comments, an interview, a point of view or discussion in a focus group, all the anonymous data generated will be transcribed and stored in our project database and retained by the project team for future use within King's College London storage.
- Once published any research paper or findings will be shared via the KCL research repository <https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/>

### **Data Protection Statement**

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR). If you would like more information about how your data will be processed in accordance with GDPR please visit the link below:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-use-of-personal-data-in-research>

**What if I change my mind about taking part?**

You are free to withdraw at any point of the project, without having to give a reason. Withdrawing from the project will not affect you in any way. You are able to withdraw your data from the project platform at any time. If you took part in an interview or focus group you will be able to withdraw your data only until the materials are anonymously transcribed (usually within 7 days for your participation). If you choose to withdraw from the project we will not retain the information you have given thus far.

The information above does not affect your GDPR rights. You can withdraw your personal information (name and email address) from our data at any time simply emailing us at: [creativeHEcovid@gmail.com](mailto:creativeHEcovid@gmail.com)

**How is the project being funded?**

This project is funded by King's College London and connects also with the funded H2020 research project DISCE (Developing Inclusive and Sustainable Creative Economies) [www.disce.eu](http://www.disce.eu).

**What will happen to the results of the project?**

The results of the project will be summarised in a report which will be made available on the project website. We also aim to publish some academic research journal articles and promote a special issue on the theme.

**Who should I contact for further information?**

If you have any questions or require more information about this project, please contact the research team using the following contact details: [creativeHEcovid@gmail.com](mailto:creativeHEcovid@gmail.com)

**What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?**

If this project has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the project you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

The Chair, Arts & Humanities Research Ethics Panel, [rec@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:rec@kcl.ac.uk)

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.**