



**Participant Information Sheet For Potential Interviewees**  
**UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Number: 3596/003**  
**UCL Data Protection ID Number: Z6364106/2021/06/173**

**Title of Study: The impact of COVID on everyday life and political views**

**Department: UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies**

**Name and Contact Details of the Researcher(s): Richard Mole (r.mole@ucl.ac.uk)**

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You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for reading this.

**What is the project's purpose?**

The aim of the project is to understand the impact of COVID on your day-to-day life, including your view on how the government has responded to the crisis.

**Why have I been chosen?**

We are keen to hear a range of views from men and women. We hope to interview between 20 and 30 adults, over the age of 18, who live in Eastern Germany.

**Do I have to take part?**

It is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to give your consent electronically on the researcher's i-pad/phone/PC. You can withdraw at any time during the interview and up to four weeks after the interview without giving a reason. If you decide to withdraw, you will be asked what you wish to happen to the data you have provided up that point.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you agree to take part, we will ask you a number of questions about the impact of COVID on your day-to-day life, including your view on how the government has responded to the crisis. The interview will last approximately 30 minutes. We can conduct the interview online or we can meet at a mutually agreed location. If you have to travel to the place of the interview, the travel costs will be reimbursed.

**Will I be recorded and how will the recorded media be used?**

The interview will be audio-recorded using Zoom (if online) or using a recording device (if in person) and transcribed by the interviewer himself/herself on an encrypted password-protected computer. The pseudonymised transcript of the audio recording of the interview will be used for research purposes only, i.e. for analysis and for illustration in conference presentations, publications and lectures. No other use will be made of them without your written permission, and no one outside the project will be allowed access to the original recordings. The original recording will be destroyed as soon as a written transcript has been produced. The transcript will be held in pseudonymised form in an access-limited folder on UCL's OneDrive. It will not be possible to link the transcript back to you. With your permission, the transcript of your interview will be archived in the UCL Research Data Repository and on the secure platform of our research partner, Edgeryders (edgeryders.eu). If you do not give your permission for the transcript to be archived, it will be deleted.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

As your experiences during lockdown may have been difficult, it may be stressful for you to talk about it. If this is the case, you can decide not to respond to a specific question or stop the interview altogether. If you become distressed as a result of the interviews, please let the interviewer know and they can put you in touch with a local support organisation.

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

Whilst there are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, it is hoped that this work will help us better understand responses to the COVID pandemic.

**What if something goes wrong?**

If something goes wrong and you wish to raise a complaint, you should contact Prof. Richard Mole at [r.mole@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:r.mole@ucl.ac.uk) in the first instance. If you feel that your complaint has not been handled to your satisfaction, you can contact the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee at [ethics@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@ucl.ac.uk)

**Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?**

Anonymity is optional for this research. You will be given the opportunity to select from the following 3 options:

- a. You can agree for your real name and role/affiliation to be used in connection with any words you say or information you pass on.
- b. You can request that your comments are presented pseudonymously but give permission to connect your role/affiliation with your comments (but not the title of your position).
- c. You can request that your comments are presented pseudonymously with no mention of your role/affiliation.

If you select b or c, all the information that we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. You will not be able to be identified in any ensuing reports or publications. The legal basis for processing data as part of this research is that the latter constitutes a task in the public interest.

**Limits to confidentiality**

Confidentiality will be respected subject to legal constraints and professional guidelines. If, during our conversation, I hear anything which makes me worried that someone (including you) might be in danger of harm, I might have to inform relevant agencies of this.

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

The results of the research will be published as a journal article, book chapter or working paper. We would be happy to provide you with a copy of the final publication.

**Local Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk). This 'local' privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular study. Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found in our 'general' privacy notice. For participants in research studies, click [here](#).

The information that is required to be provided to participants under data protection legislation (GDPR and DPA 2018) is provided across both the 'local' and 'general' privacy notices. The categories of personal data used will be as follows: your name and possibly your e-mail address. We have to collect your name as part of the consent procedure but the consent process is carried out electronically. The online system we use will generate a pseudonym (an ID), which we will use – instead of your name – in any future publications.

The lawful basis that will be used to process your personal data are: 'Public task' for personal data and 'Research purposes' for special category data. Your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. We will pseudonymise the personal data you provide and will endeavour to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk).

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

The research is organised by UCL and funded by the European Commission.

**Contact for further information**

If you require further information, feel free to contact Prof. Richard Mole at [r.mole@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:r.mole@ucl.ac.uk).

You will be given a copy of the information sheet and consent form to keep.

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering to take part in this research study.**