

## **Research on Imagined Futures of Same-sex Couples**

### **Information sheet for research participants**

I would like to invite you and your partner to participate in my research, in which I will explore how same-sex couples imagine their life in the future. I am doing this research as part of a PhD programme in Sociology, at the University of Edinburgh. Your participation will help me in developing the research, but before you and your partner decide to take part, it is important that both of you understand what the research is about and what taking part involves. Please take time to read the following information carefully and do ask questions if anything you read is unclear or if you would like more information.

#### **1. What is the purpose of this research?**

The purpose of the research is to explore how same-sex couples in Scotland imagine their future and it is also an opportunity to learn more about same-sex relationships after the 2014 legalization of same-sex marriage in Scotland.

#### **2. Who will participate?**

The participants are same-sex couples who live in Scotland at the time of the interview. At least one of the partners has to be over 55. Over I will be interviewing both partners together.

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

You can decide on this after you and your partner read this information sheet and ask any questions you might have. If you decide not to participate, just let me know. You can change your mind at any time.

#### **4. What will happen if I participate?**

If you chose to participate in this research, I will ask you and your partner to meet me for two interviews, three or four weeks apart, in a place you choose. I expect the interviews to last around one hour. Between the interviews I will also ask both of you to note down some thoughts on how you imagine your future.

#### **5. What will the interviews be about?**

The interviews will be informal – they are a chance for me to hear about your experiences, so there are no right or wrong answers. The first interview will be about your life and current relationship. We will also talk a little bit about your future, so you and your partner get an idea of what the project is about. The second interview will be more focused on your future. Both of the interviews will include questions about your sexual orientation and relationship, but if any questions cause discomfort, you don't have to answer them.

#### **6. What will I have to do between the interviews?**

I would like you and your partner to note down some ideas about your imagined future in a notebook I will give you. This way, both of you will know what the other person put down and you can discuss

the notebook together. You can write about your imagined future, draw, paint, make a collage, or take photos and videos with your phone or camera - the way in which you imagine your future and present it to me is completely up to you.

#### **7. Who will see or listen to what we will be talking about in the interviews?**

I will record the interviews so I can transcribe them and use them in my research. I will be the only one who will listen to the audio recordings and read the transcripts. As part of the PhD dissertation and any other presentation of results, I may use something you said and quote it in the research. Anything you say will be anonymised – this means that no one will be able to identify you. Everything you tell me will only be used by me, and all our interviews will be stored in a secure location that only I can access.

#### **8. What if I change my mind in the middle of the interviews?**

I don't anticipate that the questions will cause you or your partner any difficulty or emotional distress, but if any of them does, please just let me know. You don't need to answer any of the questions you don't want to. If you decide that you don't want to participate in the research anymore, that's fine too. You or your partner can decide to stop participating at any time. If that should happen, you will no longer be involved in the research because I need to interview both partners together.

### **Contact information**

You will be interviewed by **Dora Tadic**. The information I collect during the interviews and from your personal representations will be used as a part of my doctoral thesis under the supervision of **Professor Lynn Jamieson**. The results of the study could be used for academic publications, in public presentations, and in other media.

If you have any further questions about the research, please feel free to contact me or my supervisor:

#### **Doctoral researcher: Dora Tadic**

Email: [d.tadic@sms.ed.ac.uk](mailto:d.tadic@sms.ed.ac.uk)

School of Social and Political Science

University of Edinburgh, 15a George Square

Edinburgh, EH8 9LD

Phone: +44 (0) 78 4984 0841

#### **Supervisor: Professor Lynn Jamieson**

Email: [l.jamieson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:l.jamieson@ed.ac.uk)

5.04 Chrystal Macmillan Building

School of Social and Political Science

University of Edinburgh, 15a George Square,

Edinburgh, EH8 9LD

Phone: +44 (0)131 650 4002