

Representations of identity and memories

1.1.2021 to 31.12.2021

Information sheet for Participants

Who is conducting the research?

My name is Nicole Brown, I am a Lecturer in Education at the UCL Institute of Education and I am inviting you to take in part in my research project, "Representations of identity and memory". I work with a wide range of creative research methods to get as close as possible to participants' experiences and feelings and I believe in the participatory nature of research and the need for participants to make sense of their experiences.

I am hoping to find out how we navigate our identities and how these identities and memories are represented in the objects we carry with us and on us. I would like to provide a platform and means to express what is usually considered difficult to express.

I very much hope that you would like to take part. This information sheet will try and answer any questions you might have about the project, but please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything else you would like to know.

Why am I doing this research?

With this research I am hoping to be able to explore experiences and to allow for new ways of expressing and making sense of experiences.

Handbags and rucksacks can obviously be used as fashion accessories or statements (VAM, 2020), but they also fulfil practical purposes, such as being financial centres, communication hubs, pharmacy, cosmetic counters and storage for objects of sentimental value (Styring, 2007). As such, a person knowingly or unknowingly expresses their identity and memories through the kinds of handbags and rucksacks they use and the objects the bags contain.

Why are you being invited to take part?

Through our joint networks we have discovered your eligibility and/or interest to take part in this research. You are kindly asked to provide information about your experiences, which will be pseudonymised and anonymised as soon as possible after transcriptions have been completed.

What will happen if I choose to take part?

If you choose to participate in this research you will be asked to provide your story and experiences of identity through a photoshoot with and of your handbag and an interview. You will be asked to share your handbag and its contents in a photograph. The interview will be held as a phone or video-conference call, whichever method is most suitable for you. Usually, the interviews take about 45-60 minutes. It is not possible to predict the exact interview questions at this point, but the questions will be for example:

What is your model/drawing representative of?

What do you mean with?

How do you feel about....?

Should you not wish to answer a question, for example, if it makes you uncomfortable, you are free to skip it with no consequences.

Will anyone know I have been involved?

Every care will be taken to ensure confidentiality and anonymity of responses. Direct quotes from interviews will be anonymised to make individuals non-identifiable. Where data is submitted in a form where individuals may be recognisable, e.g. on video footage, the relevant sections will be edited so that faces are blurred and individuals will not be identifiable.

What if I would like to be a named participant and/or show myself in the footage?

If you would like to be named and associated with the research, then I will respect your wishes and will do that.

Could there be problems for me if I take part?

The project relates to capturing the feelings, emotions and experiences that result from embodied learning processes and reflective practice. You may therefore find yourself reflecting on experiences and feelings that may make you feel uncomfortable. I will not ever ask you to share what is uncomfortable to you and you may skip questions you may not want to answer or feel comfortable about. If you do not wish to share certain elements from your handbag, you are free to say so or to withdraw without consequences.

What will happen to the results of the research?

I will use the data to write research articles and presentations for conferences. I will also use anonymised photos of your maps to illustrate our findings. You will be able to choose which representations we share with the wider public. Also, I will use made-up names for all anonymised data rather than your real name with the relevant representations. Any data collected in this research will be kept safe in an encrypted form.

Do I have to take part?

It is entirely up to you whether or not you choose to take part. I hope that if you do choose to be involved then you will find it a valuable experience.

However, there will be no consequences for you should you wish not to share your data for research purposes. Also, if at any stage of the research you feel you would no longer take part, you may withdraw from the research without giving reasons and without any consequences. Should you wish to withdraw, please, just get in touch with me by email.

Data Protection Information

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

This 'local' privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular study. Further information on how UCL uses participant information from research studies can be found in our 'general' privacy notice for participants in research studies [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 lawful basis that will be used to process any personal data is: 'Public task' for personal data and 'Research purposes' for special category data.

If you share any personal data voluntarily, your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. I will anonymise or 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.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this information sheet.

If you would like to be involved, please complete the following consent form and return to nicole.brown@ucl.ac.uk. If you have any further questions before you decide whether to take part, you can reach me at nicole.brown@ucl.ac.uk

This project has been reviewed and approved by the UCL IOE Research Ethics Committee

Full ethical approval for REC 1447

Data protection registration number: Z6364106/2020/12/11

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If you are happy to participate, please complete this consent form and return to Nicole Brown at nicole.brown@ucl.ac.uk.

	Yes	No
I have read and understood the information leaflet about the research.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that ethics is a process. We will therefore negotiate consent and assent accordingly throughout the project and the following stipulations are general principles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I agree for my contributions and creations (handbag contents and photographs) to be used as outlined on the information sheet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I agree to be interviewed as outlined on the information sheet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am happy for my interview to be video-recorded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am happy for my interview to be audio-recorded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that if any of my words or creations are used in reports or presentations they will be pseudonymised, unless I expressly wish otherwise.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that I can withdraw from the project at any time with no consequences and without providing any reasons.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that I can contact Nicole Brown at any time to ask questions, discuss the project or to withdraw.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that the findings will be disseminated in conferences and academic journals in pseudonymised form, unless I expressly wish otherwise.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Researcher's name ___ Nicole Brown _____

Signed Nicole Brown