

# INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

REC Reference Number: PNM/13/14-104



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

Measuring Resilience Against Disasters in Communities and Localities: The RADICAL Project

We would like to invite you to participate in this postgraduate research project. You should only participate if you want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. 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. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

### Background and aims of this project

The UK faces a number of severe flooding events each year. There is a growing interest in understanding how communities respond to and recover from these events. In this project, we are interested in understanding what makes a community 'resilient' to flooding. Are there specific features of a community, such as neighbourliness, or wealth, or the level of trust in local government, that make a town or village more likely to bounce back quickly following a flood? Armed with this information, we hope to design a tool to measure the likely resilience of a particular community and to guide local government agencies in working out how best to support a community before, during and after a flood. As a first step in designing our tool, we will be running focus groups with people from towns and villages that are at risk from flooding or that have experienced flooding in the recent past.

This project is part of an ongoing doctoral research dissertation funded by the Graduate School at King's College London.

### What will happen during the focus groups?

Each focus group will consist of eight members of the public who will be asked to discuss various issues such as what happened to their community during the last flood, whether the recovery from the flood went well or badly, and whether there were specific things that helped the community to recover from the flood. Our PhD student, Sonny Patel, will lead the discussion in each focus group and will guide you through the various issues we want to explore. There are no right or wrong answers in a discussion of this kind – we are simply interested in your opinions. You can expect the group to be approximately 6-8 people and it will take around an hour and half (to include registration and group discussion). The focus groups will be arranged at a convenient time and place for the people involved. We are happy to run them during the day or early evening, depending on people's preferences.

### What will happen to the results?

We will video-record each focus group. The recordings will then be sent to an independent company who will produce a transcript. Our analysis will involve merging all of the transcripts from each group that we run, and looking for the common factors in what people have said. Once we have done this, we intend to produce a short report on the findings that we will publish in a peer-reviewed academic journal. We will also send you a copy of the report.

### What about confidentiality?

Any data you provide will be treated in accordance with the UK Data Protection Act 1998. The focus groups will be recorded and transcribed. However, you will not be identified in the recordings – we will give you a number at the start of the focus group and refer to you by number throughout. We will not tell anyone that you have taken part in the focus group, although there is of course a possibility that another member of the group might recognise you. We will also not name you in any of our reports or publications. In addition, all

participants in the focus group will be asked to respect the confidentiality of their fellow participants, and all participants will refer to one another by number (e.g. participant 4, participant 6).

In our reports and publications, we will use quotes from the focus groups to help illustrate the points that are being made. Some of these quotes may come from you. We will not use any quotes that might reveal who you are, however.

Your data will be securely archived after the project because of its possible historical value. Your data will be held confidentially, with access restricted to staff working on the project. All video recordings will be destroyed once transcripts have been made and checked. It is possible that, in the future, researchers working on related projects might ask to look at the transcripts from our focus groups to help them with their own work. We would like your approval now that we can share the transcripts with them if this happens.

### **What do I do if I want to withdraw from the study?**

If you agree to take part in the study, but then decide to withdraw, then that is fine. Simply tell the researcher (Sonny Patel, King's College London, Weston Education Centre, Office 3.30, Cutcombe Road, London SE5 9RJ, Phone number: 020 7848 0432, Email: [sonny.patel@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:sonny.patel@kcl.ac.uk)) and we will take your name off our list. During and after the focus groups, it will not be possible for participants to withdraw their data, and the participants will be reminded beforehand that due to the nature of the group discussion, once the focus group has been completed, data cannot be withdrawn. It will not be possible for the researcher conducting the analysis to "forget" what he has heard in the focus group.

### **What do I do now?**

If you are interested in participating in the focus group or if you have any questions, please contact **Sonny Patel (Phone number: 020 7848 0432, Email: [sonny.patel@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:sonny.patel@kcl.ac.uk))** for further information and to ask any questions you might have. You will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form.

If this study has harmed you in any way, you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information: Dr. James Rubin, King's College London, Weston Education Centre, Cutcombe Road, London SE5 9RJ, Phone number: 020 7848 5684, Email: [gideon.rubin@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:gideon.rubin@kcl.ac.uk)

**CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS IN RESEARCH STUDIES**

Please complete this form after you have read the Information Sheet and/or listened to an explanation about the research.

**Title of Study:** Measuring Resilience Against Disasters in Communities and Localities: The RADICAL Project



**King's College Research Ethics Committee Ref:** PNM/13/14-104

Thank you for considering taking part in this research. The person organising the research must explain the project to you before you agree to take part. If you have any questions arising from the Information Sheet or explanation already given to you, please ask the researcher before you decide whether to join in. You will be given a copy of this Consent Form to keep and refer to at any time.

Please tick or initial

- I understand that if I decide at any time before the research data collection that I no longer wish to participate in this project, I can notify the researchers involved and withdraw from it immediately without giving any reason. I understand that due to the nature of the focus group discussion that it may not be possible to withdraw my data after taking part.
- I consent to the processing of my personal information for the purposes explained to me. I consent for my participation to be video-recorded. I understand that such information will be handled in accordance with the terms of the UK Data Protection Act 1998.
- I understand that the outcomes of this study will be published as part of a dissertation, and if I would like to receive a copy, I will email the lead investigator. I consent to my information being anonymously stored for use in future research.

**Participant's Statement:**

I \_\_\_\_\_

agree that the research project named above has been explained to me to my satisfaction and I agree to take part in the study. I have read both the notes written above and the Information Sheet about the project, and understand what the research study involves.

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Investigator's Statement:**

I \_\_\_\_\_

Confirm that I have carefully explained the nature, demands and any foreseeable risks (where applicable) of the proposed research to the participant.

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_