

University of East London
School of Psychology
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Research Integrity

The University adheres to its responsibility to promote and support the highest standard of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research; observing the appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks.

The University is committed to preserving your dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing and as such it is a mandatory requirement of the University that formal ethical approval, from the appropriate Research Ethics Committee, is granted before research with human participants, human data human material, personal and/or sensitive data, or non-human animal commences.

The purpose of this Participant Information Sheet is to provide you with the information that you need to consider in deciding whether to participate in this research project.

The Principal Investigator

Georgina DeValiant
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Consent to Participate in a Research Study

I am conducting a research project for my PhD Forensic Psychology at the University of East London.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the information that you need to consider whether to participate in this study.

Project Title

Exploring individual Prison Officers' emotional experiences of their multifaceted work roles

Project Description

What's the project for?

Prison Officers have to 'wear many different hats' or take on many different and sometimes conflicting roles at work. Balancing different or competing work roles is extremely demanding and can negatively affect Prison Officers' wellbeing and effectiveness.

I want to explore people's personal experiences of their time working as a Prison Officer. I am

interested in understanding former and retired Prison Officers' perceptions, feelings and thoughts about the different types of roles they took on at work, how they balanced these different roles, and what doing this meant to them personally.

I am also interested in how Prison Officers are represented in society through popular media. I want to explore former and retired Prison Officers' perceptions, feelings and thoughts about how Prison Officers are represented in popular media and what this representation means to them personally including how they feel these representations might shape the Prison Officer role.

I hope that by exploring individual, personal experiences of the Prison Officer role that I can better understand the unique challenges faced by Prison Officers, and how to best support them. I hope to use what I learn from this project towards improving training and support for Prison Officers.

So what's involved?

I am interested in understanding your experiences (your emotions, thoughts and feelings) of the different roles that you personally identified within your previous work life, and how you negotiated these. Prison Officers are known to take on many different types of role at work so I would like to know what your experiences of these roles were and what they individually meant to you.

I am also interested in your personal experiences (your emotions, thoughts and feelings) of media representation of Prison Officers, what these representations individually mean to you, and how you think these representations might shape the Prison Officer role.

If you would like to take part and add the value of your unique perspectives to the research project, you will be asked to take part in an online 1:1 interview with myself. The interview will last approximately 1 hour.

The Next Step

If you are intrigued and would like to know more, please get in touch and I will contact you to discuss the project and answer any questions or concerns you have.

When we meet online, I will also give you the opportunity to ask any more questions, raise concerns and discuss any thoughts or feelings that came up during the project.

Before participation in the project, you will be supplied with the contact details of relevant supportive agencies should you require further support during or after completing the study. Recommended support agencies are the Samaritans on 116 123 with further contact information at www.samaritans.org, or contacting your GP services.

You will also be given the opportunity to be sent a lay summary of the research results after your participation, and you will be invited to give your feedback on the project. I would like you to be involved with developing the study and any feedback would be greatly appreciated.

Confidentiality of the Data

Your participation is confidential and your name will not appear on any research paper. The

exception is if you made a statement that you intended to harm others or yourself, then this would need to be passed on to an appropriate professional.

All data gathered will be retained in accordance with the University of East London Data Protection Policy. Recordings and transcripts of interview discussions will be confidential and anonymised, so no one will know it was made by you. At no time during the project will your name or identifying references appear. Any file or documents relating to interview discussions will be kept in a password protected file, which only the lead researcher will have access to.

All your identifiable and anonymised material will be kept securely until the end of the PhD project. All your identifiable material will be destroyed at the end of the PhD. Your anonymised material will be kept securely for use in future publications. At no time shall your work be accessed by anyone other than the lead researcher.

In compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) the University's lawful basis for the processing of personal data collected, used and retained for research purposes is the 'public task' condition. Therefore, the University does not rely on consent to process your personal data. However, the University will seek your consent to participate in this research project. Please see the following link for more information: [Data protection – University of East London \(UEL\)](#)

Location

Online.

Remuneration

There will be a £10 Amazon voucher offered as thanks for your participation. The financial reward for taking part in this research project is a token of thanks and an acknowledgment of the value of your time. Your participation is invaluable to contributing to academic knowledge and will be greatly beneficial towards understanding how to best support the work of Prison officers. So while the financial advantage may be small, the academic advantages are not, so thank you!

Disclaimer

Your participation in this study is voluntary, and you are free to withdraw at any time during the research. Should you choose to withdraw from the programme you may do so without disadvantage to yourself and without an obligation to give a reason. Please note that your data can be withdrawn up to the point of data analysis – after this point it may not be possible if your data is anonymised.

Ethical Approval for the research project has been granted by the Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee (EISC).

If you have any concerns regarding the conduct of the research in which you are being asked to participate, please contact:

Catherine Hitchens, Ethics, Integrity and Compliance Manager, Office for Postgraduates, Research and Engagement, University of East London, Docklands Campus, London, E16 2RD.
Telephone: 020 8223 6683. Email: researchethics@uel.ac.uk

For general enquiries about the research please contact the Principal Investigator on the

contact details at the top of this sheet.

Best wishes,

Georgina DeValiant