

INFORMATION SHEET FOR RESEARCH INTERVIEW

The study examines asylum courts in various European countries to see whether processes of asylum adjudication are the same across Europe. It is an independent study funded by the European Research Council (ERC, project reference number StG-2015_677917), and led by Prof. Nick Gill, Associate Professor in Human Geography at the University of Exeter. The researchers involved in this project are not part of any government authorities or media organisations in Europe. All research activities are carried out according to the ethical guidelines set by the ERC and the University of Exeter. The study runs until 2021 and involves observations of asylum appeal hearings and interviews with people involved in the appeals system such as appellants and lawyers.

RESEARCH INTERVIEW

During the interview you will be asked to share your experiences and perspectives on the asylum appeal process. The interview will last for approximately 45 minutes and will be audio recorded for later transcription.

WHY HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED FOR AN INTERVIEW?

We are asking people who have been through the asylum appeal process in Europe to tell us about their experiences of the process. Anyone who has been through the asylum appeal system is welcome to participate in this study. It is entirely voluntary. There is absolutely no obligation of any kind to join the study. The University of Exeter, which is hosting the study, will not discriminate in any way against anyone who does not want to take part.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU DECIDE TO GIVE AN INTERVIEW?

If you agree to an interview, then it should last about 45 minutes. We will ask questions about, for example, 'background information'; 'the period leading up to the hearing'; 'the hearing itself' and 'what happened after the hearing'. We might ask you about how you felt before and during your asylum appeal. We might ask you how much of the appeal you understood and whether you thought it was fair. We might ask you intimate and personal questions such as questions related to your religion or sexual orientation.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE INFORMATION I GIVE?

A member of our research team is responsible for listening to the interviews and recording what was said on a digital voice recorder. The interviews will then be transcribed by a member of the ASYFAIR research team, and securely transferred and stored. Data will then be analysed to see if there are patterns in the ways asylum appellants experience and view asylum appeals.

The anonymised data will be used to write academic research that will be published in academic journals and discussed at academic conferences. In addition, as the study aims to improve asylum adjudication, we may use anonymised data to present to policy makers, the public and the media. The data will not be passed to asylum decision-makers, and it will not impact on your asylum claim or your subsequent claims and cases. We will make sure that you cannot be identified from anything that we publish.

You can keep in touch with us about your data and the research results. If we want to use your data for purposes other than academic work, for example for commercial purposes, we will get in touch with you first to ask your permission.

We may make a fully anonymised version of the data available for reuse in future research projects via a secure data archive. This data will be anonymised and will not include any information that could identify you to others. We will keep contact details of participants in a separate file from your interview with a separate password, and only keep the written version of the interview. The anonymised research information on this secure archive will be kept for ten years because of requirements by the University of Exeter. After this time it will be securely disposed of.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS?

We do not think there are any significant risks related to giving us an interview. We have asked a group of people the questions we would be asking you, and they told us they were very straightforward and appropriate. The ASYFAIR research team aims to create a relaxed and friendly environment. However, please note that if you disclose information about illegal activity that harms others we may be under the obligation to disclose it to the relevant legal authorities. The interviewer can provide you with further information regarding this prior to the interview.

ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS FROM TAKING PART?

There are no direct short-term benefits to you for taking part in this research. However this study may help improve the lives of asylum seekers by drawing attention to what can be improved about the system of asylum appeals.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOUR MIND?

If you decide to do an interview you can later change your mind and withdraw the information you provided at any time. You do not have to give a reason, and we will respect your decision. There are absolutely no penalties for stopping. Equally if there are individual questions that you do not want to answer, then this is also fine. Just tell us that you do not want to answer that question.

If you want to withdraw, you can tell us in person during the course of your interview or at the end, or you can contact us after the interview in various ways: by emailing the researchers (the email address for the project is asyfair@exeter.ac.uk), by emailing the ethics officer at the researchers' home institution (g.m.seymour@exeter.ac.uk), by post (the postal address for Prof. Nick Gill, lead researcher on the project, is provided below), or by telephoning us (telephone numbers are below).

HOW WE PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY

All the information we receive from you is strictly confidential, and all researchers working on the study will respect your privacy. Some of the data that we collect from you through the interview might be sensitive data and we will therefore store it and treat it carefully. We will keep your contact details, including your name, separate from the information we use to write our research. We will ensure that there will be no information in our published research, or in the data available to other researchers in the future, that could lead to someone to find out who you are.

We will only use your personal data in the ways described in this information sheet, with your consent, for carrying out research in the public interest, and in accordance with current Data Protection legislation. We will not share your personal data with anyone outside the ASYFAIR research team, and we will not transfer your personal data to a country outside of the European Economic Area and the UK unless that country ensures an adequate level of protection. All collected data, data analysis and data storage are subject to the EU General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679. If you have any concerns about data protection, please contact the data protection officer at the researchers' home institution (dataprotection@exeter.ac.uk).

Further information

This project is hosted by University of Exeter and has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. StG-2015_677917.



CONTACT DETAILS

We are happy to answer any questions you have about this study. You can contact Prof. Nick Gill, or anyone else in the research team, using the contact details below.

Information about the project can also be found on our website: www.asyfair.com.

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