

Participant Information Sheet

Title of Study: Provision and experience of Philosophy in Schools, FE and HE in the UK

Name of Researchers: Prof Belinda Colston, Prof Abigail Powell, Leila Lamoureux, Rhianne Sterling-Morris, Tilly Varrall and Megan Walker

We would like to invite you to take part in our research study. Your participation in this study is voluntary. Before you decide we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve.

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this British Philosophical Association funded research is to investigate and analyse data on demographics and taught provision in Philosophy across the UK to assess the strengths and weaknesses in the promotion of EDI in the discipline. It will also aim to understand the staff experiences of, and attitudes towards, the study and teaching of Philosophy alongside understanding the student lived experiences on the provisions of philosophy at post-16, undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level. The research team will use the information gathered to form recommendations for the British Philosophical Association to better understand the barriers in the provisions of philosophy in schools, FE and HE in the UK

Why have I been invited?

You were selected for this study because you are a student who is currently studying Philosophy at a post-16, undergraduate or postgraduate level.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part in this study is voluntary. If you agree to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form before engaging in the short 15-minute survey. You are free to withdraw at any time during the data collection stage by closing the browser. As the survey is anonymous once you have submitted your responses they can not be withdrawn as we will not be able to identify individual responses.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you agree to participate, you will be invited to an online survey that will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Prior to completing the survey, you will be asked to provide your consent for participating in the research.

There are no right or wrong answers: we are simply interested in your honest opinion and experiences. Your participation is completely anonymous, and voluntary and you may skip any question you do not wish to answer. We may use quotations from the survey in our reporting, but these will always be anonymised so you cannot be identified.

As part of the survey, you will be asked about your demographic characteristics (for example, your ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, disability status). This is to help us understand and interpret the survey responses. You do not have to answer any questions you are uncomfortable with and there is an option for all demographic questions for to allow participants to select 'prefer not to say'.

At the end of the survey, you will have the opportunity to express your interest to participate in the next stages of the research through a focus group. If you wish to take part in the next stage, you will need to provide an email address so the research team can contact you. This information will be stored separately to the survey data and be deleted from our records once focus group arrangements have been made.

Expenses and payments

Participants will not be paid to participate in the study.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

The project is considered low risk based on the topics covered and method used. It is unlikely to be harmful or generate significant discomfort.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The proposed research seeks to investigate and analyse data on demographics and taught provision in Philosophy across the UK to assess the strengths and weaknesses in the promotion of EDI in the discipline. By taking part in the study, participants will be contributing to improving the promotion of EDI within the provision of Philosophy in the UK. It will also help to reduce barriers to the study of Philosophy for under-represented groups in the UK and help to identify potential strategies for improving EDI in Philosophy in the UK. Despite not being able to guarantee that participants will gain any direct benefits from it, it is very likely that findings and recommendations from the study will be used to inform and improve the British Philosophical Association provisions.

By taking part in the study, participants will be contributing to advance the experiences of Black Asian and Ethnic minority postgraduate psychology trainees especially in relation to racism. Despite not being able to guarantee that participants will gain any direct benefits from it, it is very likely that findings and recommendations from the study will be used to inform and improve the British Psychological Society provisions and higher education institutions.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

We will follow the University of Lincoln's ethical and legal practice and all information about you will be handled in the strictest confidence. Information will be stored safely on the University of Lincoln's server and will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

Data will be treated confidentially and any publication resulting from this study will report only non-identifiable data. No information that could potentially identify an individual participant will be shared.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research team within the Eleanor Glanville Institute at the University of Lincoln and The British Philosophical Association.

Who has reviewed the study?

All research conducted by the University of Lincoln is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics committee, to protect your rights, dignity and wellbeing. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by a University of Lincoln Research Ethics Committee [Ethics Reference: UoL2023_15848].

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions. The researchers contact details are given at the end of this information sheet. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting ethics@lincoln.ac.uk.

If you feel that we let you down in relation to your information rights, then please contact the Information Compliance team by email on compliance@lincoln.ac.uk or by post at Information Compliance, Secretariat, University of Lincoln, Brayford Pool, Lincoln, LN6 7TS.

You can also make complaints directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO is the independent authority upholding information rights for the UK. Their website is ico.org.uk and their telephone helpline number is 0303 123 1113.

Further information and contact details

If you have any questions or queries regarding this study, please contact a member of the research team at egresearch@lincoln.ac.uk or on 01522 886340.

Privacy notice

The University of Lincoln is the lead organisation for this study. The university's Research Participant Privacy notice <https://ethics.lincoln.ac.uk/research-privacy-notice/> will explain how we will be using information from you to undertake this study and will be the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly in line with GDPR.

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