INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Ethical Clearance Reference Number: MRSP-19/20-17195

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET

Title of Project

A Tweet at the Table: Black British Identity Expression on Social Media

Invitation Paragraph

I would like to invite you to participate in this research project which forms part of my PhD research. 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 me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the project?

This project will compare discourse in Black British Facebook groups with Black British Twitter in order to consider the conditions and limitations of digital Black identity, and to explore what the communication practices of Black British women and non-binary people on different networking sites reveal about identity expression on social media.

As a Black British participant in these spaces I have found these groups integral to my personal learning, health and growth, and a key concern of my work that the Black users of these spaces are adequately represented and cited as cultural and intellectual producers in my thesis.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You are being invited to participate in this project because you are a Black British user of a closed Facebook group, or have been nominated by a member of this group as an influential Twitter user from this same demographic.

What will happen if I take part?

There are two ways that you can take part in the project.
1. By giving permission for a social media post (or comment) you have made to be included and analysed in my thesis, with your chosen level of anonymity
2. By participating in a short (up to one hour maximum) interview with me about your social media usage, including questions about your preferred social media network, about codeswitching online and offline, and about which Black British social media users you find influential.

Interviews will be held digitally over zoom due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Ideally participants would be able to commit to both ways of taking part, but agreeing to any form of taking part is a huge help!

You will be asked to sign a consent form stating the level of participation you have agreed to. The raw data collected will be samples of Facebook posts and Twitter content – you will not be identifiable from this content unless you explicitly consent to be. This material will be subjected to discourse analysis. The rest of the data will be from the interview, which will be recorded, only with participant consent, and only for my personal use in transcription and analysis. This material will be shared on request, and you are able to retrospectively retract anything you do not wish to be included in the study, up until **1st May 2021** when interview data will have been committed to the final report.

Do I have to take part?

Participation is completely voluntary. You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in anyway. Once you have read the information sheet, please contact me if you have any questions that will help you make a decision about taking part. If you decide to take part I will ask you to sign a consent form and you will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.

Please indicate on the consent form the level of consent you are agreeing to – whether that is to having selected social media posts of yours used in this study, or a one to one interview.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

Any risks will be mitigated to the best of my ability, but may include personal distress from recollecting or sharing uncomfortable feelings or memories as relate to politics, racism, sexism, queerphobia etc.

Appropriate resources such as mental health support services will be signposted before and following the research to ensure the participant is fully equipped to access help if further support is required.

Data handling and confidentiality

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR). Raw data will not be shared with any third parties. Data will be stored in accordance with King's College London and the AHRC's data retention schedule, i.e. anonymised and archived in an institutional repository for at least three years.

Choices will be offered to participants with regards to anonymity versus identification, and these options are outlined on the consent sheet. These options range from total anonymity (referred to by a random pseudonym in the thesis) being identified by social media handle or other chosen pseudonym, or by name (first, last, or both). This option to be identified in the final report is in line with my commitment to a radical citation praxis, where Black people are fully acknowledged and cited as intellectual and cultural producers, in traditional scholarship. Before any publication you will be shown your data and the proposed citation, which you are able to edit for more or less accompanying information.

Due to the digital nature of this project's data collection, and the ephemeral nature of social media data, non-traditional forms of removing consent will be acknowledged. Deletion of tweets or Facebook posts by the user will be considered removal of consent. In order to accommodate this all primary data used in the thesis will be held in a closed data repository

available only on request, to protect user anonymity. Tweets will be referenced as tweet IDs, so that deleted tweets are unable to be viewed, thus preserving the right to delete.

Data Protection Statement

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR). If you would like more information about how your data will be processed in accordance with GDPR please visit the link below:

https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-use-of-personal-data-in-research

What if I change my mind about taking part?

You are free withdraw at any point of the project, without having to give a reason. Withdrawing from the project will not affect you in any way. You are able to withdraw your data from the project up until **1st May 2021,** after which withdrawal of your data will no longer be possible except via post deletion due to final datasets and interview data having been committed to the final report. If you choose to withdraw from the project, we will not retain the information you have given thus far, either as raw data from your social media posts or interview data.

What will happen to the results of the project?

The results of the project will be summarised in my PhD thesis, and potentially in future academic publications. All participants may receive final copies of the research following submission if they so choose!

Who should I contact for further information?

If you have any questions or require more information about this project, please contact me using the following contact details:

Rianna Walcott – rianna.walcott@kcl.ac.uk
Due to the digital nature of this project, please also feel free to contact me via my social media handles, @rianna_walcott on Twitter, www.facebook.com/sweetpeari on Facebook, or via the contact form on my website, www.riannawalcott.com

What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?

If this project has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the project you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

Dr Zeena Feldman,
zeena.feldman@kcl.ac.uk,

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.