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Participant Information Form

Project Title: Relationality Between Science and Society

Name of Researchers: Dr Heather Bray (principal supervisor), Lilly Litchfield (student, Master of Science Communication), Dr Remco Heesen (co-supervisor)

Invitation

You are invited to participate in a project about scientists' perceptions of the relationship between science and society. You are asked to take part in this project because you work in a scientific field and your perspective is of interest to us.

What is the project about?

Developing useful interventions which allow scientists to communicate more effectively is a major point of interest in the field of science communication. This research focuses on your perceptions of science's relationship to the public, and what you see as the goals of science and science communication along with what tactics you are willing to use to achieve these goals. This is in order to better understand how you might engage with initiatives which aim for effective science communication, and to perhaps help develop more effective communication training for scientists.

What does participation involve?

Participation will involve attending a face-to-face (on Zoom or in person) interview facilitated by Lilly Litchfield, Master of Science Communication student, at UWA. It is expected to run for 45 mins to 1 hour total. During the interview, you will be asked to answer questions based on a semi-structured interview script. Please understand that we are required to obtain your signed consent before you can participate in the workshop (see Participant Consent Form). This must be returned prior to attending the workshop. Participants are also required to be over 18 years old.

How we are collecting data

We will be collecting data during the interview using audio recordings. Please understand that the use of audio devices is strictly for data collection purposes only as it will allow us to generate transcripts. After the interview, Lilly Litchfield will make a written transcript of the interview from the recording. Once this has been completed, the recordings will be permanently deleted. This deletion will occur no later than 2 months after the interview. Transcripts can be reviewed and edited upon request.

COVID-19 protocols

We are presently expecting to be able to hold face-to-face interviews, however our ability to do this can change at any moment in the current pandemic. We are asking that everyone involved observes the COVID protocols and advice from UWA and the WA government as they stand at the time. This means checking in using the SafeWA app and may include wearing a mask indoors and social distancing. If the situation changes, we can move the workshop to be fully online on Zoom (Zoom account will be required). We want to assure you that we are taking every measure to stop the spread and be COVID-safe.

Voluntary participation and withdrawal from the study

Participation in this project is completely voluntary. You will be able to withdraw from the study at any time with no explanation required. If you choose to withdraw, your transcript will be removed from the analysis.

Your privacy

Please understand that any data recorded (written, verbal, observed, or otherwise) during the workshop session may be included in the analysis and/or directly quoted in any publication arising from the study. Your name and any other personally identifying information (e.g., the kind of work you do) will not be published. All participants will be randomly assigned a coded identifier after the workshop, which will be used to label individuals in field notes, transcripts, and publications.

All data will be stored in password-protected files on a secure computer that is only accessible by Lilly Litchfield and Dr Heather Bray. Any record of your personally identifiable information will be stored separately from all other data, and will only be accessible by Lilly Litchfield and Dr Heather Bray. All data will be stored for a minimum of 7 years at UWA (until end of 2028), after which it will be destroyed.

Possible benefits

We hope that the interviews will be enjoyable. This research will ultimately benefit the science communication community by identifying major perceptions of science's relationship to the public, and how this impacts goals of science communication and engagement with scientists' communication practice so that better training and support can be provided to scientists for the purposes of science communication in the future. If you wish, we can notify you or send you a link to the paper when this work is published.

Possible risks

We have identified that some people may be stressed or anxious at the idea of being recorded. While we are respectful of these feelings, we ask that if you have concerns about being recorded to elect not to participate.

Contacts

If you would like to participate or discuss any aspect of this study, please feel free to contact Dr Heather Bray on (work) Ph 6488 2508 or on mobile 0419 035 156.

Sincerely,

Dr Heather Bray
Chief Investigator

Approval to conduct this research has been provided by the University of Western Australia, in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures. Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time. In addition, any person not satisfied with the response of researchers may raise ethics issues or concerns, and may make any complaints about this research project by contacting the Human Ethics office at UWA on (08) 6488 4703 or by emailing to humanethics@uwa.edu.au. All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of any Participant Information Form and/or Participant Consent Form relating to this research project.