

## Participant Information Sheet (Stage 1)

### CREATIVITY FOR SCIENTIFIC CHANGE Development of an art-based, two-way model for public engagement with the ethics of science

We are inviting you to participate in an ethnographic-based research project. The aim of the project is to develop new ways of bringing scientists and the general public together to consider the future implications of scientific discovery.

Before you decide if you would like to take part, it is important that you fully understand the goal of the research project and how it will be done. We encourage you to read the provided information carefully, discuss it with others if desired, and ask us the research team any questions you may have. You can find our contact details at the end of this document. If you choose to participate, you will receive a copy of the information sheet and consent form for your records.

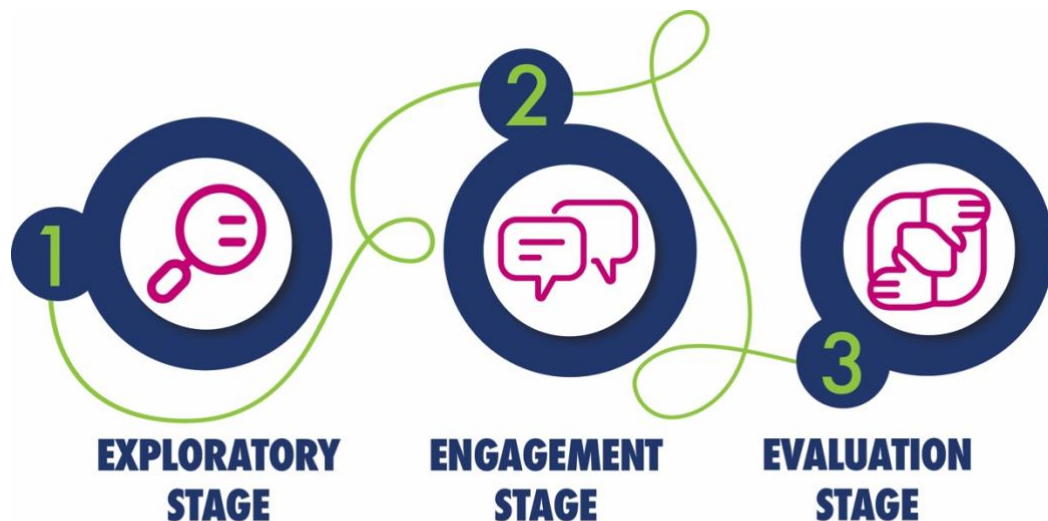
#### Overview of the research project

Over the next three years, the research project will bring together a diverse group of scientists, artists, and members of the public to co-create an art-based model for two-way public engagement with the ethics of scientific discovery. It will be organised around three case studies which will last approximately 6 months each and which will involve three stages of research as explained below. **In this occasion, we are asking you to take part in Stage 1.**

- In **Stage 1** of this research project, the goal is to **explore** ethical questions in scientific research. We are interested to understand how scientists think of and deal with ethical questions when they emerge during everyday laboratory practice (such as acquisition and handling of samples, informed consent, use and presentation of data etc..). But we are also interested to find out what happens in the lab during key moments of discovery that might prompt scientists to think about the future implications of this new knowledge for society.
- In **Stage 2** of this research project, the goal is to foster art-based **public engagement activities** as an opportunity to discuss openly, creatively, and safely some of the key ethical questions that emerged during Stage 1 with members of the public. To do this, we will

involve selected artists to co-develop an innovative way to facilitate inclusive and multidisciplinary conversations between scientists and the public.

- In **Stage 3** of this research project, the goal is to **evaluate** how effective the art-based, two-way model of public engagement with the ethics of science could be in facilitating a shift in scientific practices. The idea is to explore whether incorporating the public's experiences, hopes, and fears earlier in the discovery process could foster closer collaboration between the public and the scientific community, and potentially mitigate contentious debates.



### **Why have I been invited?**

You have been selected because you are a scientist engaged in cutting-edge discovery science, which could have significant and wide-ranging implications for both science and society. As the project progresses, we will also be reaching out to scientists working in other research areas.

### **Do I have to take part?**

You do not have to take part in this research project. It is up to you to decide whether or not to participate. Whatever decision you make about this research project it will not impact your position or employment. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and do not have to give a reason. If at any point you decide to withdraw, all data concerning you (e.g. recordings, notes or transcripts) will be destroyed.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

A large part of the research conducted during **Stage 1** will involve observation. The goal of an observational research project is to enable the researcher to spend an extended period in your workplace to observe the ways in which scientific research is being done with a particular focus on observing when ethical questions emerge, how individuals and teams approach them, and how these might affect their work.

**Please remember that the aim is not to audit how 'ethical' your scientific research is. Rather, the researcher's objective is to assist and support you in identifying and articulating how your research could have implications for society in the future.**

If you decide to participate in the research project, a researcher will attend meetings and observe your daily work practices, taking notes on what occurs or is said. You may also be asked to participate in private, face-to-face interviews or focus groups, which will be audio recorded and conducted at a convenient time for you. The length of the interview will vary but is expected to last approximately 1 hour. In some cases, you may be contacted for clarification purposes following the interview.

### **What do I have to do?**

If you are happy to participate you will be given a consent form to sign. Throughout the time of observation, you can tell the researcher that you do not want them to write down what you are saying/doing or reiterate that you do not wish to be identified through what you say. Or you can state that while you do not mind the observational work, you do not wish to be interviewed.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

This **Stage 1** of the research project will continue over a period of 2-3 months. During this time, the researcher is likely to become a fairly familiar figure within your workplace. There may be times when you feel uncomfortable with what you have said to the researcher or what they have observed. If this occurs, you are free to talk to the researcher about the scenario and discuss openly what might have been recorded and how. At this point you may ask that those observations are expunged from their notes. You can ask the researcher to leave at any time, or to not make notes at particular times.

Depending on your profile within the research team, it may be difficult for you to be fully anonymised in some reporting. In these instances, you and the researcher can discuss whether you are reported as yourself or what anonymisation needs to occur in order to hide your identity.

During the interview it is possible that issues may come up that you find challenging to talk about. If this occurs, you are free to stop the interview at any point. You will not be asked to continue either that line of questioning or the interview unless you want to.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part to this research project?**

We envision one possible benefit of taking part to this **Stage 1** of the research project. We aim to offer you the opportunity to learn to identify and articulate how your research could have implications for society in the future, and to have conversations with different people about it.

### **What if something goes wrong?**

If you are harmed by taking part in this research project, there are no special compensation arrangements. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, then you may have grounds to complain for a legal action but you may have to pay for it. Regardless of this, if you wish to complain, or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been approached or treated during the course of this research study, you are able to contact the University of Cambridge's Insurance Department on 01223 332216.

### **Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

All information which is collected about and from you during the research will be treated with the strictest of confidence. Notes taken from observations, audio recordings and written transcripts will be given a numerical code to ensure that you cannot be identified from them, and these will be kept securely in locked premises. Any information that is kept on a computer will be password protected. Audio recordings will be destroyed at the end of the research project.

### **What will happen to the results of the research project?**

When we have completed the period of observations and interviews, the research team will present the findings to you (and the other participating scientists). We will then invite you (and the other participating scientists) to contribute to write a briefing document based on the findings that will form the basis for the next stage of the research. The findings will also be presented at conferences, workshops and academic papers will be submitted to journals. At this point, we will also invite you to participate in **Stage 2** and **Stage 3** of this research project.

### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

The research is being funded by the Kavli Foundation grant to the Kavli Centre for Ethics, Science, and the Public at the University of Cambridge.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

This research has been reviewed by the University of Cambridge Faculty of Education Research Ethics Committee.

Contact details for further information about this research project:

Dr Daniela Boraschi - Email [db889cam.ac.uk](mailto:db889cam.ac.uk)  
Dr Richard Milne - Email [rjm231@cam.ac.uk](mailto:rjm231@cam.ac.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and considering taking part.