

Participant Information Sheet (Observation and Photography of Space) The Spirited North – Visualising Minority Religious and Spiritual Spaces in North England

You are being invited to participate in a research study conducted by Dr Terence Heng of the University of Liverpool. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and feel free to ask us if you would like more information or if there is anything that you do not understand. Please also feel free to discuss this with your friends, relatives and GP if you wish. We would like to stress that you do not have to accept this invitation and should only agree to take part if you want to.

Thank you for reading this.

Purpose of Study

Popular perceptions of the religious and spiritual landscape in the United Kingdom is often limited to Christian architecture (e.g. churches). These perceptions mask the rich spiritual and religious cultures that make the United Kingdom what it is. In this project, the principal investigator, Dr Terence Heng, intends to photograph spaces in which religious and/or spiritual activities take place or have taken place. These might be places of worship, or more informal settings where spirituality is practiced (e.g. tarot card readings).

As part of this study, Dr Heng would like permission to observe and photograph the space that you have access to.

Through the observation and photography, I hope to understand

- What actions, objects or material arrangements are important to making a space religious or spiritual and what are their significance

In the observation, I (the principal investigator) **will only be observing and photographing space, material objects and architecture.**

- No individuals or human activity/interaction will be recorded, and no personal information will be captured in the photographs.

Please see the Frequently Asked Questions below for more information

1. Why have I been chosen to take part?

You have been chosen to participate because you are an individual who is important to the space and has a role in maintaining the space or can give access to the Principal Investigator to observe and photograph the space (i.e. you are a gatekeeper to the space).

2. Do I have to take part?

Participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw permission to observe and photograph the space at anytime, without explanation, and without incurring a disadvantage.

3. What will happen if I take part?

If you grant permission, I (the principal investigator) will spend 30 minutes to 1 hour observing the spaces you have given me permission to access, and will take a number of photographs and 360 degree images of the space. I am happy to provide you with a copy of these photographs.

4. Are there any risks in taking part?

There are no risks in taking part in this research.

5. Are there any benefits in taking part?

There are no monetary benefits to taking part, although your participation will significantly help us to understand the richness of the spiritual landscape in North England.

6. What if I am unhappy or if there is a problem?

If you are unhappy, or if there is a problem, please feel free to let us know by contacting Dr Terence Heng at t.heng@liverpool.ac.uk and I will try to help. If you remain unhappy or have a complaint which you feel you cannot come to us with then you should contact the Research Ethics and Integrity Office at ethics@liv.ac.uk.

When contacting the Research Ethics and Integrity Office, please provide details of the name or description of the study (so that it can be identified), the researcher(s) involved, and the details of the complaint you wish to make.

7. Will my participation be kept confidential?

All data regarding personal details will be kept confidential. However, observations and photographs created in this project will not involve personal details. Photographs will be stored on a secure university server.

8. What will happen to the results of the study?

Results of the study (interviews and photographs of you) will be published in four ways

- Academic conference presentations – short powerpoint presentations to scholars about this work
- Academic publications – books, journal articles and chapters
- Newspaper articles or articles in The Conversation (a website communicating scholarly work)
- Public photography exhibitions where quotes from an interview may be attached to a photographed space.

9. What will happen if I want to stop taking part?

You can withdraw at any time, without explanation. Results up to the period of withdrawal may be used, if you are happy for this to be done. You may also request that the results are destroyed and no further use is made of them.

10. Who can I contact if I have further questions?

Please contact the principal investigator / co-investigator for more information

Dr Terence Heng

t.heng@liverpool.ac.uk

Appendix 1: Interview Questions

1. Please tell me about your role in this space, and what your part is in maintaining or setting up the space?
2. What steps have you taken to publicise this space? What have you found to be the most / least effective?
3. Could you tell me about the most important and least important objects that make up this space and why (they are important/unimportant)?
4. If you are creating / have created this space, why have you chosen it over other spaces?
5. Are there are other spaces like this in the North of England? If so, does your space differ or is similar to these spaces?
6. How important is ritual or other activities to the creation / maintenance of this space?
7. (If the space is more permanent) How do your neighbours (people in the immediate vicinity of the space) perceive this space?
 - a. Are your neighbours ever surprised that this space exists and have they ever commented about it?
8. Do you find this space meaningful? If so, in what ways do you find it meaningful? If not, are there other spaces related to your religion/spiritual beliefs that you find more meaningful
9. (If the space is more temporary) Would you ever consider setting up a more permanent space and why/why not?