Information Sheet: Focus Groups

Equality & Diversity in the Workplace; Implications for Designing Digital Educatory Tools

This information sheet tells you about participating a research study run by Newcastle University.

**What is the aim of this research?**

This research aims to explore and analyse the lived realities of experiences of gender and diversity within the academic working environment for professional service staff, academic staff, support staff and students. This investigation aims to provide a critical reflection on existing educatory practises in this area, suggest implications for the design of digital tools highlighting and challenging contestations of the policy and provide these tools for evaluation by participants.

**Who are the research team?**

The research team are Rosanna Bellini, an MRes Digital Civics student, Dr. Rob Comber, a senior lecturer in Human Computer Interaction and Prof. Karen Ross in Media and Gender studies, all located at Newcastle University. Their contact details will be provided at the end of the study if you would like to talk to them again, or about any potential concerns you might have with the study.

**What does participation in this study entail?**

If you agree to participate in this study, you will attend a focus group at [your work location]. Researchers will also participate in these sessions and will take some observations of the ways in which the sessions are going in a non-intrusive manner and recording devices will be present under the consent of all participants involved. After these sessions, observations taken will be written up and audio transcribed to be analysed and written up into a dissertation and may be published in academic journals. However, neither you, the setting or any details which could potentially identify you will be published and all appropriate data anonymised following data minimisation strategies which a researcher will be show you and explain.

The researchers are happy to share the results of their research with you if you are interested, once the research is finished.