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

Information Sheet: Focus Groups 24/04/17

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

**Research Evaluation Start Date**: 24/04/17 | **Research Evaluation End Date**: 25/08/17 | **Time Duration:** 4 months

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

This research aims to explore and analyse the unique lived realities of experiences of gender and diversity within the academic working environment for professional service staff, academic staff, support staff and students. Through attaining accounts of experience and providing critical reflections of existing educatory practises in this area, this research aspires to implement and evaluate a suite of bespoke digital tools, designed from participant accounts, used as digital probes to suggest potential design implications for future educatory tools.

**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 / Open Lab**]. Researchers will be asking a series of semi-structured open-ended questions about your experience of fairness in your work place, requesting some more information or examples as to why you might feel this way. Please rest assured that we will **not** ask you for accounts that you do not wish to share, however we must ask that you **only share your own experiences** within your workplace in the interest of obtaining consent of all parties involved. Researchers may introduce some activities revolving around personas and scenarios for you to discuss in further detail and may themselves participate in their discussion if asked. 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. Neither you, the setting or any details which could potentially identify you (name, age, gender, time spent at work, department etc.) including specific details within your accounts of experience will be published or shared with anyone beyond the research team. 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.