



Information Sheet for Potential Participants

'Living with Dying: Everyday Cultures of Dying within Family Life in Britain, c.1900s-1950s'

Researcher: Dr Laura King

This project seeks to investigate how families have experienced death and dying in twentieth-century Britain. One key aspect of this research is to investigate how families remember ancestors and relatives who have died. To do this, I am seeking to work with people who are researching their family histories. The aim of collaborating with family historians is to understand how relatives are remembered, and why families value learning about their pasts. Working together would mean attending some training sessions at the university, and sharing your family history research with a wider group of other family historians. Anyone who is interested in actively researching his or her family history, and is based in the Leeds area, is invited to participate. As part of the project, you (and any family members) will also be invited to take part in an interview with me. This is optional.

How do I take part?

You are being invited to participate in this research project. Before you decide 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 discuss it with others if you wish. Ask me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Your participation would be entirely voluntary and you would be free to withdraw or change the conditions of your participation at any point until the research is published (further details below), without need for any explanation. Thank you for considering taking part.

If you wish to join the project, please email me (l.king@leeds.ac.uk) or phone on 0113 343 9626 / 07754417888. At this point, I will invite you to a first meeting, and ask you to sign a consent form.

What would participation involve?

If you are happy to participate, I will invite you to attend three training sessions and a number of other meetings with a group of other family historians, taking place between April 2017 and April 2018. These meetings will take place at the University of Leeds, and will be arranged to suit the group's needs. These sessions will equip you in some research methods you might use in your own research, such as genealogy, oral history and archival research, and introduce you to some ways in which you might collate and make public your family history research if you wish to do so.

At group meetings, and via email and other digital means (such as shared online folder), you'll be invited to share your family history research, discussing what you're finding out and sharing information and items such as photographs, documents or family objects, in a supportive environment. This process is voluntary, and exactly what you share will be up to you.

You will also be able to share the research you collect with me for research purposes, if you would like your family's stories and your research to contribute to my research project and publications. This is entirely voluntary, and you can decide exactly what information you want to contribute to the research as we collaborate. You do not have to commit to making any of your family history research public or available to me as a researcher in order to take part.

At our first meeting, we will come together as a whole group, including me, my research assistant and the group of around 15 family historians. We'll discuss how this process of collaboration will

Dr Laura King, School of History, University of Leeds

work, and what you'd like to achieve. I will ask you to sign a consent form to take part in the project. I will provide a copy of this information sheet and a consent form for you to keep. Throughout the year in which we work together, you can decide whether you want to share information for use in my research as you're investigating your family history.

Can I change my mind after I've agreed to participate?

Yes. If you don't want to continue being part of the project, you can drop out at any point between April 2017 and April 2018.

If you agree to share information from your research with me, but then change your mind, you can just let me know. If you have shared information with me (such as a particular story from your family's past), you can withdraw, or change any conditions of your participation, such as that you wish your real name not to be used, this information from the research until it is published. The writing and publication process will start from May 2018, after our collaboration ends. If you change your mind about me using your research for my project before May 2018, it will not be used at all. If you change your mind after this date, your information may be published, but your information will not be used in future research and I will remove it from all of my records.

At the end of our working together, in April 2018, I will send you a complete record of any information you have decided to share with me, so you can review this and decide whether you would like this to form part of my research and publications or not.

Will I be identified in the research?

This is entirely up to you. If you would like, I can use your name in the research and any publications. Or if you prefer, I can use pseudonyms for you (and any relatives and others). This would mean I can use your family history research, and family stories, but don't mention your real name. In this case, you may be identifiable to people who know you well, but your name will not be connected to the stories you choose to share.

How will my information be stored?

If you choose to share particular information with me about your family history research (such as a written account of what you've found out) for use in my research and publications, I will store this securely in a locked filing cabinet in my office and on the University of Leeds secure digital storage facilities (only accessible to me and my research assistant and protected by a password). Any personal information you give on your consent form (address, email address etc) will be stored separately from the research you share with me, again in a locked filing cabinet and/or on the University of Leeds secure servers.

How will you use my research?

If you agree to share your research with me (in the form of a written account, or through emails or online), I will use quotations and information from that research in presentations, online articles, academic publications and the like. You can choose whether to be named, or to be given a pseudonym - this process will be explained in our first meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions at all! Contact:

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