

# Connecting at the Innovation Cafe

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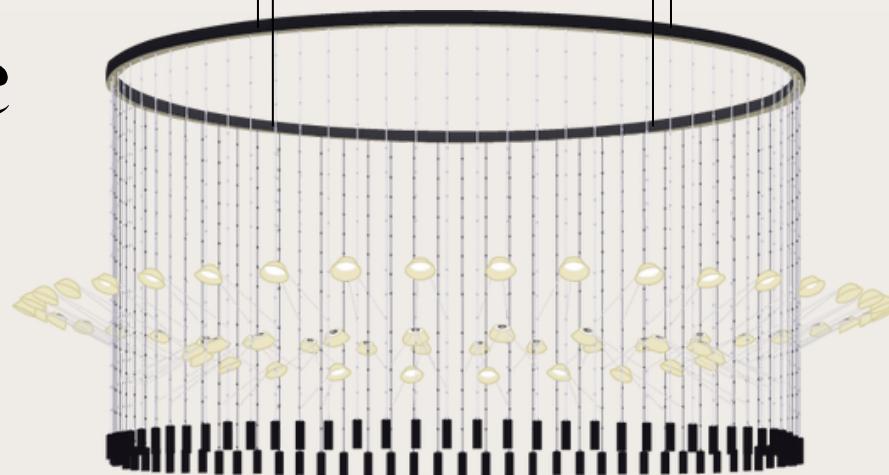
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Figure 1: illustration by author based on picture from lamp designed for Kazerne by VANTOT [1]



## ABSTRACT

This pictorial focuses on the Eindhoven Innovation Café Talks Community, a hub for professionals, innovators, and enthusiasts in technology, design, and urban development. The community fosters idea exchange and problem-solving through live events, moderated debates, and networking sessions, leveraging technological platforms such as live streaming and social media to engage its members. Our research explores how to design for connectivity within this dynamic community.

The pictorial includes the design and pilot deployment of a cultural probe kit, refined research questions, and feedback from discussions. It begins with an introduction and narrative scenario to set the context, visual sketches of the community's environment, and revised research questions. This is followed by the cultural probe kit design and a discussion of the results returned from the pilot study. Finally, a reflection highlights areas for improvement and outlines open questions for future exploration.

Through visual storytelling, this document captures the iterative nature of the research and aims to contribute to the understanding of designing tools that enhance connection and engagement within the Eindhoven Innovation Café Talks Community.

## INTRODUCTION

This pictorial outlines the initial framing of our design research, focused on the Eindhoven Innovation Café Community. The Café is a hub for professionals, innovators, and enthusiasts in technology, design, and urban development, offering live events, debates, and networking opportunities. It also uses online tools like live streaming and social media to connect with its members. Their events take place at the Kazerne, a lively, welcoming, and inspiring hospitality environment where as many people as possible can casually experience how design adds value to the world we live in.



Our curiosity about the Café started when a teammate shared her experience presenting there. Until then, none of us had heard of it, despite its relevance to us as industrial design students. This made us wonder who the community is for, how people discover it, and how it connects with its members and potential new ones. We framed this curiosity in the following research question:

*“How are relationships formed and maintained between individuals from vastly different levels of experience and disciplines at the Eindhoven Innovation Café?”*



Our research explores how relationships are formed and sustained, how the space encourages participation, and whether the Café's digital tools are used effectively. These questions form the basis for designing a cultural probe to learn more about the connections and interactions within this community. This understanding will help guide us as we refine our focus and explore ways to support the Café in fostering engagement.



Figure 2.1, 2.2, 2.3: Kazerne before an Eindhoven Innovation Café event (Photos by the author).

## FRAMING, SCOPING AND POSITIONING

To gain an understanding of the context to be explored through the design probe, we wrote a narrative scenario in which Emma, an Industrial Design student, is working on her final bachelor project. While struggling to source rare materials, her mentor recommends the Eindhoven Innovation Café (EIC) for networking opportunities. Through creating the scenario narrative as can be seen below, we were able to formulate our

Though unfamiliar with EIC, Emma follows their advice. After signing up to present her project, she's thrilled to be invited to speak. As the event nears, nerves take over, unsure of her audience or how she'll be received. Despite her anxiety and limited knowledge, she decides to go for it, bolstered by her mentor's encouragement.



Figure 3.1: Emma receives an invitation to speak at the Eindhoven Innovation Café.

initial research questions:

1. In what way does the Eindhoven Innovation Café maintain relationships with their partners, and how does the aesthetics of the space invite interested parties to participate?
2. What are the needs of visitors of the café regarding communication from the café, for example about the website and spreading information?
3. In what ways, other than strictly professional, are the people within this community connected? Do they get together outside of official events? Did

On the day of the event, Emma arrives and engages with other presenters and attendees, discovering a diverse and welcoming group united by a shared passion for innovation and technology. Feeling more confident, she delivers her presentation with enthusiasm, answering audience questions and showcasing her dedication to her project.



Figure 3.2: Emma presents her project at Eindhoven Innovation Café.

they know each other beforehand or did they meet at the Café?

These questions led us to refine our final research question, which helped frame and scope our study within the broader context.

## FRAMING

This study investigates how relationships are formed and maintained among individuals with varying levels of experience and disciplinary backgrounds at the Eindhoven Innovation Café. The Café offers a unique space where professionals, academics,

Afterward, Emma mingles with attendees, meeting a CEO whose company can help with her material challenges. They exchange contacts, beginning a promising collaboration. Relieved and proud, Emma reflects on her success, starts recommending EIC to friends, and continues attending events to stay connected.



Figure 3.3: Emma connects with attendees.

Illustrations by the author, Figure 3.2 including logos from TU/e [2] and Eindhoven Innovation Café [3], Figure 3.3 including a logo from LinkedIn [4]

students, and entrepreneurs come together to engage in interdisciplinary collaboration. This environment is supported by both digital networking tools and in-person interactions, with the goal of fostering inclusive and lasting connections. Notably, the Eindhoven Innovation Café stands out for its emphasis on minimizing hierarchies and encouraging equitable participation across diverse groups.

## SCOPING

The insights derived from this study are intended to have broad applicability to other contexts requiring collaboration among diverse individuals, including workplaces, educational institutions, and multidisciplinary group projects. By examining the dynamics at the Eindhoven Innovation Café, this research aims to offer a model that can inform strategies for building and sustaining relationships in interdisciplinary and intergenerational settings. While the study focuses specifically on the Café, its findings are designed to extend beyond this unique environment, offering broader implications for fostering collaboration in similar spaces.

## POSITIONING

This research builds on existing studies that examine interdisciplinary collaboration and the challenges associated with it.

Key references include:

### **Widder's focus on power dynamics:**

This study highlights how hierarchical structures limit equitable participation. In contrast, the Eindhoven Innovation Café minimizes hierarchy by fostering collaboration through shared goals [5].

### **Baumann and Utz's work on diversity in professional networks:**

While their research addresses the barriers in pre-established settings, the Café's inclusive design proactively facilitates connections among individuals of diverse backgrounds [6].

### **Escalponi et al.'s analysis of startup ecosystems:**

Both studies emphasize the importance of social connections, but the Café's semi-structured, design-focused approach creates a more organic and interdisciplinary network [7].

### **Tjahja et al.'s concept of infrastructuring social relationships:**

The Café serves as a catalyst for relationship-building rather than relying on long-term adaptable infrastructures [8]

### **Haines et al.'s exploration of interdisciplinary collaborations as social networks and Torrisi et al.'s network-based approach to understanding group creativity:**

These studies provide valuable insights into network dynamics and creativity, which inform the methodology and goals of this probe [9,10]

Unlike these prior works, which often address pre-existing systems or power imbalances, this study focuses on the proactive creation and maintenance of relationships in a design-driven environment. By emphasizing the dynamics between individuals of varying experience levels and disciplines, this research contributes a novel perspective to the literature on interdisciplinary collaboration.

## METHODOLOGY & STUDY SET-UP

A cultural probe is traditionally used in situations where direct observation can either be difficult or the presence of researchers could impact the genuine nature of the responses. Due to this, developing a probe that can be directly sent to the individuals from whom we want data collected solves these problems. By creating a probe kit with maps that require more creative flourish to answer, as well as other interactive elements like camera prompts, we are trying to guarantee that the probe kit uses all the strengths available to it. Additionally, by asking the right questions, we are able to gain valuable insight into the more subjective or emotional aspects of their lives. In addition, when asked questions or not given the space to be more creative with responses, participants would be less likely to offer personal answers. The participant journey is as depicted in Figure 4.

## ETHICAL CONCERN

Due to the anonymous nature of the cultural probe's design, there are little to no ethical concerns regarding how the study will be carried out. The information will be entirely anonymous, with the only indication of who could have filled it out being age and

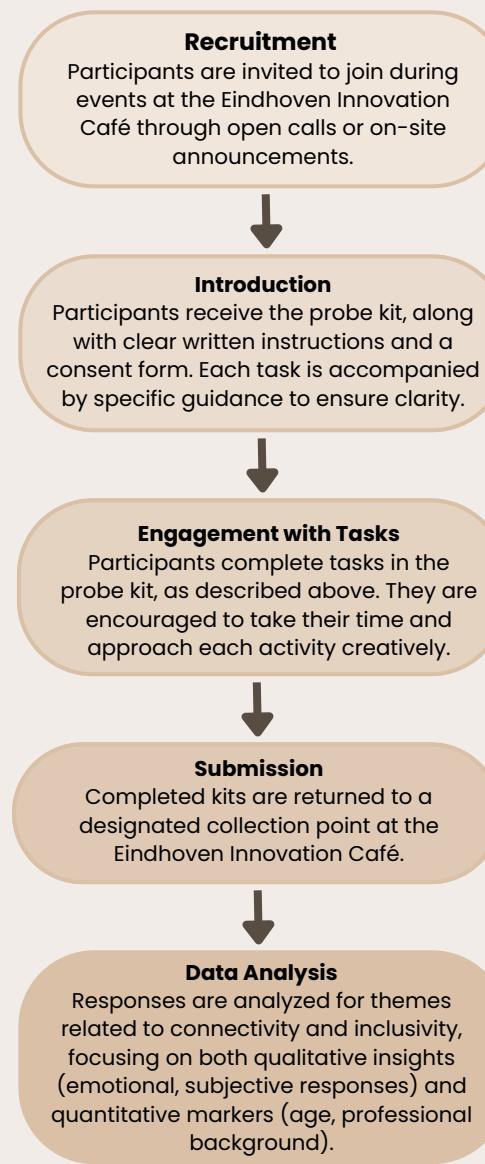


Figure 4: Participant Journey

professional background. As there is no specificity in our participants and as they can be anyone at the Eindhoven Innovation Café, there is no concern for targeting individuals with medical issues or children. In addition, as there is no offer of compensation, with the study being done entirely on a volunteer basis, there is no ethical concern regarding economic or financial coercion for the study. Participants may withdraw at any point without explanation.

## DATA COLLECTION

Raw data will be securely stored and anonymized for use only within the research context, with data retention limited to one year, after which it will be securely deleted or further anonymized for archival purposes. The data will consist of a mixture of both quantitative and qualitative data with a heavy emphasis on qualitative data, allowing the quantitative data to serve as a marker for age and experience by which qualitative data can be attributed. It will help narrow the scope of interpersonal connections and communication issues by showing how individuals of various ages and experience levels view connections and the struggles they may or may not have with communication.

## DESIGN & DEPLOYMENT FIRST PROBE

Using the initial research questions we were able to create our first probe kit. The kit contains three elements: a set of postcards featuring open-ended questions, a series of annotated maps with inquiries ranging from practical to poetic, and a task involving either a disposable camera or a mobile phone enclosure with reflective prompts.

The process of building this probe kit begins with curiosity. For this course, our research focuses on the Eindhoven Innovation Café community, where speakers frequently present their ideas and work. Drawing inspiration from this context, we directed our curiosity toward the experiences of public speaking, preferred communication methods and elements( location, objects, interactions etc.) that could influence the connection within the community.

Recognizing that our peers also present their work regularly as part of their studies, we identified a shared thread: the preparation process for presentations and presenting to a community.

This led us to explore key questions: What can the community members learn from each other ? What are the important

aspects of a presentation? How do communities communicate and connect? By using the cultural probe kit, we aimed to uncover insights into these experiences.

### BUILDING THE PROBE KIT

To start building the probe kit we explored our curiosity together, and created the following questions for the probe:

- 1.What are important characteristics of other people in Innovation Café that you wish you had ?
- 2.If you were as little as a fly, where would you sit during the presentation? Why ?
- 3.What is a moment when someone challenged how you see things ?
- 4.What is your favorite way to connect with others? (e.g., online or in person, in a crowd or one-on-one, at home or outdoors...)

In addition to this, the probe kit contained four maps that came with prompts. The assignment for our test subjects was to color the map, in a way that answered the prompt for them. On the right you will find the maps and their respective prompts.

Lastly, we utilized the mobile app POV as a makeshift disposable camera. The app allows users to take a limited number of pictures, which they cannot view themselves.

### Map 1

Using the provided map of the human body, highlight the areas where you feel the most stress or emotion when interacting with others. Which parts of your body are most affected or express this tension the most?

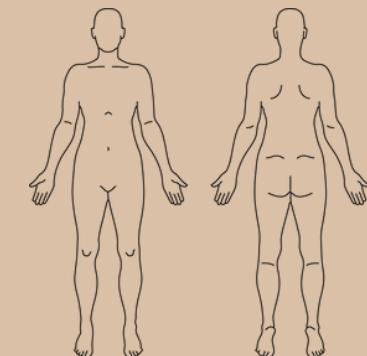


Figure 5.1: Human Body Map [11]

### Map 2

Using the provided home layout map, indicate where you typically set up your workstation. Which area of your home do you prefer for preparing a presentation?



Figure 5.2: Home Layout Map [12]

**Map 3**

Using the provided clock layout image, mark the time when you feel most productive and get the most work done

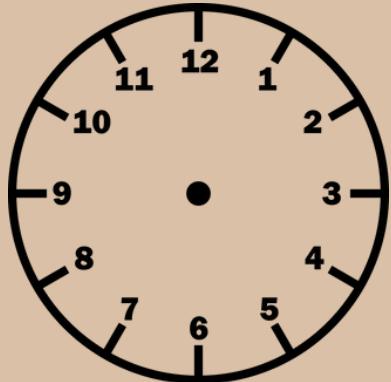


Figure 5.3: Clock Map (illustration by author)

**Map 4**

Can you guide us through the steps you take to prepare for a presentation?  
(e.g., different stages of making a presentation, mental preparation, practicing)

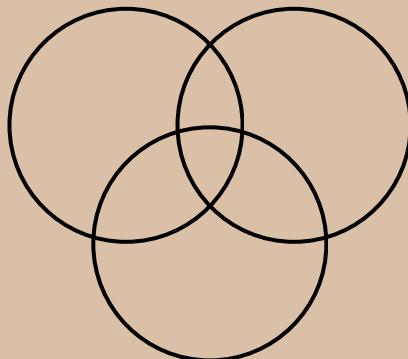


Figure 5.4: Circles Map [13]

Instead, the photos are sent to the host and only become visible after a set amount of time has passed. We used this app to encourage people to capture photos in the moment without retaking them. The QR code to the app was printed on paper along with five prompts that describe what people should take pictures of.

Camera prompts with a QR code leading to the POV app.

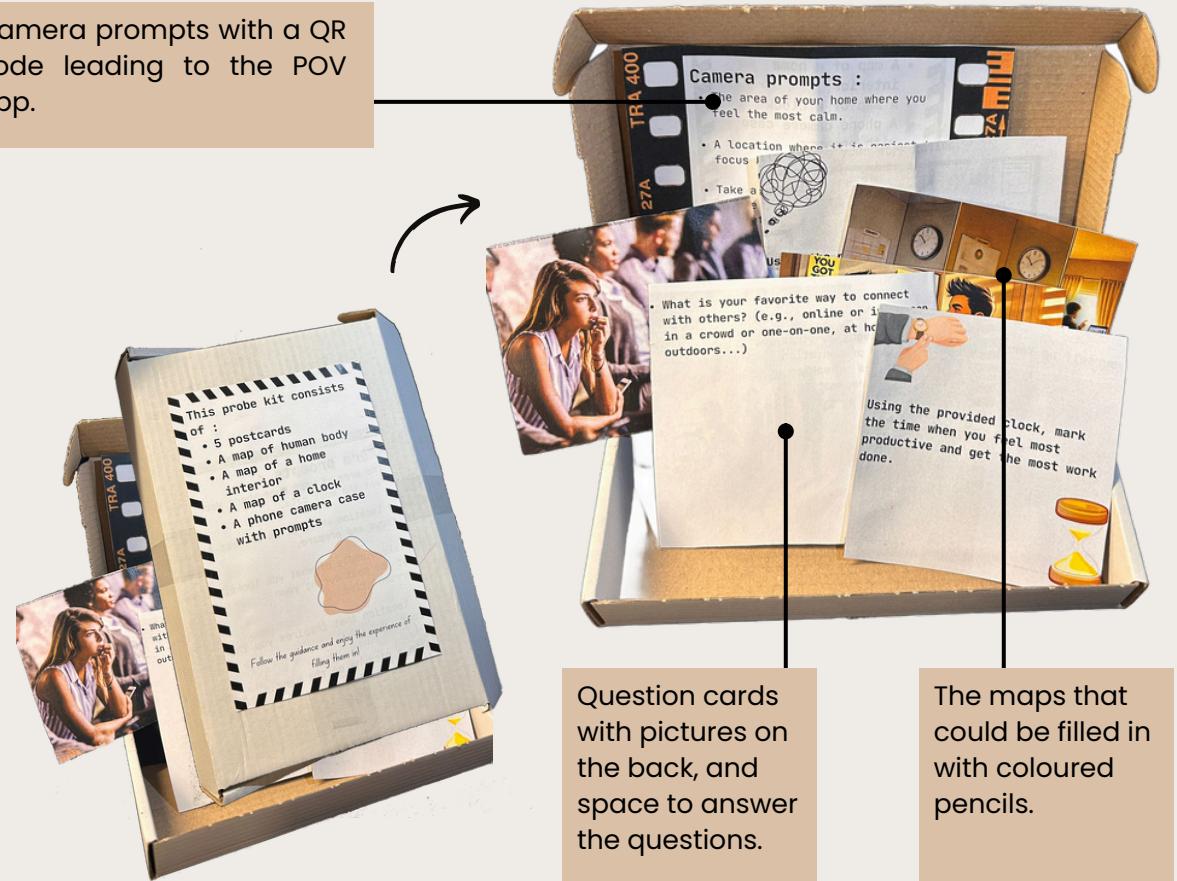


Figure 5.5: The first probe kit and its content; the camera prompts, questions on postcards and the maps.  
(Photos by author)

## RESULTS

For individuals answering the probe's questions and filling in the maps, the team noticed some commonalities and trends in some of the responses. The collected data suggests that students (the individuals who answered the initial cultural probe) work well in the evening, perhaps as a way to separate themselves from outside distractions of the day. In addition, individuals who suffer from emotional episodes of panic or anxiety find breathing exercises to be beneficial in efforts to calm down. In addition to these commonalities, a trend was recognized in the calmest environment for individuals to be their bedrooms.

We expected the questions to give us clear answers, and personal insight. However, we mainly received very short and generic answers. We realized that this was caused by us asking very short and generic questions, not meant for open interpretation. Although we did gather data, the data was not as informative as expected.

How do you psych yourself up for a presentation?

- Talking the points over with friends/reviewing notes

Do you have any rituals to comfort yourself in the event of panic or anxiety?

- Playing chess

How did you feel right after presenting?

- Glad that it's done with

Figure 5.7: Questions answered by a participant

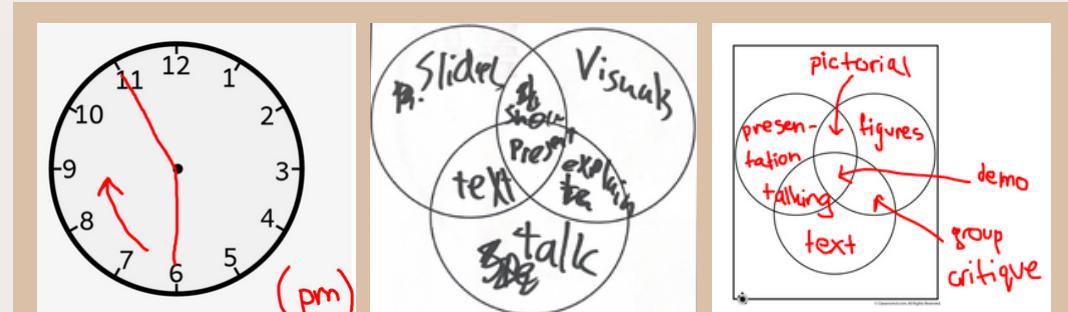
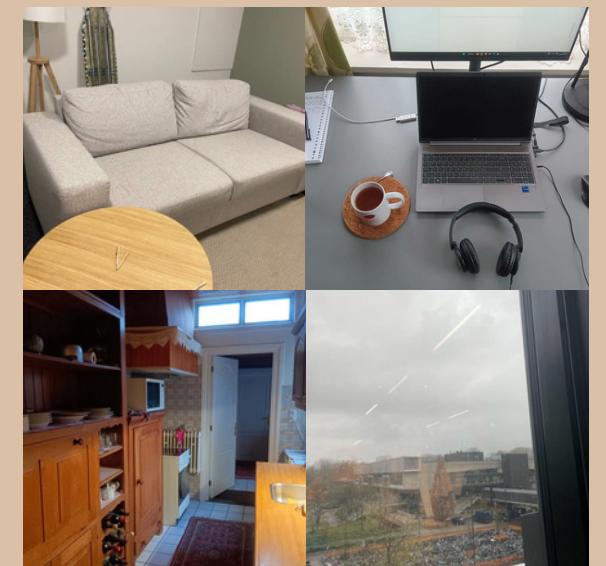


Figure 5.6: Maps from the first probe kit filled in by participants.

By the way the maps were filled in, we were able to gain the information we were after. However, the clock map did not fit the question we were asking well, as it does not allow for participants to give up blocks of time throughout the day. The map with the three overlapping circles also needed a lot of extra explaining to participants, which indicates a lack of good explanation or a poor choice for the design of the map.

The results from the POV app turned out well. We received the picture immediately after they were taken, and the participants carefully chose how they took their pictures, as they were unable to retake them. This exercise did reveal the need for a way to distinguish which picture belongs to which camera prompt, as we now had to guess based on the content of the picture.

Figure 5.8: pictures sent in on POV



## DESIGN & DEPLOYMENT FINAL PROBE

The initial probe kit provided some insight into how individuals process stress during presentations, but feedback from the tutor session and interactions with other teams revealed the need for changes. The original probes focused primarily on individual presentation skills in a community context, lacking a deeper understanding of our specific community. This motivated us to revisit our curiosity about Eindhoven Innovation Café and deepen our community understanding. Based on the feedback, we shifted our approach from informative to poetic and layered.

Additionally, we observed that the prompts didn't challenge users' creativity or encourage deeper reflection. Despite the topic's interest, the probes yielded more informative than cultural or personal outcomes. Using the feedback and theories, we refocused on communal interactions, aiming to understand what it means to be part of this community.

This shift led to a change in our research questions. The original question—"How is the quality of a presentation influenced by the workspace, past experiences, and

preparation rituals?"—emphasized preparation rituals, and focused on presenters, rather than visitors, which is what the majority of the EIC community is.. The updated question became: **"How are relationships formed and maintained between individuals from vastly different levels of experience and disciplines at the Eindhoven Innovation Café?"** This reflected our focus on inter-communal interactions and the harmony between varying experience levels. We added the following sub-questions:

- How does the diversity of disciplines impact creativity and outcomes in relationships formed at the Eindhoven Innovation Café?
- How do individuals from different disciplines perceive the value of interdisciplinary relationships at the Eindhoven Innovation Café?
- What role does the physical environment of the Eindhoven Innovation Café play in fostering inclusive interactions?

Based on these new insights we created a second probe. The updated probe kit consists of five parts: three customized maps, a set of postcards with targeted questions, photo prompts, and a creative exercise inviting participants to explore the community's communication dynamics.

Using a container shape as half a globe, along with materials such as leaves and ornaments, participants metaphorically represent how communication flows within the Eindhoven Innovation Café.

To develop the new probe kit, we established clear goals for each exercise and question, assigning one person as the primary lead for each component. The goals and methods for each part of the kit can be found in Appendix X. This structured approach not only ensured the questions are more open-ended and exploratory but also aligns every part of the kit with the purpose of investigating how design can enhance community dynamics and inclusivity.

### Postcards lay-out

The post cards are carefully designed to fit the atmosphere of the Eindhoven Innovation Café. The front features a picture of the café along with some information about it, while the back displays the question and provides space for responses.



Dutch Design Week 2018  
Kazerne, Eindhoven

DDW Exposition at  
Kazerne

EHV INNOVATION  
CAFE KAZERNE  
PARKWIJZEL AAN 2-8  
5611EN EINDHOVEN  
OCT 2018

If speaking up at an event were like an animal in the wild, what would it be like for you?

How does the presence of the community around you influence whether you feel like a bold lion or a quiet owl in these moments?

TU/e  
EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Figure 6.1: Postcard designs for the final probe kit

## CONTENT OF THE FINAL PROBE KIT

### Questions

1. Age and professional background
2. What qualities do you admire in the people within the EIC community?
3. If speaking up at an event were like an animal in the wild, what would it be like for you? Is it like a bird soaring confidently into the sky, or like a rabbit in a field, hesitant to leave the safety of its burrow?
4. Can you recall a moment during an EIC event when someone changed your perspective on design and/or innovation? Please elaborate.

### Ecosystem Assignment

Imagine the EIC community as a living, breathing ecosystem. Using provided materials (figure x), illustrate how you feel communication flows within the community. Feel free to use any suitable object/material in your personal space. Let your creativity guide your response.



Figure 6.2: provided materials

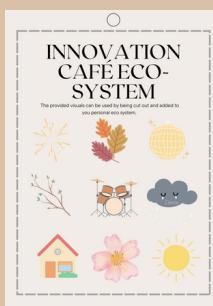


Figure 6.6: Exterior Probe Kit

### Photo Prompts

- 1. Motivation:** Photograph something or someone that drove you to attend today.
- 2. Curiosity:** Capture something that sparks your curiosity.
- 3. Conversation Starter:** Find an object, place, or setup within the Kazerne that inspired a conversation.
- 4. Community Connection:** Take a picture of a moment of interaction that made you feel connected.
- 5. First Discovery:** Document something that represents how you first discovered the Eindhoven Innovation Café.

### Map 1: phone map

This map explores how participants relate their most-used apps and websites to key aspects of the community, like inclusivity or innovation. Participants draw and annotate a phone template with app icons and assign relevant terms to each.

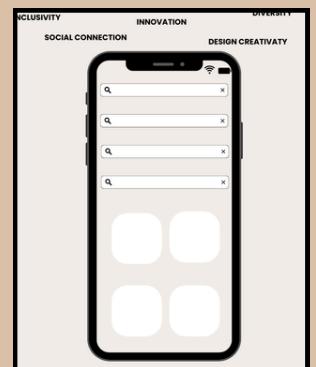


Figure 6.3: Phone Map [14]

### Map 2: interpersonal relationship map

Participants visualize their relationships within the community using shapes, colors, and annotations to represent connections and the nature of those relationships.

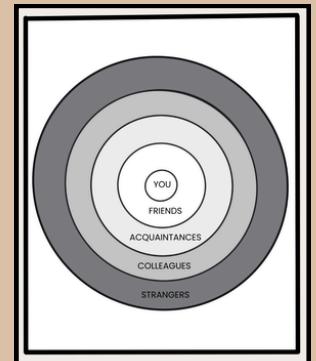


Figure 6.4: Relationship Map (illustration by the author)

### Map 3: interactions map

This map investigates how the Kazerne space fosters interaction. Participants mark areas where they observe connections happening and describe how these spaces encourage or influence community engagement.



Figure 6.5: Kazerne Map [15]

## SYNTHESIS & DESIGN IMPLICATIONS

Our research focuses on visitors of Eindhoven Innovation Café, all enthusiasts in technology, design, and urban development. We aimed to engage individuals from varied educational backgrounds, professions, age groups, and genders. The graphs presented (Figure 7.1) visualize participant demographics. There is no overlap in professions, reflecting the Café's openness to anyone passionate about design and technology, regardless of occupation. However, the group mainly consists of participants above 50. As one of the retired participants explained, the EIC events provide a way to remain connected to a community centered on technology while

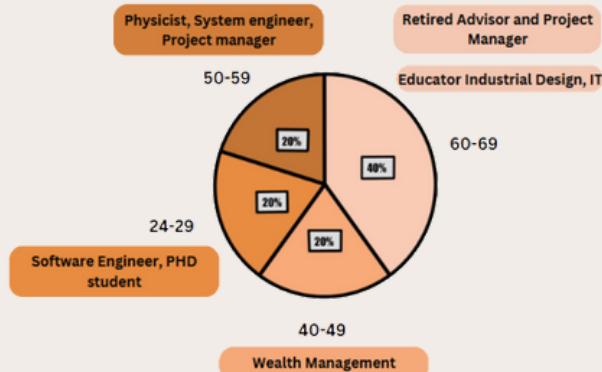
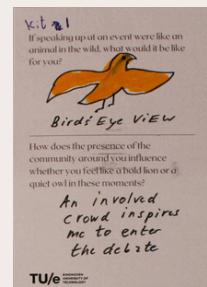


Figure 7.1: Participant demographic

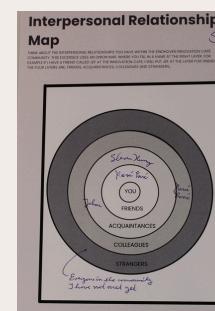
staying informed about the latest developments in the field. This group also consists solely of individuals with higher education, suggesting either a lack of diversity in educational backgrounds or a participant selection that misrepresents the community.

## RESULTS



We identified a lot of allusion to birds when it comes to the animals that people see the event space as, potentially in a manner that makes individuals feel like they are free to explore new ideas and break free from conventional thought by the inspiration they draw from the community.

The majority of individuals who partook in the probe kit were above the age of 30, which offers interesting insights into what they go there for. The most used websites and applications of these individuals are Facebook and LinkedIn with Google Translate and Instagram being not far behind.



We observed a trend of bar being the first-place preferred. This popularity comes from its small talk opportunity with anyone before the event to later on get to know specific ones better. Only one individual was more interested in the dinner talks as being deeper and more meaningful than the "small talk/chatter" at the bar.

There are very few people who don't know somebody at the EIC, some individuals see it only as a place to meet like-minded individuals or colleagues. Others see it as an avenue for developing friendships or have made friends and acquaintances at the event space.

Most of the participants identified the **openness** and **sharing of ideas** as an **inspirational** aspect of the innovation space. The **free exchange of ideas and willingness to interact with people from all different backgrounds** is seen as an inspiration. The presence of the community affects individuals in their own unique ways, while some prefer to save conversation for those who they can trust, others feel **inspired to participate** and add their voice to the **open discussions** that take place. Additionally, it can be seen that older individuals all seem to come from a technical background of some variety, which is interesting given the design-oriented nature of the probe kit and their creative expression ways.

### CREATIVITY EXERCISE

This extra exercise brought diverse perspectives into how individuals from innovation cafe use their creativity to explain the atmosphere. It is possible say that the outcomes were creative and well-thought which can be connected back to the "design interest and focus " of the community at the core. Use of provided materials did diverse from participant to participant. Meanwhile some used the exact materials and terrarium provided by our group, others preferred different medians.

**“ I admire the love and joy this community has for what they do, the passion and commitment. ”**



Two participants used the provided plastic half-globes, filling them with different materials. One used natural elements like moss, wood, dried flowers, and stones to convey a sense of organic, natural communication within the community. The other filled theirs with colorful, artificial materials and a candle, symbolizing warmth, energy, and vibrancy.



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A lantern with a candle in the middle, which can be opened and closed, symbolized the participant's feelings about the community. They included puzzle pieces, moss, and colorful pom-poms to represent the diversity of conversations and connections. The puzzle pieces metaphorically depicted the community as a large puzzle, with its people, events, and ideas forming smaller interconnected pieces.



**“ The presence of the community influences me a lot : I will not speak if there is no trust. ”**

**“ This community is like all different bird species. Each singing a different song but all worthwhile listening to. ”**

We noticed that participants appreciated the multi-step structure of the Innovation Café, which flows harmoniously like a river: small talk leads to presentations and Q&A, followed by networking and optional dinner with the presenters. This layered structure fosters diverse perspectives and personal growth, with regular attendees viewing each talk as a developmental step. One participant used a fluffy decoration to represent less defined ideas, while glass balls symbolized the transformation of these ideas into clear, layered perspectives. This reflects how the café helps participants evolve their thinking over time.



An art board including a selfportrait, a picture of people dining, with annotations and quotes from 'Espèces D'espaces' by George Perec [16], that the participant felt fit Eindhoven Innovation Café, and the space in which it is held. The quotes suggest that the participant feels inspired by the space. The use of multiple languages such as French, English and Dutch can be connected back to the popularity of Google Translate, the most used app.



A room with a nature-themed map on the floor, a table with food, four chairs, and walls adorned with illustrations and famous art pieces symbolizes the inspiring atmosphere of the Kazerne, known for its diverse art and seasonal exhibitions.

Similarly, EIC events often feature dinners where participants discuss event topics. Attendees admire the community's diversity in age, gender, perspectives, backgrounds, and cultures, finding it inspiring how these differences unite around shared passions and interests to build a cohesive community.

## DESIGN IMPLICATIONS

The Eindhoven Innovation Café research highlights how relationships form and thrive across varied experiences and disciplines. Interactions evolve from casual chats to presentations and in-depth discussions, emphasizing the need for designs supporting layered engagement. Beyond physical spaces, tools like digital platforms for tracking connections, extending conversations, or spotlighting shared interests could bridge gaps. The community's diversity inspires inclusive designs—such as multilingual tools and collaborative systems—that encourage serendipitous connections while honoring individual contributions.

Metaphors like puzzles and birds used by participants reflect the collaborative and exploratory nature of the community, suggesting the value of interactive, symbolic tools for co-creation. While openness is celebrated, some attendees favor private exchanges, calling for designs that balance public and intimate interactions. The weekly format's impact on personal and professional growth underscores the need for tools that track progress or visualize idea evolution. These findings align with innovation ecosystem and participatory design literature, which emphasize diverse, co-creative environments for meaningful connections and sustained collaboration.

## CLUSTERS AND THEMES

After synthesizing the data, we were able to break down the participants into three distinct groups. These groups are defined by their responses in three main categories: Design and Different Perspectives, Curiosity, and Connection & Community Emphasis.

Group 1, henceforth referred to as the retiree group, was filled with retired professionals with extensive experience who put up barriers to perspective changes.

Additionally, they had a passion for learning, developed casual relationships, and were focused on social connections through cross-disciplinary inspiration as well as inclusivity.

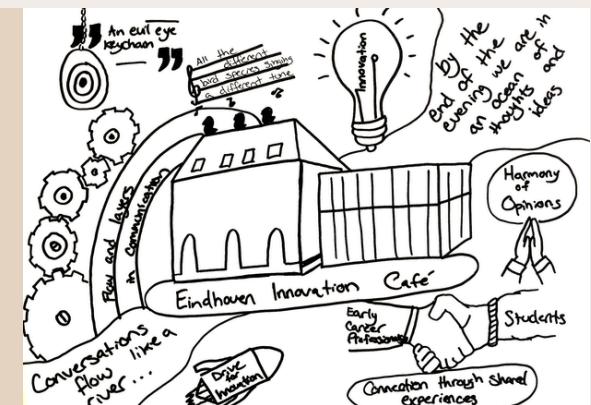
Group 2, referred to as the early career group, was filled with early career professionals and students who viewed communication as a flowing state and saw various opinions as the opportunity for harmony. They held a drive for innovation as well as a perceived heightened engagement with the EIC. Additionally, they viewed the community as a place to develop closer relationships through shared experiences.

Group 3, the mid-career group, was comprised of individuals in tech and management professions who held critical reflections on design. Additionally, their engagement with the EIC was dependent upon the atmosphere of the community, however they engaged with the diversity as well as the inclusivity in collaboration fostered by the space.

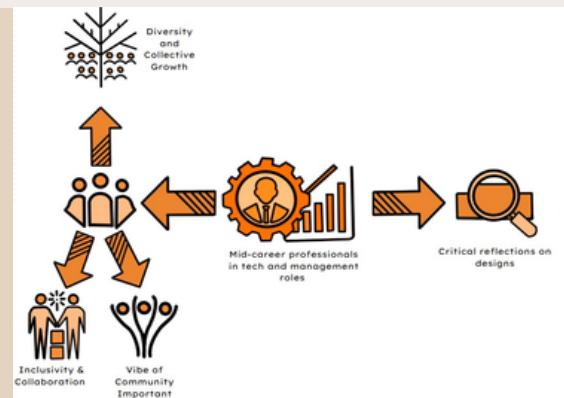
Group 1's Infographic shows critical aspects of the people in this group and topics they find important in a community. It discusses who these people are, how they see the Innovation Cafe and why they are part of this community.



Group 2's infographic showcases some quotations attributed to members of the thematic group inspired by data harvesting methods. In addition, images of the EIC space as well as images of innovative technology are showcased to help solidify their drive for innovation. Handshakes symbolize the drive to work together to develop relationships.



Group 3's infographics showcases the key aspects the mid-career group consist of. In the middle of the left side you find a symbol for community. Around it you see how this group connects to the community of the Innovation Cafe.



## CONCLUSION

To facilitate connectivity and inclusivity in the Eindhoven Innovation Café, several things need to be kept in mind. First and foremost, multilingual tools and systems that foster collaboration are a must to improve and broaden the reach of the café. Additionally, tools for visually tracking development can help to bridge the gap caused by the disparate societal nature of the participants. While participants may speak unfamiliar languages, all the individuals of the café speak the same language of design and technology.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: CONTENT FINAL PROBE MAP

#### Map of Frequently Used Websites and Applications

- Purpose: Identify the digital platforms that play a key role in your daily life.
- Instructions:
  - a. List the websites and applications you use most often.
  - b. Use a provided map template.
  - c. Categorize the platforms based on...

#### Onion Map of Relationships in the Eindhoven Innovation Café

- Purpose: Visualize the depth and variety of connections you have made.
- Instructions:
  - a. The innermost circle represents you.
  - b. From inside to outside, place individuals or groups with progressively weaker relationships; the strongest relationships being placed within the circles closest to the center.
  - c. Use symbols or colors to denote types of relationships (e.g., professional, social).

#### Simplified Floorplan Map

- Purpose: Analyze how the space's design encourages participation.
- Instructions:
  - a. Highlight areas that you find visually appealing or inviting.
  - b. Mark spots where interaction is most likely to happen.

#### Postcard Questions

- Purpose: Reflect on your background, perceptions, and moments of personal growth.
- Instructions: Answer the questions on the postcards thoughtfully:

#### Photo Prompts

- Purpose: Capture meaningful moments and elements of the event.
- Instructions: Use your phone, with the application to take photos for the following prompts:
  - a. Motivation: Photograph something or someone that drove you to attend today.
  - b. Curiosity: Capture something that sparks your curiosity.
  - c. Conversation Starter: Find an object, place, or setup within the Kazerne that inspired a conversation.
  - d. Community Connection: Take a picture of a moment of interaction that made you feel connected.
  - e. First Discovery: Document something that represents how you first discovered the Eindhoven Innovation Café.

#### Communication Flow Representation

- Purpose: Illustrate how communication occurs within the community.
- Instructions:
  - a. Using words, sketches, or symbols, create a representation of communication flows.
  - b. Include elements like:
    - i. - Key individuals or roles facilitating communication.
    - ii. - Tools or platforms used (e.g., emails, meetings, social media).
    - iii. Patterns of interaction (e.g., collaborative, hierarchical).
  - c. Annotate or explain your representation briefly.

## APPENDIX 2: Information sheet for research project “Design <> Research E5 Cultural Probe”

### Introduction

You have been invited to take part in research project Design <> Research E5 Cultural Probe, because you are a member of the Eindhoven Innovation Café community, and Annemoon Geurts has offered their space at EIC for the cultural probe.

Participation in this research project is voluntary: the decision to take part is up to you. Before you decide to participate we would like to ask you to read the following information, so that you know what the research project is about, what we expect from you and how we deal with processing your personal data. Based on this information you can indicate via the consent declaration whether you consent to take part in this research project and the processing of your personal data.

You may of course always contact the Tilde Bekker via [m.m.bekker@tue.nl](mailto:m.m.bekker@tue.nl), if you have any questions, or you can discuss this information with people you know.

### Purpose of the research

This research project will be managed by Tilde Bekker.

The purpose of this research project is to study how design can strengthen connectivity and inclusivity within the Eindhoven Innovation Café by exploring various dynamics.

### What will taking part in the research project involve?

You will be taking part in a research project in which we will gather information by: having various participants interact with the cultural probe kit provided.

1. A map to fill out which websites and applications you most frequently use.
2. An onion map about the relationships you have developed at the Eindhoven Innovation Café.
3. A simplified map of the floorplan with the purpose to see how the aesthetics of the space invites participation.
4. Questions regarding your age and professional background, as well as how you view others within the Eindhoven Innovation Café Community, how you see yourself with regard to public speaking, as well as a moment you were challenged in the way you view things.
5. Several photo prompts where you will be tasked to take a photograph of:
  - o Something/someone that drove you to come to today's Eindhoven Innovation Café event.
  - o Something that sparks your curiosity.
  - o An object/place/setup within the Kazerne that inspired the start of a conversation.
  - o A moment of interaction at today's event that made you feel connected to the Eindhoven Innovation Café community.

- o Something that represents how you first discovered the Eindhoven Innovation Café; whether through an event, conversation, social media, or something else.

6. A task where you use words, sketches, or symbols, to describe or illustrate how you feel communication flows within this community

This study will be completely anonymous, and the data obtained from the study will not be traceable to you.

For your participation in this research project you will not be compensated.

### Potential risks and inconveniences

Your participation in this research project does not involve any physical, legal or economic risks. You do not have to answer questions which you do not wish to answer. Your participation is voluntary. This means that you may end your participation at any moment you choose by letting the researcher know this. You do not have to explain why you decided to end your participation in the research project. Ending your participation will have no disadvantageous consequences for you.

If you decide to end your participation during the research, the data which you already provided up to the moment of withdrawal of your consent will be used in the research. Do you wish to end the research, or do you have any questions and/or complaints? Then please contact Tilde Bekker via [m.m.bekker@tue.nl](mailto:m.m.bekker@tue.nl).

During your participation in this research you may be asked questions which you may find (very) personal in view of the delicate nature of the subject. These questions concern your age and professional background. We ask these questions exclusively in the interest of the research project. However, you do not need to answer questions you do not wish to answer. Your participation is voluntary and you can end your participation at any moment you choose. Ending your participation will have no disadvantageous consequences for you.

If you decide to end your participation during the research, the data which you already provided up to the moment of withdrawal of your consent will be used in the research. Do you wish to end the research, or do you have any questions and/or complaints? Then please contact the Tilde Bekker via [m.m.bekker@tue.nl](mailto:m.m.bekker@tue.nl).

### Confidentiality of data

The raw and processed research data will be retained for a period of 1 year. Ultimately after expiration of this time period the data will be either deleted or anonymized so that it can no longer be connected to an individual person. The research data will, if necessary (e.g. for a check on scientific integrity) and only in anonymous form be made available to persons outside the research group.

## APPENDIX 2: Information sheet for research project “Design <> Research E5 Cultural Probe”

<p><b>Summary of fast-track procedure for supervisors</b></p> <p>Ethical Review Board, dec 2022</p> <p>Version 1</p> <p><b>Background</b></p> <p>For research with human participants or with personal data, all TU/e employees and bachelor- and master students are obliged to request ethical approval from the Ethical Review Board in advance. The main criteria considered in the ethical review of studies with humans is whether the study participants are treated with dignity and respect, whether they participate voluntarily, whether the burden is reasonable, and whether they are adequately protected against potential risks. Special attention is paid to vulnerable groups such as children or patients and to sensitive subjects, for example gender, religion, political beliefs and alcohol and drug use.</p> <p><b>Requirements for fast-track approval</b></p> <p>In certain cases, students can get fast-track approval from the Ethical Review Board (ERB). Their research needs to comply with the requirements described in the Ethical Review Form version 1.6. The students need to complete the entire ERB form. As a supervisor, please check the research question and research design thoroughly and the survey/interview questions used or description of experiment or prototype that is appropriate for each particular research study. The self-assessment checklists in parts 5 and 6 of the form should indicate the blue boxes for fast-track approval. These requirements are summarized below, for assisting you as a supervisor.</p> <p><b>General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research with healthy adults</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No medical research</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research with non-commercial human waste material only when supervisor has consulted the medical coordinator</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participating in the research is completely voluntary (think about peer pressure)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Explicit informed consent is or was obtained from participants (on paper or digitally)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participants are not dependent on the researcher</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation is not burdensome (for example questionnaires that are extraordinarily long or tasks that need repeating several times)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No harm or discomfort for the participant (such as stress, anxiety, fear, pain)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No compensation, other than reasonable expenses and compensation for time (see HTI guideline <a href="#">here</a>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Observational research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation only in public spaces</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No sensitive topics (such as sexual experiences, religion, alcohol and drug use, suicidal thoughts, diseases or other subjects that can be interpreted as very personal or intimate)</li> </ul> <p><b>Experimental research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No medical device</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not invasive (i.e. nothing affects the body, e.g. no puncture)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CE-certified devices are used for intended use</li> </ul>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Only using non-CE certified devices or CE-certified devices for unintended use when completely harmless (&lt;18 V) and no hazardous waste (fumes/gas/substances) is released. Check the safety guidelines.</p> <p><b>Privacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data is collected or processed anonymously or de-identified immediately and cannot be traced back to individuals</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No collection or processing of special category personal data</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not processing personal data on a large scale, no monitoring of persons, no scoring/ranking/profiling persons, not composing ‘blacklists’</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not using new or innovative technologies that may compromise privacy such as facial recognition, bodycams, AI</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No combining of databases from different sources</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not compromising legal rights to privacy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No transfer of data outside EU/EEA and high-risk countries</li> </ul> <p><b>Research that complies with the requirements for fast-track approval</b></p> <p>If the research meets the requirements for fast-track approval, the supervisor needs to sign the ERB form and the student can send it to <a href="mailto:ethics@tue.nl">ethics@tue.nl</a>. The student will receive an ethical approval within 2 working days. There may be a check afterwards by the ERB or the Data Stewards team.</p> <p><b>Research that does not comply with the requirements for fast-track approval</b></p> <p>If the requirements for fast-track approval are not met, the research design should be altered in such a way that minimal risk for the participant can be achieved. If this is not possible, you as a supervisor should submit the study to the ERB. The regular processing time applies (2-6 working weeks). See <a href="https://intranet.tue.nl/ethics">https://intranet.tue.nl/ethics</a> for instructions.</p>
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## APPENDIX 2: Information sheet for research project “Design <> Research E5 Cultural Probe”

Your anonymized data can be made available for future research, for example by sharing those data with fellow researchers or making anonymized/pseudonymized data available via a data archive or repository.

This research project was assessed and approved on 11/11/24 by the ethical review committee of Eindhoven University of Technology.

**APPENDIX 3: Information sheet for research project “Design <> Research E5 Cultural Probe”**

By signing this consent form I acknowledge the following:  
My information will be collected anonymously to be used in research  
by students at the Eindhoven Technical University.

1. I am sufficiently informed about the research project through a separate information sheet. I have read the information sheet and have had the opportunity to ask questions. These questions have been answered satisfactorily.
2. I take part in this research project voluntarily. There is no explicit or implicit pressure for me to take part in this research project. It is clear to me that I can end participation in this research project at any moment, without giving any reason. I do not have to answer a question if I do not wish to do so.

Name of Participant:

Signature:

Date:

Name of researcher:

Signature:

Date: