

**Letter of Information for Implied Consent**

Linked Modernisms Project

You are invited to participate in a study entitled “Linked Modernisms Project”

that is being conducted by Stephen Ross. Dr. Ross is an associate professor at the University of Victoria, and you may contact him if you have further questions by emailing saross@uvic.ca.

Purpose and Objectives

The research project will seek to discover whether any patterns obtain with regard to the sex, gender, ethnicity, geographical location, disciplinary background, or language spoken of contributors to the REM. The research question for this survey is whether we can identify patterns in the responses to the first survey that correlate to the above-listed charactersitics of the respondents. My objective is to discover how the field of modernist studies is itself shaped by subjective determinants such as ethnicity, gender, etc. The survey will be kept separate from the REM, but correlated to it using a relational database that will allow us to analyze statistically what percentage of men provided certain kinds of response, versus the percentage of women, and so forth.

Importance of this Research

This research will provide the first ever statistically reliable overview of how subjective elements such as gender and ethnicity shape the putatively objective realms of academic inquiry. It will allow scholars in the field to become aware of the ‘unmarked background’ against which their work is conducted, and thereby to become much more aware of the sorts of considerations one needs to take into account to resolve biases in research.

Participants Selection

You are being asked to participate in this study because you are providing the content for the most comprehensive resource on modernism that has yet been produced. You are helping to define the field across disciplinary and geographical boundaries for a generation of scholars.

What is involved

If you consent to voluntarily participate in this research, your participation will include filling out a short survey online (5-10 minutes). The survey will ask you for standard demographic information as well as the terms for which you provided entries for the REM, so that we can correlate the data related to those entries with the data gathered here.

As we will be using Survey Monkey to gather the data, we must advise you that information about you that is gathered for this research study uses an online program located in the U.S. As such, there is a possibility that information about you may be accessed without your knowledge or consent by the U.S. government in compliance with the U.S. Patriot Act.

Risks

There are no known or anticipated risks to you by participating in this research.

Benefits

The potential benefits of your participation in this research include

Participant – Providing data key to establishing a snapshot overview of the state of modernist studies around the world. Access to the research results before they are published.

Society – A clearer view of the ways in which unmarked biases and characteristics of participants in discipline-defining projects such as the REM can influence the shape those disciplines take. A consequently higher awareness of the ways in which what Michel Foucault called “regimes of knowledge” are constructed rather than simply uncovered as truth.

State of Knowledge – An additional dimension to our understanding of modernism itself as a product of the field of modernist studies. Modernism has always been the product of critical discourse – it was not “modernism” to its practitioners – and continues to be. With this tool in place, we will be able to limn more clearly and carefully the precise ways in which modernist studies as a set of disciplines in fact produces modernism as a phenomenon.

Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this research must be completely voluntary. If you do decide to participate, you may withdraw at any time without any consequences or any explanation. If you do withdraw from the study your data will be destroyed and no use of it will be made in analysis of results. Participation is always free and voluntary, and any participant may opt out of the process at any point without any fear of taint or prejudice.

Researcher’s Relationship with Participants

The researcher may have a relationship to potential participants given his role as General Editor of the Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism, and the participants’ roles as contributors and/or editors on the project.

To help prevent this relationship from influencing your decision to participate, the following steps to prevent coercion have been taken. THEY WILL BE GUARANTEED THROUGH A LEGALLY BINDING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED BY THE RA AND THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

* a Research Assistant will be hired who will manage all personal data including which potential participants agree or decline to participate. This information will be kept separately from the data in an encoded file on an external hard drive to which only the RA will have access.
* ~~a legally binding agreement will be signed between the RA and the Principal Investigator requiring~~ both THE RA AND THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR ARE LEGALLY REQUIRED to maintain absolute confidentiality in the handling of personal data; ~~and requiring~~ the RA IS LEGALLY REQUIRED to keep personal identification private from the PI in particular.
* the PI will never know which of the potential applicants has participated in the survey or who provided which answers.

Anonymity

In terms of protecting your anonymity, we have undertaken the procedures described just above, and will not use any personally identifying information in our analysis or presentation of the research results. Personal information will be kept only for as long as it is required for administering the survey and tabulating the results. Once that purpose has been served it will be destroyed.

Confidentiality

Your confidentiality and the confidentiality of the data will be protected by the means outlined above.

Dissemination of Results

It is anticipated that the results of this study will be shared with others in the following ways:

* as papers delivered at conferences such as the Modernist Studies Association, the Modern Language Association, The Congress of the Social Sciences and the Humanities, Digital Humanities, and the Digital Humanities Summer Institute
* as articles submitted for publication in such journals as *Modernism/modernity* and *Digital Humanities Quarterly*

Disposal of Data

Data from this study will be destroyed. The hard drive on which the data is stored will be subjected to a 7-pass erasure process that completely removes information and overwrites each sector of the HDD seven times to ensure that no trace of it is recoverable.

Contacts

Individuals that may be contacted regarding this study include Dr. Stephen Ross, Principal Investigator, at [saross@uvic.ca](mailto:saross@uvic.ca) and the designated Research Assistant (yet TBD).

In addition, you may verify the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns you might have, by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca).

By completing and submitting the questionnaire, your free and informed consent is implied, and indicates that you understand the above conditions of participation in this study and that you have had the opportunity to have your questions answered by the researchers.

Please retain a copy of this letter for your reference.