

**Exploring the Influence of Chinese Youth Social Media Use on Lying-Flat Attitudes**

**Participant Information Sheet**

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether or not to take part, 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. Ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information. Take some time to decide whether or not to take part.

This two-month project aims to investigate the extent to which Chinese youth's usage with social media shapes their identification with and online expression of the prevalent subculture known as the "Lying-Flat Attitude." Data will be collected through online questionnaires targeting Chinese youth social media users, and subsequent Bayesian mediation analysis will be conducted to derive insights and findings.

### Why have I been invited to participate?

The online survey for this study will be made available on the Weibo platform for social media users to freely access and complete. You have been invited to participate in this study because you discovered the online survey link on a social media platform.

### Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this Participant Information Sheet to keep and be asked to sign an Informed Consent Form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw from the study at a later date, without giving a reason and without any impact on any services you are using. Only the project team will have access to the research data until August 10th.

### What does taking part involve?

You will primarily be asked questions related to your social media usage habits, attitudes towards public events and current society. Additionally, you will be asked questions regarding your gender, age, educational level, satisfaction with income, and trust in the government. Please note that this anonymous questionnaire does not involve any personal information or contact details. It is estimated to take approximately 7 minutes to complete.

### are there any possible risks or disadvantages in taking part? (where relevant)

*There are no significant risks anticipated from participation in this research project.*

### What are the possible benefits of taking part?

By sharing your experiences with us, you will be helping me and the University to better understand lying-flat mentality in China and its relationship to youth social media usage.

### What If I Want To Withdraw From The Project?

*Agreeing to participate in this project does not oblige you to remain in the study or to have any further obligations to the research project or team. If at any stage you no longer want to be part of the study, you can withdraw from the project by contacting [Yanliang Wu and s2142826@ed.ac.uk]. You should note that your data may be used in the production of formal research outputs (e.g. journal articles, conference papers, reports) prior to your withdrawal and so you are advised to contact the research team at the earliest opportunity should you wish to withdraw from the study.*

*You can withdraw from the project up until data analysis begins (June 10th). If you withdraw from the project all your identifiable data will be destroyed, but we will continue to use the anonymised data collected up to your withdrawal, and we will maintain our records of your original consent.*

### How Will My Data Be Looked After during the project?

All your data will be processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) along with the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). The project will be also be guided by and adhere to the University of Edinburgh’s data protection guidance and regulations, see

<http://www.recordsmanagement.ed.ac.uk/InfoStaff/DPstaff/DataProtectionGuidance.htm>

Only the research team involved in this project will have access to the data during the course of the study. Electronic project data will be uploaded as soon as possible to a secure University of Edinburgh server and stored there for the duration of the project, only accessible to the project team.

### What will happen to my data after the end of the project?

At the end of the project (after all publications have been published), all data will be deleted using the latest University of Edinburgh protocol for secure data deletion. For further details on how the data will be securely deleted see: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/infosec/how-to-protect/secure-deletion>

### What should I do if I want to take part?

If you wish to participate in the research, please select the "Agree" option below and proceed to answer the questionnaire. The deadline for completing the survey is June 10th.

### What will happen with the results of the research project?

The results of this study will be used in a student dissertation for a master’s degree on Social Research. The data will not be identified in any report/publication unless you have given your consent for this.

### Who is organising and funding the research?

I am conducting the research as a student in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Edinburgh and I am the sole researcher.

### Who has approved this project?

*This research project has been approved through the ethical review process in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Edinburgh.*

### Contact for Further Information

*If you have any further questions about this project, please contact the lead researcher Christopher Barrie.*

*If you have any concerns about the way in which the project has been conducted, or you wish to make a complaint, you can contact the Deputy Director of Research (Ethics and Integrity) in the School of Social and Political Sciences:*

*Deputy Director of Research (Ethics and Integrity)*

*School of Social and Political Sciences*

*University of Edinburgh*

*Edinburgh EH8 8LN  
e-mail: ethics-ssps@ed.ac.uk*

*For general information about how the University of Edinburgh looks after research data go to: https://www.ed.ac.uk/records-management/privacy-notice-research*

*If you have any queries about how the project data is managed, you can contact the University Data Protection Officer, Dr Rena Gertz, at* [*dpo@ed.ac.uk*](mailto:dpo@ed.ac.uk)*. See* [*https://www.ed.ac.uk/records-management/about/data-protection-officer*](https://www.ed.ac.uk/records-management/about/data-protection-officer)

*Thank you for taking time to read this Participant Information Sheet.*

May 25, 2023.