INFORMATION SHEET

Title of Project: A Philosophy of Open Science for Diverse Research Environments (PHIL_OS)

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Invitation and brief summary:
You are invited to participate in a project investigating what Open Science means to researchers, how it affects scientific practices, and what benefits and/or risks it may involve. Please take time to consider the information carefully and to discuss it with others if you wish, or to ask the researcher questions. For further information, see the project website: https://opensciencestudies.eu.

Purpose of the research:
This project aims to develop a philosophy of Open Science [OS] that (1) emphasises the diversity of research environments around the world; (2) articulates the conditions under which OS can leverage such diversity to promote good research practice; and (3) supports OS governance, by providing a framework that fosters research quality, inclusivity and fairness. The Open Science [OS] movement is transforming research, with OS policies adopted around the globe and wide consensus on implementing principles like transparency and reproducibility. However, the philosophy underpinning the OS movement has not been clearly articulated. Implementing OS across different settings also carries risks, such as the marginalisation of contributions from low-resourced environments. This raises questions about the relation between *open* and *good* science. To address these concerns, this project combines a *philosophical analysis* of research conditions with *empirical research* on how different environments enact and conceptualise OS. We also collaborate with institutions involved in OS implementation, to help articulate and monitor how OS can boost research without having a negative impact.

Why have I been approached?
You have been invited to participate in this research because you work in a research institution as a researcher, technician, manager or administrator, or as a journalist. Participants will include up to two hundred individuals.

What would taking part involve?
You will be asked questions focused on your experiences with data handling, dissemination and interpretation. You will also be asked about the data infrastructures used in that work. The scheduling and length of the interview will be at your own convenience. Typically interviews last between one and two hours, however you may choose to have a shorter or longer interview. The interview will be conducted at a mutually agreeable location, or over the phone. Recording interviews is a practical and common data collection technique for which we will ask your consent, but if you are uncomfortable with it we can conduct the interview without audio

recording. You will be given the option to make pseudonymized transcripts of the recording available as "open data" in a digital archive. No matter what you choose, the project team will identify and erase any information likely to cause harm to you, your social relations or institutions you are associated with.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?
The project contributes to understanding the challenges and advantages of implementing OS across different research environments, in ways that can inform science policy, science funders, research institutions and the everyday work of researchers. The project team is committed to collaborating with project participants towards improving their research conditions and the fit between OS guidelines and their own objectives. The team will also work with project participants to bring any concerns and suggestions about OS implementation to the attention of policy-makers, international organisations and relevant institutions. Finally, participation in this project will bring international attention to the scientific activities of the participating institutions and the ways in which they embody research excellence.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?
The project investigates open science practices in and among research centres and organisations, whose activities are public and therefore potentially identifiable. The identity of individual participants will be pseudonymized, but the names of the organisation or research site will be disclosed. This may increase the risk of participants being identifiable, despite pseudonymization.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?
Participation is entirely voluntary. You are free to decline to answer any question and to end the interview at any point. At any time after the interview, you may choose to withdraw from the study; simply contact the researchers to say so, and they will immediately destroy your contributions. Data that has already been published in articles or reports prior to this request will however be in the public domain, and therefore cannot be destroyed.

How will my information be kept confidential?
The University of Exeter processes personal data for the purposes of carrying out research in the public interest. The University will endeavour to be transparent about its processing of your personal data and this information sheet should provide a clear explanation of this. If you do have queries about the University's processing of your personal data that cannot be resolved by the research team, further information may be obtained from the University's Data Protection Officer by emailing dataprotection@exeter.ac.uk or at www.exeter.ac.uk/dataprotection.

The information you share with us will be kept confidential. While in our work we will refer to the institutional context you belong to, the information will be used and reported in anonymous form, with the aim to make direct identification of yourself impossible. Any audio recordings of interview materials will be de-identified, labeled with a pseudonym, stored on a password-protected computer, and kept in accordance with the Data Protection Act for twenty

years and then deleted. Other than the project team, the only person with temporary access to the recordings will be a professional transcriber, conditional to signing a confidentiality agreement.

We will also ask you whether you are happy for us to make the eventual pseudonymized interview transcript available as open access research data. This is optional. You can choose to be interviewed and at the same time for the transcripts not to be shared. In any case, your contact details will be kept separately from your interview data. In case you opt to have your transcripts published openly, the research team will review the content of the transcripts to ensure that they do not pose risk of harm to you and/or your peers and host institutions. If some small parts of the transcripts are found to post such risks, they will be omitted from the transcript, which will be labelled as "incomplete". If more than 25% of the transcripts is found to pose a risk of harm, the transcripts will not be published. Only transcripts reviewed and approved for publication by the PI will be released as open access research data.

Will I receive any payment for taking part?
Participants will not receive payment for taking part.

What will happen to the results of this study?
The results of this study will be available in academic publications, reports and, subject to participants' consent, open access data repositories. A regularly updated list of publications can be found on the project website https://opensciencestudies.eu and you may request a copy of all relevant publications from the project team. If you wish to receive regular email updates on our outputs, please sign up to our mailing list contact@opensciencestudies.org.

Who is organising and funding this study?
The project is based at the Exeter Centre for the Study of the Life Sciences (Egenis) at the University of Exeter. The lead investigator is Professor Sabina Leonelli (s.leonelli@exeter.ac.uk). The project is funded by the European Research Council under its Consolidator Award scheme. The researchers have no conflicts of interest relating to the subject matter, the individuals or the institutions involved in the research.

Who has reviewed this study?
This project has been reviewed by the College of Social Sciences and International Studies Research Ethics Committee at the University of Exeter.

Further information and contact details
For further information about the research or your interview data, please contact Professor Sabina Leonelli, Department of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology, University of Exeter, Devon UK. Email: s.leonelli@exeter.ac.uk. If you have concerns/questions about the research you would like to discuss with someone else at the University, please contact the College of Social Sciences and International Studies Research Ethics Committee (ssis-ethics@exeter.ac.uk).

Thank you for your interest in this project