

Informed Consent Form for Participants to the Top Citizen Science Project ‘Talking Borders. From Local Expertise to Global Exchange’

Principal Investigator: Machteld VENKEN, PhD

Sponsor: The Austrian Science Fund

Project Number: TCS 028

This Informed Consent Form has two parts:

- **Information Sheet (to share information about the study)**
- **Certificate of Consent (for signatures)**

Part I: Information Sheet

Introduction

The Top Citizen Science project turns the Association for Borderland Studies World Conference into a site of scientific investigation, where 100 citizen scientists (bachelor students in the humanities from border regions throughout the ex-Habsburg area) receive the opportunity to talk to 100 border scholars. Within the framework of the project, we will gather 100 face-to-face dialogues about the meaning of borders. You will be asked to tell us what a border means to you. We will also host a global digital café, where extracts from the 100 talks will be posted so that participants can comment on them. Participants may talk to anyone they feel comfortable talking with about the research and can take time to reflect on whether they want to participate. An information session is planned before the scientific experiment, where questions about this information sheet can be asked.

Purpose of the research

The Top Citizen Science project *Talking Borders. From Local Expertise to Global Exchange* asks:

- (1) what do borders mean to border scholars?
- (2) what do borders mean to citizen scientists from the (ex-) Habsburg area?
- (3) what new knowledge does a global encounter between border scholars and citizen scientists reveal?

As such, the project aims to understand the potential and limits of bringing in non-scientific expertise in the knowledge and information society.

Type of Research Intervention

This research will involve:

For citizen scientists:

- One information session for citizen scientists is planned for 9 July 2018, and which will take about two hours. Another information session for both citizen scientists and border scholars is planned for 10 July 2018, which will take about 10 minutes.
- Your participation in a face-to-face conversation, which will take about an hour and a half.
- Transcription of a part of the conversation and uploading on the top citizen science project website.
- Active engagement in the online global digital café, which will run for 100 working days on the project website.

For border scholars:

- One information session is planned for 10 July 2018 preceding the scientific experiment, and which will take about 10 minutes.
- Your participation in a face-to-face conversation, which will take about an hour and a half.

- Active engagement in the online global digital café, which will run for 100 working days on the project website.

Participant Selection

* 100 border scholars

While registering for the ABS World Conference 2018 online, border scholars received the opportunity to click the button 'I am interested in volunteering for a citizen science experiment'.

* 100 citizen scientists

The 100 citizen scientists are selected as bachelor students in the humanities from the ex-Habsburg area. The selection is based on the distribution of the population in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, according to the data of the last available census from 1910. The citizen scientists are recruited by scholars at various universities and research institutes throughout the ex-Habsburg area. The composition is shown in the following table:

Mother tongue	Composition Census 1910 (percentage)	Composition of citizen scientists in 2018 (total numbers)
German	23.9	24 (from Austria)
Hungarian	20.2	20
Czech	12.6	13
Polish	10	10
Ukrainian	7.9	8
Romanian	6.4	6
Croatian	5.3	5
Slovakian	3.8	4
Serbian	3.8	4
Slovenian	2.6	3
Italians	2	2
Bosnians	1.2	1
	99.7	100

Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary. It is your choice whether to participate or not.

Procedures

The 100 face-to-face dialogues are provoked by the question: what does a border mean to you? The dialogue consists of three stages: 20 minutes free speech for the citizen scientist, 20 minutes free speech for the border scholar, 20 minutes free dialogue between the citizen scientist and border scholar. Participants do not have to share any knowledge that they are not comfortable sharing. If you do not wish to answer a question during the conversation, you may say so and the interviewer is to move on to the next question.

The face-to-face dialogues will take place at the University of Vienna, and no one else apart from the people who take part in the experiment are invited to be present. The dialogues are to be recorded by the participants. The tapes will be archived at the University of Vienna. The information recorded is confidential, and access is only provided for scientific research and science communication after the

written consent of the principal investigator, Machteld Venken.

Duration

The research takes place over a period of 130 days. You will be asked to take part in the face-to-face dialogue on 10 July 2018, and to be active in the global digital café that runs for 100 working days.

Risks

Participation in the experiment does not pose risks beyond the risks encountered in everyday life. While there may be a risk that you may share some personal or confidential information by chance, or that you may feel uncomfortable talking about some of the topics, we do not wish for this to happen. You do not have to answer a question if you don't wish to do so. Nor do you have to give us any reason for not responding to a question.

Reimbursements

You will not be offered any incentive to take part in the research. However, we will financially compensate the citizen scientists to cover their travel expenses to and in Vienna (see table below). The fee also covers the cost of your breakfast, lunch and supper. Accommodation is provided by the organizers of the Top Citizen Science project (in cooperation with citizen scientists based in Vienna). No additional costs will be refunded. Participants are to make the necessary arrangements related to health and travel insurance themselves. The project organisers cannot be held responsible for cancellations because of illnesses, loss of luggage and suchlike.

Country	Financial Recompensation (in Euro)
Hungary	100
Poland	390
Italy	150
Serbia	330
Bosnia	270
Croatia	145
Slovenia	130
Ukraine	330
Rumania	320
Czech Republic*	100
Slovakia*	85

* Only if participants can prove they came to Vienna specifically for the citizen science experiment.

Citizen Scientists are to fill in the reimbursement form of the University of Vienna attached to the Informed Consent Form. They will be reimbursed after they have taken part in the scientific experiment on the Association for Borderland World Conference. Citizen Scientists coming from a Member State of the European Union will be reimbursed by the University of Vienna by means of a financial bank transfer online. The Citizen Scientists from Ukraine, Serbia and Bosnia will be reimbursed in cash after the experiment during the Association for Borderland World Conference.

Confidentiality

We will not be sharing information about you to anyone outside of the research team. Any information about you will have a number or fake name attached to it instead of your name. Only the researchers will know what your number is and we will lock that information away. It will not be shared with or given to anyone except for the purposes of scientific research and science communication, following the written consent of the principal investigator, Machteld Venken.

Sharing the Results

Nothing that you tell us today will be attributed to you by name if you do not want that. The data gathered in this research project will be archived at the University of Vienna and/or the Austrian National Library. We also intend to present the results on conferences, publish the results, and to launch a science communication project, so that other interested people may learn from our work and the research.

Right to Refuse or Withdraw

You do not have to take part in this research if you do not wish to do so, and choosing to participate will not affect your study or professional career in any way. You may stop participating in the face-to-face dialogue at any time that you wish. Each participant can ask to have parts of the recording erased.

Who to Contact

If you have any questions, please check the top citizen science project website:

www.talkingborders/univie.ac.at (in preparation)

You can also contact a Citizen Science Ambassador from Vienna. Questions can also be asked during the information sessions on 9 or 10 July 2018. Or write an email to:

talkingborders@univie.ac.at

You may also contact the principal investigator:

Machteld VENKEN, PhD
machteld.venken@univie.ac.at
www.machteldvenken.com

Part II: Certificate of Consent

Citizen Science Project: Talking Borders. From Local Expertise to Global Exchange

Project Leader: Machteld VENKEN, PhD

Austrian Science Fund Top Citizen Science Grant 28

I have been invited to participate in the Top Citizen Science project *Talking Borders. From Local Expertise to Global Exchange*. I have read the participant information sheet and I have had the opportunity to ask questions about it. I consent voluntarily to be a participant in this study. I allow the data to be archived pseudonymously. This means that the information in the study can no longer be directly associated with an individual participant. I allow the principal investigator to use the data gathered in the citizen science project for scientific research and science communication.

Name:

Christian Name:

Affiliation:

E-Mail:

Signature:

Date: