



Participant Information Form

Title of the Research Project: For better or worse? An immersive diary study of the effects of return to work policies on disabled employees

Researcher: Anica Zeyen (data collection)

Grant co-applicant: Oana Branzei (not involved in data collection, non-UK university)

About the Research Project:

This research project wants to understand how disabled people experience the return to work after the main lockdown in the COVID19 pandemic. We aim to understand the lived experience of disabled people during the ease of lockdown and potential local lockdowns. The aim is to collect experience as they happen. We want to give voice to disabled people.

This study is open to disabled people who are currently working as employee (full-time, part-time, casual), volunteer, free-lancer or run their business. Disabled people can also participate if they intend to start work as employee, free-lancer or entrepreneur over the coming months.

The study is conducted entirely online and therefore does not require any face-to-face in-person contact. We aim to accommodate any accessibility issues participants might have. We will use live caption, are able to use BSL interpretations and use an online platform for the diaries that is screen-reader compatible, has dark mode and high contrast mode. The online platform works on Windows and Mac-based devices as well as on tablets and smartphones. The platform further allows for voice recordings if participants prefer recordings to typing.

Participation in the study:

Participation is entirely voluntary, anonymous and confidential. The research team (Anica Zeyen) and Emilio Costales (the Access to Work support worker for Anica Zeyen) will be the only persons who will know the identity of the participants. All team members have undergone GDPR training. Consent forms that have the names of participants on them will be stored separately from other information (interview files, diaries). They will be encrypted and password protected. They will be stored on secure Royal Holloway servers.

Participants can choose not to answer any question if they prefer not to. Participants can stop their participation at any time without giving a reason.

Participants can keep this information sheet for reference and contact the researchers with any questions at any time.

Data collected in this study will be stored securely in line with GDPR guidelines. The data will be destroyed after the research was published.

Participation involves:

- a) an interview at the start
- b) writing / recording an online journal over an 18-month period (entries about every second week)
- c) joining in the group discussion on the diary platform (irregular)
- d) irregular follow-up interviews (about every 2-3 months over 18 months period)

Participants will receive a £100 Gift Voucher for Amazon, John Lewis, Tesco or another retail outlet. The vouchers will be sent electronically to participants. Participants will not have to reimburse to research team if they choose to stop participating in the study.

Participants will engage in written group forum discussions. Each participant will choose a username (not their real name) to ensure that participants do not know the identity of other participants.

As part of the project, we will create podcasts and webinars. Participants are invited to join these as speakers. If they wish to do so, it will remain confidential that they participate in the study.

If you require any support linked to your return to work, please get in touch with relevant disability advocacy organizations such as:

- Disability Wales: <http://www.disabilitywales.org/> , 029 20887325
- Disability Information Scotland: <http://www.disabilityscot.org.uk/>, 0300 323 9961
- Disability Action Northern Ireland: <https://www.disabilityaction.org/> , 028 9029 7880
- Disability Rights UK, <https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/>, 0330 995 0400

This research project is funded by the British Academy, reference: COV19\200111

In case of questions or any other concerns, please contact:

Anica Zeyen, PhD
Senior Lecturer in Entrepreneurship and Sustainability
Royal Holloway, University of London
School of Management.
Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX
England
Anica.zeyen@royalholloway.ac.uk
Mobile: 07947156815