

## GUIDE INFORMATION/CONSENT FORM FOR INTERVIEWS

### **Title of Research Project: The Epistemology of Data-Intensive Science**

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**The purpose of the research** is to systematically analyze whether and how the epistemology of science is changing in the digital age, through a comparative study of data-intensive research practices and their results across scientific areas. In order to document the practices surrounding the production, dissemination and use of data, recorded interviews are being conducted with relevant scientists and practitioners. The interviews will inform publications intended for academic audiences. More information can be found on the project website <http://www.datastudies.eu>.

**What is involved in participating:** you will be invited to describe your everyday research practices and will be asked questions focused on your experiences with data handling, dissemination and interpretation. You will also be asked about the databases 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 interview, or offer a in-depth account of your everyday work. The interview will be conducted at a mutually agreeable location, or over the phone.

**Participation is entirely voluntary:** You are free to decline to answer any question and to end the interview at any point. For a month 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.

**Recordings and data:** Recording interviews is a practical and common data collection technique, but if you are uncomfortable with it, we can conduct the interview without audio recording. The 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 ten years and then destroyed. Other than the research team, the only person with temporary access to the recordings will be a professional transcriber, conditional to signing a confidentiality agreement.

**Confidentiality:** The information you share with us will be kept confidential and will be attributed to you only with your permission. While in our work we will refer to the project or 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. We will also ask you whether you are happy for us to make the eventual interview transcript available as open access research data. This is optional and disconnected from the question of anonymity. You can choose to be identifiable and at the same time for the transcripts not to be shared, or conversely, to not be identifiable but for anonymised versions of the transcripts to be made available. In any case, your contact details will be kept separately from your interview data.

**Use of non-confidential data in future related projects:** Upon completion of this project, researchers may keep non-confidential interview data for use in related research projects. At the end of any related research project, the data will be destroyed, unless you opted for making the interview transcript available online.

**Risks and benefits:** Based upon the information available to us, we believe that there are no special risks nor benefits associated to your participation in our research. If you choose to be named and/or have your contributions identifiable, the potential risks and benefits depend on your circumstances.

**Research findings:** You may request a copy of publications resulting from this study from the researchers.

**Independence of project:** The work is funded by the European Research Council via Starting Grant DATA\_SCIENCE. The researchers involved have no conflict of interest relating to the subject matter, the individuals or the institutions involved in the research. This project was reviewed by the Exeter University Research Ethics Board, which provided clearance from February 2015 to December 2018.

**Contact details:** For further information about the research or your interview data, please contact Professor Sabina Leonelli, Department of Sociology and Philosophy, Exeter University, Devon UK. Email: [s.leonelli@exeter.ac.uk](mailto: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 Professor John Dupre, [j.a.dupre@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:j.a.dupre@exeter.ac.uk) .

Your signature below serves to signify that you agree to participate in this study.

**Participant's consent: I have read the above information and I choose to participate in an interview for research towards "The Epistemology of Data-Intensive Science".**

I agree to be audio-recorded: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Name of participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of researcher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*[2 copies to be signed by both interviewee and researcher, one kept by each]*

**To be completed after the interview, only if desired by the participant:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give permission to be identified and have my contributions attributed to me. Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

I agree for the interview transcripts to be edited and shared as open access research data. Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Signature of participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of researcher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_