

## INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

REC Reference Number: REP-H/11/12-19



### Crowd sourcing scoping study: information for survey participants

We would like to invite you to participate in the Crowd Sourcing Scoping Study (see <http://www.humanitiescrowds.org>). You should only participate if you want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

The aim of this project is to investigate academic uses of crowd-sourcing in the humanities, and what motivates people to contribute to crowd-sourcing projects. Crowd-sourcing is defined here as mass participation in the gathering, processing or interpretation of information in some directed manner. The primary aim of the study, which is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council under its Connected Communities programme, and which runs between February and November 2012, is to research different crowd-sourcing models that have emerged; and to understand better how wider communities can collaborate with academia to create information and knowledge. We are particularly interested in people's motivations for contributing to such studies. By investigating these, we will better understand how crowd-sourcing methods themselves relate to wider communities, and how they can be changed/adapted to gather new kinds of information.

You are being invited to participate by completing the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.net/s/humanitiescrowds> as someone who is contributing to or has contributed to an academic crowd-sourcing project. The survey consists of 20 multiple choice and free-text questions relating to your interests and background, the crowd-sourcing project or projects you contribute to (or have contributed to), the knowledge and experience you bring to the project or projects, and your motivations for doing so. The survey will also ask how you feel crowd-sourcing projects could be improved, and what, if anything, could be done to encourage you to contribute more in the future.

Submitting a completed questionnaire via the online system indicates consent to participate in the project, and that you are willing for the information you provide to be used in reports and publications arising from it (but see below).

Before submitting your questionnaire, you will have the opportunity to indicate whether you are willing to be contacted by the research team to be interviewed in greater depth; and/or if you would like to be invited to an event in London in September 2012. If you do not check these boxes, you will not be contacted by the project any further, unless clarifications are needed, or to seek your permission to use information you have provided in unanonymised form in project publications or reports (see below).

In addition, please note:

- Your completed questionnaire, including all personal details, will be held in a secure electronic system at King's College London, and not shared at all beyond the research team or used for any other purpose. Excerpts and quotations from the free text portions may be used in online or print publications with full anonymisation. If we wish to publish your data unanonymised – e.g. by attributing quotes to you, or by publishing information which could be identified as having come from you personally – your written permission will be sought first. You will have the right to refuse such permission without giving any reason. **No personal or unanonymized information will be shared with any crowd-sourcing project to which you contribute.**
- If you choose not to check the 'further participation' boxes, completing the questionnaire will be your only participation in the project. The research team will only contact you subsequently if clarifications of particular points are needed, or to seek your permission to attribute information that you have provided (see above).

- You may withdraw from the study at any time during the course of the project by contacting [angela.waplington@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:angela.waplington@kcl.ac.uk), and any data you have provided, including interview notes and personal details, will be permanently deleted.
- Please note it will **not** be possible to withdraw from the study, or withdraw and data you have provided (including non-anonymized data), after November 7<sup>th</sup> 2012.
- If you agree to take part you will be asked whether you are happy to be contacted about participation in future studies. Your participation in this study will not be affected should you choose not to be re-contacted.
- A copy of the project's final report, and offprints of any academic articles arising from the study, will be sent to you on request.

In case of any queries, please contact [angela.waplington@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:angela.waplington@kcl.ac.uk), or phone 020 7848 2709. The project can be contacted by post at:

AHRC Crowd-Sourcing Study  
Department of Digital Humanities  
King's College London  
2nd Floor  
26-29 Drury Lane  
London  
WC2B 5RL

It is up to you to decide whether to take part or not. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason and all data you have provided to the project will be deleted permanently, up until November 7<sup>th</sup> 2012.

If this study has harmed you in any way, please contact Dr. Mark Hedges at [mark.hedges@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:mark.hedges@kcl.ac.uk), telephone, (0)20 7848 1970, or using the postal address above, for further advice and information.