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Postcolonial Text, World Form/ Postcolonial Writers Make Worlds

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Ethics Approval Reference: R39661/RE001

1. **Background and aims of the study**

The reading groups will form part of the research project, *Postcolonial Text, World Form*, which asks how our reading of British fiction and poetry shapes our sense of identity Britain today. We are particularly keen to think about how Black and Asian writing in Britain works as a dynamic cultural and imaginative medium through which new ways of thinking about Britain, and Britain in the world, can be worked out. Your reading group will play a crucial role in helping us to explore how real readers engage with and respond to these books, and how the process of reading this writing unfolds and is experienced.

This study is funded by the Oxford University John Fell Fund and the English Faculty.

2. **Do I have to take part?**

No. If you do agree to participate, you may withdraw yourself from the study at any time, without giving a reason and without penalty, by advising the researchers of this decision.

3. **What will happen in the study?**

If you are happy to take part in the study, you will be asked to read at least two books specified in the study, and then attend a series of reading group sessions in which you will discuss your experiences of reading the books with fellow participants. Some of these sessions may be audio recorded – these recordings will be available only to the researchers and will not be published.

You will be invited to visit and contribute to the project website www.writersmakeworlds.com, which hosts information about the writers, short surveys about your reading experiences, forums where you can discuss each of the books you are reading with your fellow participants, and annotatable extracts from the texts. Your participation in the website is completely voluntary.

The reading group meetings will be followed by a series of workshops, most of them with the writers whose works the groups have discussed. These will run on Thursday evenings (5–7pm) between late April and June. Workshops will involve readings by the author, an interview or discussion, and a time of Q&A in which we would again be interested in hearing about your reading experiences. Reading group participants will be warmly encouraged to ask questions, describe their own experiences of reading, and engage in an open conversation with the writers. There is no obligation to attend the workshops.

The workshop sessions will be audio and video recorded. We plan to turn the recorded and edited discussions into audio and video podcasts that will feature on our project website, which we aim to develop into a hub for digital teaching and learning resources on contemporary British writing.

4. Are there any potential risks in taking part?

There are no risks involved in taking part. Because we want to know how readers from different ages and backgrounds engage with literature, we require some demographic information from you, such as your gender, age and ethnic origin. We may refer to these kinds of details in published research but this will always be done anonymously.

5. Are there any benefits in taking part?

There will be no direct benefit to you from taking part in this research.

6. What happens to the data provided?

Audio recordings and demographic data will be stored confidentially on encrypted hard drives. The research team will have access to research data. Your responses will be anonymised in all written research outputs, but some audio and/or video recorded responses may feature in podcasting materials on the website. You may specify if you prefer not to be featured.

All research data and records will be stored for a minimum retention period of 3 years after publication or public release of the work of the research.

7. Will the research be published?

The research will be published in peer-reviewed articles.

8. Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee (reference number: R39661/RE001).

9. Who do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please speak to the postdoctoral research assistant on the project, Erica Lombard (erica.lombard@ell.ox.ac.uk; +447816786534), who will do her best to answer your query. Dr Lombard will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how she intends to deal with it. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the relevant chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter in a reasonably expeditious manner:

Chair, **Social Sciences & Humanities Inter-Divisional Research Ethics Committee**; Email: ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk; Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD

10. Further Information and Contact Details

If you would like to discuss the research with someone or if you have any questions at any point, please contact:

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