

# The Role of the Arts and Culture in Sustainable Prosperity



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## Project Information (Cultural Workers)

### Who are you?

We are two researchers from the University of Leeds: Kate Oakley is the principal investigator and Jon Ward is the research assistant.

### What are you doing?

We are interested in the ways in which the arts and culture might offer people a way to live that promotes prosperity, but which is also more sustainable. This includes making less of an environmental impact through consuming less stuff, but also thinking about other kinds of sustainability. We are part of the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity ([cusp.ac.uk](http://cusp.ac.uk)).

As part of this we want to speak with cultural workers. We want to think about whether these kinds of work might offer a version of the 'good life', the trade-offs made to maintain these careers, and whether they are sustainable.

### Why are you asking me to be involved?

You are a cultural worker who lives or works in one of our research sites (Stoke, Hay and Islington).

We have a broad understanding of what 'cultural work' is. This includes artists, actors, authors and so on, as well as more technical/specialist roles such as architecture, design, editorial work, music production and special effects.

### If I agree, what do I have to do?

We will want you to take part in 2–3 interviews over the following 3 years. Interviews will be with either Kate or Jon and audio will be recorded. Each will take between one and two hours.

### Why should I take part?

Taking part will help academics better understand cultural work: the reasons people do it, and problems they encounter. We will share our findings with arts and cultural organisations and businesses, schools and universities, and government, so that they can better meet the needs of cultural workers.

### Why should I not take part?

It's important that you want to take part – you shouldn't take part just because someone has asked you to. Kate and Jon will be happy to answer any questions – either in person or you can call us or send an email.

Though many interview participants enjoy the experience of talking about their lives, neither Kate nor Jon can offer advice, guidance or counselling.

### What if I say 'yes' but change my mind?

You can withdraw at any time and without reason. If you no longer wish to take part just tell us – we will not ask you why. At this point you can either allow us to use the data we've already collected or ask us to destroy it. You should be aware that if we've already used some of what you've told us then it may not be possible to withdraw it – we will let you know if that is the case. If you agree to your data being submitted to the UK Data Archive then it may also not be possible to withdraw once it has been stored with them. Again, we will let you know if that is the case.

## What will you ask me about?

Our interviews are semi-structured. That means we know the topics we want to cover but the exact questions we ask will depend on what you say. Our interviews will be more like conversations led by you so that you can talk about what is important to you.

As well as collecting some basic information about you (age, where you live etc.) we will also want to speak about topics including:

- Work – your career history, the kinds of work you do, where you do it, and how well it pays.
- Rewards – what you get out of your work.
- Support and barriers – what affects how you're able to do your work.

If you don't want to answer a question then you don't have to. If at any point you feel upset or confused by the questions you can stop the interview at any time.

## How will you use what I tell you?

We will use all the interviews to help us understand cultural work, the conditions workers face and how it can offer a version of the 'good life'. We will use some of the stories you tell us, sometimes even using direct quotes, in:

- Books
- Articles in academic journals
- Articles for websites, magazines and newsletters
- When talking to the media, including newspapers, radio and TV
- Report and presentations to academics, politicians and arts organisations.
- Lectures and seminars

If you're unsure what that means we can show you examples of how we have used interview data in the past.

If you consent, anonymised transcripts of your interviews will also be submitted to the UK Data Archive for other researchers to use.

## Will I be anonymous?

We will produce written transcripts of your interviews which removes identifying information and you will be referred to only by a code or different name any time you are mentioned in any of our work. Only Kate and Jon will have access to any documents which might match you to your transcript. We may also use a professional transcriber – they will sign a confidentiality agreement agreeing not to share anything from the recording with anyone except Kate and Jon.

In certain circumstances it may be possible to deduce or infer your identity – for example, where your work is unique, or by combining pieces of information. We will make every effort to avoid this, but may not be able to do so. If we feel that using your information like this poses a possible risk to you we will seek further consent.

## How safe is my data?

All information will be used in line with the Data Protection Act, and the data management requirements of the University of Leeds and the Economic and Social Research Council.

Any digital files with your personal details on will be stored on password protected, encrypted storage. If we have to transfer these digital documents they will be transferred using strong encryption. Physical documents will be stored in a locked cupboard in a locked office at the University of Leeds.

## I have other questions

Kate and Jon are happy to answer you may have:

- Kate: [k.oakley@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:k.oakley@leeds.ac.uk) 0113 343 5810
- Jon: [j.ward1@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.ward1@leeds.ac.uk) 0113 343 9947