



INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT

Project Title: Finding a Way Home

Investigators: Dr Brigid Magner, PhD, brigid.magner@rmit.edu.au; and

Janice Simpson, PhD candidate, s8800010@student.rmit.edu.au

Dear Participant

You are invited to participate in a research project concerned with how place defines, influences and shapes adoptees' lives being conducted by RMIT University. Please read this sheet carefully and be confident that you understand its contents before deciding whether to participate. If you have any questions about the project, please ask one of the investigators.

This information sheet is for you to keep.

The researcher will ask you to sign a separate written consent form prior to interview.

Who is involved in this research project? Why is it being conducted?

The researcher, Janice Simpson, is enrolled as a PhD candidate in the School of Media and Communications at RMIT, Melbourne. This study is being conducted in partial fulfillment of a PhD research program for Janice Simpson under the supervision of Dr Brigid Magner and Dr Josie Vine of RMIT. Janice was adopted in 1952 from the Royal Women's Hospital in Carlton, Victoria and taken by her adopting parents to their farm in Apsley, a small town in the Victorian countryside. The researcher expects this research will be reported in articles and conference papers, ultimately resulting in a book, the proposed title of which is 'Finding a Way Home'.

The project has been approved by the RMIT Human Research Ethics Committee.

The research is unfunded.

Why have you been approached?

You have indicated your willingness to participate in an interview when you completed the online survey, 'Finding a Way Home'. You provided your contact details at the conclusion of the survey.

What is the project about? What are the questions being addressed?

The role of place – actual, remembered and sensed - in adoptees' narratives is largely unexplored.

Questions about your memories and perceptions of place will be addressed during the interview.

This research is important, as it will have the capacity to inform policy and practice regarding the welfare of children who do not live with their biological parents (in-country, inter-country adoptees and children born to surrogate mothers).

The researcher expects 20 people will participate in interviews.

If I agree to participate, what will I be required to do?

Interview questions will build on your responses as provided in the online survey. The interview will be informal and conversational. Questions will be largely open-ended. Examples include: tell me more about how you remember the place where you were conceived/born; what can you recall about the place you grew up; how do you think place influences your identity.

It is envisaged that the interview will be conducted at a place and time mutually agreed to by you and Janice Simpson, the interviewer, prior to the interview. Places may include a quiet space at RMIT, a public space such as a room in a public library, or organisation such as Jigsaw, or another place by mutual arrangement. The interview will take between one and three hours to complete.

The interview will be audio recorded.

You will have an opportunity to review and correct the transcript of your interview within three months of receiving it via email.

Your quotes can be attributed to you by name, location, age and/or gender or you can choose to remain anonymous.

What are the possible risks or disadvantages?

As a participant, you may become distressed when prompted to recall particular experiences.

If you do become distressed as a result of participation, you may wish to access counseling services without needing to contact me, the researcher. Counselling can be obtained from:

- A psychologist referred by your GP
- Relationships Australia (<http://www.relationships.org.au/what-we-do/services/counselling> - this link provides information about the service as well as links to locations throughout Australia)
- Jigsaw Queensland which offers telephone support (<http://jigsawqld.server101.com/Jigsawqldmble/index.html>)
- Adoption Jigsaw offering counselling referrals in both Tasmania and WA (<http://www.jigsaw.org.au/our-services/>)
- Vanish Victoria (<http://vanish.org.au/services/counselling>)

What are the benefits associated with participation?

It is unlikely you will receive any direct benefits by participating in this interview. You may of course experience a range of (diverse) emotions such as happiness, sadness, a sense of fulfillment, feelings associated with your memories.

What will happen to the information I provide?

The researcher will have unrestricted access to the raw data obtained from your interview. Supervisors Dr Brigid Magner and Dr Josie Vine from School of Media & Communication, RMIT, may also have access to the data in their supervisory and advisory roles.

The recording and transcript of your interview, as per research recommendations, will be kept for 5 years from the date of first publication.

The data will be stored as computer files on a secure password protected computer, and paper documents in a locked file cabinet in the researcher's study. Information will also be held on a password protected website.

Security of the website

Users should be aware that the World Wide Web is an insecure public network that gives rise to the potential risk that a user's transactions are being viewed, intercepted or modified by third parties or that data which the user downloads may contain computer viruses or other defects.

Security of the data

This project will use an external site to create, collect and analyse data collected in a survey format. The site we are using is Qualtrics at www.qualtrics.com. If you agree to participate in this survey, the responses you provide to the survey will be stored on a host server that is used by Qualtrics. No personal information will be collected in the survey so none will be stored as data. Once the researchers have completed data collection and analysis, they will import the data they collect to the RMIT server where it will be stored securely for five (5) years. The data on the Qualtrics host server will then be deleted and expunged.

Any information that you provide can be disclosed only if (1) it is to protect you or others from harm, (2) if specifically required or allowed by law, or (3) you provide the researchers with written permission.

The results will be published and disseminated in papers for publication, conference papers and as a thesis in the RMIT Repository, which is a publicly accessible online library of research papers.

What are my rights as a participant?

You are free to withdraw at any time, and you can do so without providing an explanation.

You have the right to request that any recording cease during the course of the interview.

You have the right to have any unprocessed data withdrawn and destroyed, provided it can be reliably identified, and provided that so doing does not increase the risk for the participant.

You have the right to have any questions answered at any time.

Whom should I contact if I have any questions?

Contact the principal researcher, Dr Brigid Magner, brigid.magner@rmit.edu.au

Yours sincerely

Dr Brigid Magner

Lecturer, Literary Studies, School of Media & Communication, RMIT

Janice Simpson

PhD Candidate, School of Media & Communication, RMIT

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If you have any concerns about your participation in this project, which you do not wish to discuss with the researchers, then you can contact the Ethics Officer, Research Integrity, Governance and Systems, RMIT University, GPO Box 2476V VIC 3001.

Tel: (03) 9925 2251 or email human.ethics@rmit.edu.au