

Research Project Information Sheet

Project Title

I am a woman and I work in academia: An international collection of female academics' perspectives and experiences of their work

This project has ethics approval: University of Sunshine Coast Ethics Approval Number A/16/901.

Researchers

Dr Ali Black (Principal Researcher and Project Leader)
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Professor, Education, University of Gothenburg

Background

We are interested in knowing more about the experiences of women in academia. As yet, few studies have explored women's perspectives and experiences as academics in Australian and International universities. We know that women are still disproportionately underrepresented in senior positions but we are also aware that women often seek to 'work differently' and 'be differently' in academia. We would like to understand your perspectives and to provide a space for you to share your experiences. We would also like to know how satisfied you are as a female academic, and for you to identify the challenges and benefits you have experienced and are currently experiencing in terms of your academic work.

Research Purpose

Accordingly, the overall aim of this project is to collect data internationally about female academics' perspectives and experiences of their work.

Participant Experience

Participation in the study is voluntary. Participation involves the completion of an anonymous online survey. There are 23 questions in the survey including demographic questions, satisfaction-related questions and open-ended questions.

By completing the survey you are providing your consent to be involved in the survey and for the data you provide to be used in related/future research projects. Your identity will not be known at any stage. You may find that the questions stimulate recollections, emotions and thinking about negative experiences. Please know that you can discontinue the survey at any time without any need to explain.

Duration

You are invited to volunteer 10 minutes of your time to complete the survey. Please be aware that 12 of the questions are open-ended, and so you are very welcome to take much more time to respond and elaborate or expand on the topics if you wish to.

Risks

Participation in this project is voluntary and you can discontinue at any time without any need to explain. There may be 'low' psychological risks depending on your experiences. If you are

experiencing any discomfort please know you can discontinue the survey at any time without any need to explain.

Results

Once the survey responses have been gathered and analysed, the findings will be used to support understanding of female academics' perspectives and experiences of their work.

A summary of results will be prepared and presented online at the following website <http://www.thewomenhowrite.com/>. Results will also be prepared as a manuscript for submission in a peer reviewed journal.

Confidentiality

As a survey participant you will remain anonymous throughout the entire survey process. Data gathered during the online will not be personally identifiable (i.e. it will not be possible to find out which data belongs to any specific participant or to find out the identity of any participant). All data collected throughout the course of this study will be kept on password protected computers.

Complaints

If you have any complaints about the way this research project is being conducted you can raise them with the Principal Researcher or, if you prefer an independent person, contact the Chairperson of the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of the Sunshine Coast: (c/- the Research Ethics Officer, Office of Research, University of the Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore DC 4558; telephone +61 7 5459 4574; email humanethics@usc.edu.au).

Contact

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The Researchers and the University would like to thank you for your interest in this project and express our appreciation of your effort and involvement. Through your engagement with, and completion of, this anonymous survey you are helping our research and enabling understanding of women's collective experiences of academic workplaces and cultures internationally.