

## Participant Information Sheet

**Project Title: The spatial experiences of transnational communities and individuals in Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic: a qualitative pilot study**

### Project Summary:

You are invited to participate in a pilot research study being conducted by me, Sarah De Nardi and Anyer Yuol of the School of Social Sciences, Western Sydney University. The project is a pilot, a small scale research that explores the experiences of place and restrictions to mobility for persons of transnational (meaning with cultural, family, citizenship and emotional links to more than one country), migrant and refugee or asylum seeking backgrounds that have been in Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic. 'Experience' is meant herein the broadest sense of the term.

We carry out the project in several ways: one of the methods involves asking you to highlight and pin down your own significant places and spaces in a shared Padlet map to which you then add pictures, videos etc.

Link to map:

[https://padlet.com/sarah\\_de\\_nardi/Pandemic\\_archive](https://padlet.com/sarah_de_nardi/Pandemic_archive)

Another option is for you to draw, paint or photograph the places that were meaningful to you during this pandemic, expressing your creativity and your unique point of view. You are **most welcome** to do all kinds of activity based on your interests.

The Padlet is anonymous: every participant has the same project-specific link to the map (above). This means I cannot identify who you are and I cannot tell it what participant adds to the maps unless the participant chooses to enter their name in the description (e.g. 'This is Aminah's favourite park').

As part for the project, you will be asked to provide the following details: your age and your country of origin, and your length of time in Australia if applicable (i.e. if you were born here just say born here). You will not be identifiable in any other way.

After an initial Zoom online discussion with us and the contact person in your cultural centre/association, we guide you through a simple online demonstration of how to create

your own places in Padlet. We can also provide a document with step by step instructions that you are welcome to refer to.

If you would like to express your creativity by painting or drawing your own maps, your own places or any other expression of your creativity on the theme of the pandemic, we will provide drawing paper pads and pens free of charge.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

You will be asked to express your experiences during the pandemic, using places, things and memories to tell the story of how you got through this time.

Think of it as place-based storytelling in all its variety.

The online activity will consist in adding places to our project Padlet, which I will demonstrate at the start of the project and as many times as you find useful after that. If you wish, you are most welcome to use paper and pens to draw your story or take photos of anything that is meaningful to you, which you will then email to the project email address. At the end of the project we will organise a virtual event that will include an online exhibition of the maps and include any of the sketches, photos and drawings participants wish to share in a Gallery Section of the site. I give more details of this in the section called How do you intend to publish or disseminate the results? below.

### **How much of my time will I need to give?**

Overall, 5-6 hours or so over a period of 3 or 4 months. It depends on what we choose to do together and, most importantly, this depends on your time, availability and priorities. You will be able to work in your own time.

As a token of appreciation for your time we will offer a 40 \$ gift card to each participant in the initial information session, whether they then decide to take part in the project or not.

### **What benefits will I, and/or the broader community, receive for participating?**

In the past, other participants found that doing this kind of collaborative and very supportive creative project made them feel a closer connection to their new home. A major benefit of this project is that it identifies important places and transnational routes and connections that became unavailable or hard to reach for communities in an emergency. This new data you help us gather through your experiences will test the usefulness of mapping places and networks of emergency support. If useful, we will be using this method to help support services and migration integration associations to make future 'newcomers' feel welcome and at ease in an emergency, (bushfires, and so on).

### **Will the study involve any risk or discomfort for me? If so, what will be done to rectify it?**

You will choose the information and level of participation, and contribute to the online mapping or creative artwork/photography at your discretion and at your own time. Some

of the aspects of the pandemic which we will work on together may bring back some tension and some memories that may be at time uncomfortable. If you feel anxious or uncertain about *any* activities *at any time*, please feel free to leave the project without needing to give an explanation. Then let your local association/ migrant centre staff know that the topics we talked about and worked on were too painful or sensitive for you.

Should you feel the need for more support as a result of upset or discomfort during any of the activities in this pilot study, we recommend the following free confidential counselling services:

- STARTTS Counselling Service: (02) 9646 6666
- Transcultural Mental Health Service: 1800 648 911 or (02) 9912 3851

### **How do you intend to publish or disseminate the results?**

We will launch an online/virtual exhibition of the project Padlet map on a dedicated website. This website will be accessible for up to 5 (five) years. The content on this site will be the same as the Padlet, and remain anonymous. Site visitors will not however be able to interact, comment on, or amend the content of the images from the Padlet, which will be shown in a 'gallery mode'.

It is anticipated that we, the project team, will share some of the results of this research in a variety of forums. In any publication and presentation, information will be provided in such a way that the participants cannot be identified, except with your permission. The Padlet is absolutely anonymous, and no one can identify any individual contribution to the map. They will all appear to be from a guest contributor.

Any names which participants volunteer (but we will not expect any participant to provide a name) will be redacted (taken out) from any material that is published. Instead, we will use numbers to identify participants (example: Group 1, participant 4) for any visual outputs in the exhibition.

We will **not** be reproducing or publishing any of the artwork and drawings you produce in any project-related publications. These remain your intellectual property alone, for you to be proud of and share with your loved ones.

### **Will the data and information that I have provided be disposed of?**

Please be assured that only we (the researchers) will have access to the raw data you provide, apart from you. However, your data may be used in other related projects for an extended period of time. We might use some of the anonymous data we collect (age, country of origin or cultural identity) in a follow-up project as a pilot study, that is, we might need to show the potential benefits of carrying out these mapping workshops and the feedback of participants such as yourself.

### **Can I withdraw from the project?**

Yes. Participation is entirely voluntary, and you are not obliged to be involved. If you do participate you can withdraw at any time without giving reason.

If you do choose to withdraw, any information that you have supplied will be deleted: feel free to ask for all scans etc of your outputs in the form of photographs, drawings and so on to be deleted. Because a collaborative Padlet is made by a number of people (not just you), if you enter identifying details to a place that you add this information will be visible to the other participants. Not adding your name or any other features when adding a new place to the maps will the full confidentiality of any information shared. If you feel at all uncomfortable, however, when you are ready to do so, simply let a member of staff know that you would prefer to stop participating.

### **Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes, you can tell other people about the project by providing them with my email address and/or number. They can contact us to discuss their participation in the research project and obtain a copy of this information sheet.

### **What if I require further information?**

Please contact me, Sarah De Nardi, or the centre staff and volunteers if you wish to discuss the project further before deciding whether or not to participate.

Sarah De Nardi: WhatsApp mobile, =447895511671, please note I am working from the UK so timezones are variable.

email [s.denardi@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:s.denardi@westernsydney.edu.au).

### **What if I have a complaint?**

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee through Research Engagement, Development and Innovation (REDI) on Tel +61 2 4736 0229 or email [humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au).

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

If you agree to participate in this project, you will also be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form. The information sheet is for you to keep and the consent form is retained by the me, the researcher.

This study has been approved by the Western Sydney University Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H14226.