

# Prospecting Futures Online Information Sheet

We would like to invite you to participate in our research project. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like clarification on any point or more information.



## What is the project about?

Prospecting Futures is the Newcastle University wing of Unsettling Scientific Stories: Expertise, Narrative, and Future Histories (USS) – an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded project that uses stories to investigate the history of scientific futures. The project also includes research at the Universities of York and Aberystwyth.

**Prospecting Futures Online** is a sociological project that explores online discussion (social media, blogs, fansites) and aims to work with reading groups to understand how contemporary scientific developments and issues are represented in science fiction and interpreted by their readers. The project aims to understand reading group practices and activities, explore the dynamics of social and cultural networks. Focusing on the knowledge and enthusiasm of readers, we hope to develop a better understanding of how fictional narratives enable new perspectives on science and its futures.



## What does taking part involve?

My name is **Miranda Iossifidis** and I'm a social researcher. I'd like to undertake an online ethnography, observing the everyday interactions and discussions on Goodreads, from July to December 2018. This consists of the posts that are made by group members. Depending on the interest of group members who have consented to participate, there may be follow-up interviews conducted via email or Skype with me.

**Your participation in this project is voluntary, and you may refuse to take part in the research or exit at any time.**

**I'm primarily asking for permission to work with your posts on the discussion group in my analysis.** I may also ask for contact information if we decide to go ahead with an interview. Interviews will be transcribed. **Anonymity** is important. No names or identifying information will be included in any publications or presentations based on these data, and your interview responses will remain **confidential**.

If you have questions at any time about the study or the procedures, or if you choose to have your contributions to the online discussion acknowledged by name, you can contact me via email at [miranda.iossifidis@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:miranda.iossifidis@ncl.ac.uk) at any time. In follow-up interviews, you are free to decline to answer any particular question you do not wish to answer for any reason.



Only I and the project Principal Investigator **Lisa Garforth** will have access to the information collected, which will be stored on password-protected computers. Personal data such as email address and phone number will be kept for six months after completion of data collection in case there is any need of research follow up.

On the **Unsettling Scientific Stories website** I'll provide a summary of each month's activities and summary of emerging findings, as well as details of forthcoming and planned publications and major presentations.

