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**Somaesthetics and Design**  
**- STUDENTS -**

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT**

**(1) What is this study about?**

You are invited to take part in a research project *Somaesthetics and Design*, exploring the influence of somatic body awareness on user experience design. As interactive technologies are becoming more ubiquitous, embedded in the environment and on our bodies, user experience design methodologies are needed that enable designers to go beyond functional requirements of use and design for more nuanced dimensions of emotion and felt experience, referred to as somatic awareness. The aim of the study is to explore and evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of somatic approaches embedded in a user-centred experience design process on the quality of the design process itself and the resulting outcomes.

You have been invited to participate in this study because you are a student currently enrolled in a unit of study exploring somatic user experience design. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

Participation in this research study is voluntary. Recruitment will take place following the end of semester.

By giving your consent to take part in this study you are telling us that you:

- ✓ Understand what you have read.
- ✓ Agree to take part in the research study as outlined below.
- ✓ Agree to the use of your personal information as described.

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information Statement to keep.

**(2) Who is running the study?**

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- Dr. Lian Loke, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney
- Dr Thecla Schiphorst, Professor, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada
- Prof Richard Shusterman, Florida Atlantic University, USA
- Claudia Núñez -Pacheco, PhD candidate, Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney

This study is being funded by the Office of Global Engagement, University of Sydney.

### **(3) What will the study involve for me?**

As part of your learning in the unit of study, you will be keeping a somatic reflection journal throughout the semester. The journal asks you to document and reflect on your developing somatic literacy and how it influences your design process. The journal is part of the unit assessment.

We would like your permission to use your journal as data in our study. At the end of semester, after the journal has been marked, we will seek your permission to use it as data in our research study.

At the end of semester, we will also invite you to fill in an online questionnaire. The questionnaire asks you to enter demographic information, a description of your current creative process before commencing the unit of study and whether or not you already incorporate body awareness techniques. It also asks you to evaluate the influence of somatic awareness and literacy on the design process you experienced during the semester.

### **(4) How much of my time will the study take?**

For the somatic reflection journal, there is no additional time on top of what you are expected to do for the assessment.

The online questionnaire should take about half an hour to answer.

### **(5) Who can take part in the study?**

Students enrolled in units of study exploring somatic user experience design. Participants should be aged 18 years and over.

### **(6) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?**

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Sydney. Importantly, the marking of your assessment for the unit of study will not be affected by your decision to participate.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind later, you are free to withdraw at any time. You can do this by emailing Chief Investigator Dr Lian Loke [lian.loke@sydney.edu.au].

### **(7) Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?**

Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

**(8) Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?**

We cannot guarantee that you will receive any direct benefits from being in the study, although you may learn some new techniques that may be of benefit to your creative practice. Others may benefit in the future through the design of interactive technologies informed by somatic principles and practices developed through this study.

**(9) What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?**

We will seek permission to use your data at the end of semester, after marking of assessments has taken place, via the Participant Consent Form for the journal and the online questionnaire. By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting personal information about you for the purposes of this research study. Your information will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Statement, unless you consent otherwise.

As part of the questionnaire, demographic data will be collected. Some of the material from the somatic reflection journal may appear in part or full in publications such as journals, conference presentations and book chapters.

Your information will be stored securely and your identity/information will only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law. Study findings may be published, but you will not be identified in these publications.

During and after the study, hard copy materials will be stored in a locked cabinet in CI Loke's office Room 275, Wilkinson Building, G04, The University of Sydney. Electronic material will be stored on a password-protected computer in CI Loke's office and also on the university research data registry. The data will be retained after the study for 5 years. At the end of the storage period, the data will be destroyed.

We will keep the information we collect for this study, and we may use it in future projects. By providing your consent you are allowing us to use your information in future projects. We don't know at this stage what these other projects will involve. We will seek ethical approval before using the information in these future projects.

**(10) Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study.

**(11) What if I would like further information about the study?**

When you have read this information, Dr Lian Loke will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage during the study, please feel free to contact Dr Lian Loke, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney, [lian.loke@sydney.edu.au](mailto:lian.loke@sydney.edu.au), +61 2 9351 4108.

**(12) Will I be told the results of the study?**

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. You can tell us that you wish to receive feedback by ticking the relevant box on the consent form. This feedback will be in the form of a one page lay summary. You will receive this feedback after the study is finished.

**(13) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?**

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney 2015/960. As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

- **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
- **Email:** [ro.humanethics@sydney.edu.au](mailto:ro.humanethics@sydney.edu.au)
- **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)

*This information sheet is for you to keep*