 

Social Research Project

Aspiring to Survive: Precariat Constructions of Social Mobility and Social Justice

Hello. I’m Jonathan Jones, a PhD student at Cardiff university, and I’m researching the views of people who have irregular work hours or are in insecure work.

**Details of the Research**

I am interested in the idea of ‘social mobility’, which examines how and why people move between job sectors and social classes. There’s a lot of research in this area, but not much of it looks at how people think and feel about their goals. This research has been approved by the university ethics committee. If you are on a zero-hours contract, you are self-employed, or you are doing agency or shift work where your hours vary, then I would like to speak to you. I am interested in what experiences you have had in pursuing your goals in work and other aspects of life, and what kind of goals you think people are expected to have. I am also interested in what your thoughts are on how people in government deal with problems like job insecurity and inequality, and the way they promote social mobility.

The views and experiences of people in irregular or insecure work are very important. If you are doing this kind of work, your insights are valuable to my research.

I am a student at Cardiff University, doing a PhD in Social Science. This research is for my thesis and is being funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. If you have any questions, comments or concerns you can contact me directly or contact Cardiff University. Contact details are at the end of this information sheet. You can also use these details if you wish to make a complaint.

**What does the research involve?**

There will be several stages to the research. Firstly, I would like people interested in the research to complete a short online questionnaire. This will collect background data on the kind of work you do and what you think the major issues are in relation to this. This will give you an opportunity to tell me what issues you think later stages of the research should focus on.

After this, I would like to interview some people about the subjects discussed above. Interviews will take place via telephone or secure video link and last about an hour. It will be quite informal. I will encourage you to tell stories about your life and would focus on the details that you value and want to talk about. I may need to ask you about times when you have experienced hardship or found it difficult to achieve. Those who take part in this stage of the research will receive £20 Love2shop vouchers.

If you wish to continue, there can be a third stage in which you will be invited to take part in online workshops, where we will look at quotes from policy documents and speeches and you will be able to feed back on what you think of these. This will give you a chance to comment on specific policies and policy-makers’ perceptions of insecure work, and say how you think these have shaped your experiences.

Finally, I will give all participants the chance to suggest other ways they’d like to express their thoughts and experiences, which could be anything from photos, diaries, creative writing or art.

You do not have to take part and nobody will object if you refuse. If you would like to be involved, this would be chance for you to share your knowledge and opinions. I would need to audio record the interviews and workshops for my notes.

During all stages of the research, you will be able to pause, or end the session early. If you need to, please ask.

**Confidentiality Agreement.**

If you decide to take part, all written records and anything I write about the interview in my thesis will give you a pretend name and use as little personal detail as possible. Anything that could identify you will be changed or kept vague. We would both sign a form that would act as a written promise from me to respect your anonymity. It would also confirm that you agree to take part. If participants reference other identifiable features or sensitive data within recordings, these details will also be altered or blanked out within the transcripts and thesis.

**How the Research Will Be Stored.**

The questionnaire data, recordings, transcripts, and anything else you contribute will be stored securely for no less than 5 years or at least 2 years after publication, then destroyed as instructed by GDPR laws. The University may need to access the data to confirm my work.

At any time up until June 2022, you may withdraw your consent for me to use this data, without giving a reason. In this case, your data will be destroyed and will not be used in my written thesis. This is your right, and there will be no consequences for you if you choose to do this. After this date, the research will be written up and submitted to the university.

**How the Research Will be Used.**

I will be writing a long thesis for my PhD, based on what I find out from the research. My analysis will include psychosocial observations where I consider ways your work patterns and government policies may have affected you emotionally. The written thesis may include data from your questionnaire responses, anonymised **quotes** from your interview and workshop, etc. The written research will be viewed by assessors and my supervisor. There is a chance that the research findings will be published, such as in an academic journal or online, and it may be presented to policy makers.

**What next?**

You have time to think about whether you’d like to take part and I will get in touch again soon to see if you’re interested. If you are, we’ll arrange for you to sign the consent form and a flexible schedule for you to take part in each stage of the research.

Thank you for reading this and thinking about taking part.

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