



# Participant Information And Consent Form

Public Workshop

<b>Title</b>	AI + the Afterlife
<b>Principal Investigator/Senior Supervisor</b>	Distinguished Professor Larissa Hjorth
<b>Associate Investigator(s)/Associate Supervisor(s)</b>	Dr Caitlin McGrane Dr Jed Brubaker

## What does my participation involve?

### 1 Introduction

You are invited to take part in this research project, which is called *AI + the Afterlife*. You have been invited because you responded to a call for participants. Your contact details were obtained from your reply to the call for participants.

This Participant Information And Consent Form tells you about the research project. It explains the processes involved with taking part. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether to take part, you might want to talk about it with a relative or friend.

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to.

If you decide you want to take part in the research project, you will be asked to sign the consent section. By signing it you are telling us that you:

- Understand what you have read
- Consent to take part in the research project

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information and Consent Form to keep.

### 2 What is the purpose of this research?

This project is intended to investigate how members of the public feel about the future of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impacts on issues of storytelling, personal legacies, and cultural heritage. Generative AI includes text-generation tools such as ChatGPT and image-generating tools such as Midjourney. The overall aim is to discuss and document insights into generative AI.

As generative AI grows in popularity and reach, its impacts on everyday life needs to be explored in all facets. This project will seek to understand how the public feels about generative AI use in telling stories about the past, present and future, as well as how generative AI is being used in cultural heritage. These findings have potential significance in how they can inform Australian and international policies around data retention, the ethical development of AI systems, and in terms of increasing public awareness of the potential opportunities and limitations of generative AI technologies.

This research has been initiated by the researcher, Distinguished Professor Larissa Hjorth

This research is being co-conducted by Dr Jed Brubaker, University of Denver Colorado.

### **3 What does participation in this research involve?**

In this project you will be asked to:

- Sign the consent form prior to involvement in the research.
- Participate in group discussion and activities in relation to generative AI.

The workshop will take approximately 2 hours and will take place at RMIT University. It will be audio recorded and non-identifying photos will be taken (i.e. of hands). The researchers will also take notes about what is said in the workshop.

Interpreters will not be available so to participate, you must feel comfortable communicating in English.

There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid.

### **4 Other relevant information about the research project**

We anticipate approximately 12-24 people will participate in the workshop. The project involves researchers from RMIT University and the University of Colorado Boulder collaborating on the workshop.

### **5 Do I have to take part in this research project?**

Participation in any research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to leave the workshop at any stage. However, if you leave after the recording has started, it will not be possible to destroy any data already collected about you.

If you do decide to take part, you will be given this Participant Information and Consent Form to sign and you will be given a copy to keep.

Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the researchers or with RMIT University.

If you take part in a focus group, you are free to stop participating at any stage or to refuse to answer any questions. However, it will not be possible to withdraw your individual comments from our records once the group has started, as it is a group discussion.

### **6 What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

We cannot guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this research; however, you may appreciate contributing to knowledge. There will be no clear benefit to you from your participation in this research.

Possible societal benefits may include informing Australian and international policies around data retention, the ethical development of AI systems, and in terms of increasing public awareness of the potential opportunities and limitations of generative AI technologies.

### **7 What are the risks and disadvantages of taking part?**

You may feel that some of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting. If you do not wish to answer a question, you may skip it and go to the next question, or you may stop immediately. If you become upset or distressed because of your participation in the research project, members of the research team will be able to discuss appropriate support for you.

If you experience any distress during or after the workshop, please let the researchers know. You may also want to contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 or Beyondblue on 1300 224 636.

Whilst all care will be taken to maintain privacy and confidentiality, you may experience embarrassment if one of the group members were to repeat things said in a confidential group meeting. It is advisable that you do not reveal anything too personal or that you may regret later. Please also ensure you respect the confidentiality of other members of the workshop.

## **8 What if I withdraw from this research project?**

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. If you decide to withdraw from the project, please notify a member of the research team.

If you withdraw part-way through the workshop where audio data collection has started, the researchers will not be able to delete your data. You have the right to have any unprocessed data withdrawn and destroyed, providing it can be reliably identified.

## **9 What happens when the research project ends?**

Approximately one month after the workshop, you will be emailed a summary of the workshop. You will be given two weeks to make any suggested changes to this summary. Other future publications may include academic journal articles, but these may take a long time to become available. If you would like to be kept informed of the research outputs, please let the researchers know.

## **How is the research project being conducted?**

### **10 What will happen to information about me?**

The data collected in this project is both individually identifiable (such as your name and email address) and re-identifiable (such as the pseudonym the researchers will give you in any summaries or publications). This data will be kept for five years after the end of the project, after which time it will be destroyed in accordance with RMIT's policy on data storage. You are only being asked to provide consent for the use of your data in this project. The research will not involve the establishment or contribution to a databank.

By signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using information from you for the research project. Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you will remain confidential. Your data will be stored securely on an RMIT password-protected server that is only accessible by the researchers.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, except with your express permission. Your confidentiality will be maintained by assigning you a pseudonym. [

In accordance with relevant Australian and/or Victorian privacy and other relevant laws, you have the right to request access to the information about you that is collected and stored by the research team. You also have the right to request that any information with which you disagree be corrected. Please inform the research team member named at the end of this document if you would like to access your information.

Any information that you provide can be disclosed only if (1) it is to protect you or others from harm, (2) if specifically allowed by law, (3) you provide the researchers with written permission. Any information obtained for the purpose of this research project that can identify you will be treated as confidential and securely stored.

**11 Who is organising and funding the research?**

This research project is being conducted by Distinguished Professor Larissa Hjorth.

**12 Who has reviewed the research project?**

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent Ethics review body. This research project has been approved by one of the RMIT University review bodies. This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2007). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

**13 Further information and who to contact**

If you want any further information concerning this project, you can contact the researcher using the details below:

**Research contact person**

Name	Dr Caitlin McGrane
Position	Associate Investigator
Telephone	0448816750
Email	caitlin.mcgrane@rmit.edu.au

**14 Complaints**

Should you have any concerns or questions about this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the researchers listed in this document, then you may contact:

Reviewing HREC name	RMIT University
HREC Secretary	Pascal Bernard
Telephone	03 9925 1985
Email	<a href="mailto:humanethics@rmit.edu.au">humanethics@rmit.edu.au</a>
Mailing address	Manager, Research Governance and Ethics RMIT University GPO Box 2476 MELBOURNE VIC 3001

# Consent Form

**Title** AI + the Afterlife  
**Principal Investigator/Senior Supervisor** Distinguished Professor Larissa Hjorth  
**Associate Investigator(s)/Associate Supervisors** Dr Caitlin McGrane  
Dr Jed Brubaker

## **Acknowledgement by Participant**

I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet.  
I understand the purposes, procedures and risks of the research described in the project.  
I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received.  
I freely agree to participate in this research project as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the project without affecting my relationship with RMIT.  
I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.

Name of Participant (please print) _____
Signature _____ Date _____

## **Declaration by Researcher\***

I have given a verbal explanation of the research project; its procedures and risks and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

Name of Researcher* (please print) _____
Signature _____ Date _____

\* An appropriately qualified member of the research team must provide the explanation of, and information concerning, the research project.

Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature.