

# **Information form for the participants of the geoquestionnaire study, implemented as part of the project:**

## **"Geography of resistance: Entangled spatialities of contestation."**

We invite you to participate in the study using the geoquestionnaire. The Primary Investigator (PI) of the study is Dr Tomasz Sowada (Critical Geography Lab, Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland).

The study is part of the "Geography of resistance: Entangled spatialities of contestation" project funded by the National Science Center as part of the SONATA programme.

### **PRELIMINARY INFORMATION**

1. Participation in this survey is entirely voluntary.
2. Suppose you agree to participate in the study. In that case, it is possible to withdraw your consent up to the time of submission without giving reasons. Due to the anonymous nature of the survey and the inability to identify the answers sent by a specific person, it is impossible to withdraw once the response has been submitted. If contact information is provided, it can be removed at any time per the subject's request.
3. Lack of consent, or its withdrawal, will not entail any consequences. In particular, it will not entail any penalties or loss of rights that accrue under other titles.

Before deciding whether to participate in this study, please read the text below carefully.

### **STUDY RECIPIENTS**

Participation in the study is open to people aged 16 and over who have participated in protests or resistance practices, have knowledge of these phenomena, and are willing to share their experiences or observations.

### **MAIN ASSUMPTIONS AND PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

We want to understand better how the sites of protests and other forms of resistance influence the actions, as well as the relationships between place and resistance. With your help, we will try to answer questions such as:

- Why are specific places, such as streets, squares, or online spaces, essential for protests and other resistance activities?
- How do people choose and use physical and digital spaces for such activities?
- How do cultural differences affect how space is used in different forms of resistance?

This is just the beginning of our project. The results of this part of the research will help us better understand resistance activities and plan further research steps.

## **THE COURSE, DURATION AND METHOD OF THE SURVEY**

The detailed course of the study will look as follows:

- A. The study participant will receive a link for an online survey and will read this information form. Completing the survey means giving your consent to participate in the study. Consent includes two levels of use of the data entered - in aggregate form in the statistical analysis of data and individual form - the use of anonymous quotes from open-ended questions in scientific publications and research reports.
- B. The platform has been prepared in two language versions (Polish and English). The survey language is determined based on the browser settings with the possibility of manual modification by the user.
- C. The survey was created using the ESRI ArcGIS Survey123 platform. It is widely used for conducting similar studies and was designed with ethical principles (Lavery & Mendez, 2021). We will not collect additional information about the respondents. Participation is possible without creating an account and providing personal data, reducing the risk of privacy breaches. The risk of using the online platform is the possibility of digital exclusion of some of the potential participants. To help them, we enriched the platform with relevant documentation and tutorials explicitly designed for people with computer problems.
- D. Respondents provide a minimum amount of information about their demographic characteristics. Due to the purpose of the study, age, education, state of residence and declared gender will be important characteristics.
- E. The survey includes closed questions (with a set of answers to choose from), open questions (with the option to type in any text) and map questions - in which participants will indicate the location of the protest/resistance sites described. We do not ask for a location to identify the respondents' whereabouts and will only ask questions about past events. The map allows locations to be pinpointed with varying detail and precision. Participants can mark an exact or approximate location.
- F. Participants can add media in the form of a photo or audio file. Adding a file will include a declaration of authorship. Audio files will be used only for data analysis, while graphic files will only be used if they do not identify specific people.
- G. Sample questions that will be included in the survey:
  - a) Indicate the location of the protest
  - b) Name the protest previously marked on the map
  - c) What influenced your participation in this protest?
  - d) If you feel it is relevant, please send pictures of the protest to us

H. Information obtained through the survey will be stored in a database accessible only to those conducting the survey. They will not be made available in raw form due to the presence of open-ended questions, potentially carrying the risk of unwitting identification of the person surveyed.

## **POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE SURVEY**

Participation in the survey may increase respondents' awareness of the spatial aspects of the protest. This, in turn, may positively influence their future experiences of organising and participating in protests regarding the protest's effectiveness and the participants' safety.

Participants in the survey will have the opportunity to review publications that are the result of the survey, which will allow for possible recommendations for protest organisers and participants.

## **POTENTIAL INCONVENIENCES, RISKS AND HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY**

Several potential participant risks can be identified in mapping surveys, especially regarding protests and resistance. Here are the key ones:

- a) Location disclosure risks: Participants may feel uncomfortable providing a location that could identify or associate them with specific protest events. This can lead to concerns about personal safety, especially if the data relates to controversial sites or events (Sowada, 2019).

Remedies: Location information will be collected and analysed anonymously. We will ensure anonymity by aggregating data at the level of larger spatial units and pinpointing specific locations for a given practice without linking it to the data of the person who pinpointed it. This way, no one will know who may have pinpointed a given location.

- b) Legal risk: In some countries or specific situations, participating in protests or publicly expressing political views may result in legal consequences. Participants may be concerned that their responses will be associated with actions that could expose them to such consequences.

Remedies: We ensure the anonymity of the survey and inform participants of their privacy rights. We do not collect any data that uniquely identifies respondents.

- c) Psychological/emotional risk: The protest and resistance survey may evoke negative emotions by reminding participants of stressful or traumatic events, such as repression or violence during protests.

Remedy: We provide the ability to stop participating in the survey at any time. Suppose a participant experiences mental distress or trauma after taking part in the study. In that case, we encourage them to contact the following support institutions:

- Direct support line for people in a state of mental crisis by NHS: tel. 111
- Helpline for those in a difficult situation: tel. 116 123
- Confidential telephone number for children and young people: tel. 0800 1111

- d) Risks associated with attaching multimedia: Using multimedia files attached by participants in the study may lead to inadvertent disclosure of personal or sensitive information that could put participants at risk.

Remedies: The attached media files will be analysed and used to identify key issues using methods that ensure complete anonymity. At the same time, they will be moderated by the research team, and we will only use material that does not identify specific individuals.

- e) Risks associated with open-ended questions: Providing answers to open-ended questions may lead to the unintentional disclosure of personal data or sensitive information that may put participants at risk.

Remedies: The research team will only provide information that can identify specific individuals if such information is collected during the study.

- f) Data access risks: Data collected in the study may be exposed to unauthorised access, such as through hacking attacks, which may put participants at risk of having their data disclosed.

Remedies: We use high-security standards, such as encrypting and restricting access to data.

Identifying these risks and implementing appropriate remedies should minimise potential risks to study participants.

## **STORAGE, PROCESSING AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA**

The survey is anonymous, and we will not collect, store or process personal data as part of the introductory survey. At the same time, after completing the survey, each interested person will have the opportunity to provide us with their contact details in a separate questionnaire. This will enable them to indicate their willingness to participate in the following stages of the research project or to receive future publications containing the research results. All data and information about the subjects thus obtained will be kept strictly confidential. In order to ensure adequate protection of personal data, procedures will be put in place to prevent unauthorised persons from accessing the study documentation. Detailed information on the protection of personal data is contained in the information clause of the GDPR, which will be read by the persons taking part in the study. The head of the study will strictly observe the provisions of the Personal Data Protection Policy of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań in this regard.

The results of the study will be presented at conferences and in scientific publications in such a way as to prevent the unequivocal identification of the participants. The anonymity of the participants in the study will consist of assigning individual codes to the respondents. The cited statements of the study's participants will be signed only with this code. The codes will be associated only with the following socio-demographic information: the city in which the person participated in the protest or organised the protest, the role in the protest (participant or organiser), age, gender, and education.

## **REWARD FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY**

There is no reward for participation in the study.

## **CONTACT**

The Primary Investigator is ready to answer any questions about your participation. If you have any questions or doubts, please contact the PI by telephone (+48 61 829 61 71) or e-mail ([tomasz.sowada@amu.edu.pl](mailto:tomasz.sowada@amu.edu.pl)). It is also possible to make an appointment at the headquarters of the Department of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Economy (ul. 10 Krygowskiego Street, 61-680 Poznań, Poland). [tomasz.sowada@amu.edu.pl](mailto:tomasz.sowada@amu.edu.pl)