

## INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

### 1. What is Shared Reading?

During Shared Reading, a group of people, one of them a trained Reader Leader, reads a novel, short story or poem aloud. From time to time, there are pauses in the reading to make space for the group to talk about what they have read. There is no need for group members to read aloud or speak – it is completely fine to just listen. The idea is to create a space where people feel at ease.

### 2. What is the purpose of this study?

We would like to explore and compare how young adults in the UK and Switzerland experience Shared Reading and how their participation affects their well-being, as well as their reading-related behaviors and attitudes.

### 3. Who can take part?

We are looking for young adults aged 18-25, who are not trained Reader Leaders themselves. Apart from that, everyone is welcome.

### 4. Who is doing the research?

The research is led by Prof. Dr. Moniek Kuijpers from the University of Basel, as well as PhD candidates Antonia Vogler and Tina Ternes who will manage the data collection for the study. The Reader is partnering with the University of Basel and will run Shared Reading sessions for the duration of the study at its headquarters in Liverpool, UK.

### 5. Who is funding the research?

The research is funded by the SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation).

### 6. What does participation in the study involve?

The study runs from late January to early April for 12 weeks. It involves weekly 2-hour Shared Reading sessions and one focus group interview in the last week.

Furthermore, you will complete several online questionnaires on your current state of well-being and your reading habits:

- Before the first session (~ 20-30 min)
- Before each session (~ 5 min)
- After each session (~ 10 min)
- After the last session (~ 20-30 min)
- Eight weeks after the last session (~ 20-30 min)

While the sessions will run weekly for the duration of the study, if there are one or two weeks that you cannot make this will not affect your participation in the study and we would still encourage you to get involved.

## **7. What are my duties as a participant?**

The Shared Reading group is supposed to be a safe space for everyone. As a group member, you are expected to behave respectfully towards the other participants and the Reader Leader. Additionally, we ask you not to pass on personal/sensitive information that was shared by other participants to people who are not involved in the study.

## **8. If I decide to take part, can I change my mind?**

Your participation is entirely voluntary. You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time. You can also withdraw your permission for your questionnaire data to be used in any subsequent publications. However, your contributions during the reading sessions and the interview cannot be deleted, as they provide context for other participants' comments. Without this context, we can't fully understand the group data.

## **9. Are there any risks involved in taking part in this study?**

This study poses little to no risk to you. In the case you feel emotional distress during any of the sessions, you will be attended to by the reader leader and/or the researcher present in the session. Both are trained in handling the situation and can advise you to professional mental health-care providers.

## **10. What kind of data will be collected and how?**

Every Shared Reading session and focus group meeting will be recorded on video. Additionally, one member of the research team will be present during each session to observe the intervention. The questionnaire answers will be linked to any statements you make during the sessions.

### **10.1 Questionnaires**

For the questionnaires, we use the open-source software LimeSurvey, which is operated by the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Basel on its own servers. This means that the data does not go via third-party providers. You will receive the links to the surveys automatically by email (tina.ternes@unibas.ch), also via the university's internal infrastructure.

### **10.2 Video Recordings**

The video recordings will be done via Zoom, with password protection and end-to-end encryption. They will be stored locally on University of Basel computers, transcribed using AI-assisted software, and they will not be shared with anyone except for research group members.

## **11. Will my identity be protected?**

The video data will be stored for two years after the end of the study and then deleted. Your identity in the transcribed dataset will be pseudonymized. This means that names and other identifiable details will be changed. The identity of participants will only be known to the researchers.

To link your questionnaires with your statements in the sessions, your email address will be associated with your name and an identification number. At the end of the study, only this identification number, and not your name or email address, will be exported with the survey data. The identification number will then be replaced by the pseudonym used for you, and the file containing the identification number, your name, and your email address will be deleted.

## **12. How will my data be stored?**

To store the data, we use a secure space, offered by the University of Basel. Only research team members will have access to this space. The questionnaire and

transcribed data will be encrypted and stored separately from your personal information. Two years after the study is completed, all personal information will be deleted. Once the study has been published, the anonymised data will be stored in an online open access repository, so it can inspire further research and give other researchers the chance to replicate our analysis.

### **13. What are my rights to my data?**

Until your data has been anonymised, you can request information about the personal data collected about you at any time and without giving reasons. You can also request for the data to be corrected, handed over to you, blocked for processing or deleted.

**To do so, please contact Moniek Kuijpers at [moniek.kuijpers@unibas.ch](mailto:moniek.kuijpers@unibas.ch).**

### **14. Will I be reimbursed for my participation?**

We greatly appreciate your contribution to our research. If you complete the study, you will receive a book voucher of 100£ as an expression of our gratitude for your time.

**If any questions or concerns arise, please do not hesitate to contact us:  
[moniek.kuijpers@unibas.ch](mailto:moniek.kuijpers@unibas.ch)**

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