

## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

### **NETWORKED ELEARNING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

Researcher: Ashwini Datt

Supervisors: Dr. John Egan, Professor Helen Sword

#### **Researcher Introduction**

I am a Senior Tutor in eLearning at the Centre for Learning and Research in Higher Education (CLear) at the University of Auckland. This research is to fulfil the requirements of the degree of the Doctor of Philosophy under the supervision of Professor Helen Sword (Director of CLear) and Dr. John Egan (Director of the Learning Technology Unit, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences).

#### **Invitation to Participate**

You are invited to participate in this research because of your involvement in elearning in tertiary education either as an educator or a member of a globally recognised network of professionals interested in enhancing teaching and learning through pedagogical use of technologies.

To find potential participants, like you, I have reached out to colleagues at the University of Auckland who have been involved in elearning and have affiliations with CLear's core programmes such as the Post Graduate Certificate in Academic Practice. I have also approached networks such as the Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ASCILITE).

Your participation is *voluntary* and you may decline this invitation to participate without penalty. If you choose to participate, you will be contributing to the growing information on contemporary elearning professional development approaches and will help inform your practice. I will be happy to share any outputs/publications with you in addition to what will be available in the public domain once published for wider dissemination.

#### **Project Details**

This study examines networked approaches to elearning capacity development for tertiary educators.

The research aims to:

- (1) investigate the extent to which networked experiences support elearning capacity development,
- (2) identify network characteristics that motivate and support tertiary educators to engage in networked professional development opportunities, and
- (3) explore ways in which networked experiences can be effectively documented to illustrate developing elearning capacity.

Data collection for this project will continue for an estimated *36 months*. The results from this project will add to the growing literature on contemporary elearning capacity development initiatives. It will also inform the work of learning designers, academic developers and academic development units like CLear. Since the research is from the perspective of the educator, the outputs will help influence their elearning approach and practices to improve student learning.

The two risks associated with this research – coercion and bias – have been mediated to some extent by:

- inviting a wide range of participants and allowing anonymous, completely voluntary participation without any consequences or disadvantage from a lack of participation.
- recruiting participants outside of the University of Auckland, such as ASCILITE members.

## **Project Procedures**

If you choose to participate, you will complete an [online questionnaire](#) which is anonymous. I will also require permission to interview you by asking that you inform me of your interest to be interviewed using my contact details on the questionnaire.

The expected time commitment from you for the online questionnaire will be 15-20 minutes and the interview will need 1 hour of your time at maximum.

You can choose to withdraw from participation at anytime without giving a reason. To allow for transcription and coding, the interview will be recorded and you will be provided a copy of the transcript for review. You can request to stop the recording at anytime without giving a reason and retract information if you choose to within the allowed timeframe of one month. Once the data has been de-identified, collated and coded, it will not be possible for you to request further changes. However, you do have the flexibility to choose to opt out of answering particular questions during the interview.

## **Data Storage, Retention, Destruction and Future Use**

Data will be collected through anonymous online questionnaires and interviews. Once the set timeframe for the questionnaire has lapsed, it will be closed off to participation. Online questionnaire data will be collated and stored on disk under University of Auckland storage space for Qualtrics. The recorded interview data will be stored on disk in a secure folder on the University of Auckland network and University's official Google Drive storage for staff and students. Both these storage spaces require user authentication so the integrity of its security is assured.

The data will be stored for a minimum of six years, preferably until the completion of the requirements of the degree of doctor of philosophy. After the minimum storage time has elapsed, the data will be destroyed by deleting the questionnaire interface on Qualtrics and the storage data – media files and word transcripts – on the University network and Google Drive.

## **Right to Withdraw from Participation**

You have the right to withdraw from completing the online questionnaire and interview at any time without giving a reason. However, though you can withdraw your interview data up to one month after it has been collected, it is impossible to withdraw data from the anonymous questionnaire once it has been submitted.

## **Anonymity and Confidentiality**

The preservation of confidentiality is paramount. The information you share with me will remain confidential to our research team (including my two supervisors). Your anonymity will be protected via secure, anonymous status for the questionnaire and de-identification of the interview data during coding.

The research findings will be published in ways in which you, as a participant, get full benefit of the information and outcomes of the project. If the information you provide is part of any such publication or report, it will be written in a way that does not identify you as its source.

A copy of the research findings will be made available to you, if you wish to keep it for your records or share it with your colleagues.

## **CONTACT DETAILS AND APPROVAL**

PhD Student Researcher	Supervisor/Co-Investigator	Head of Department
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LEARNING AND RESEARCH  
IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

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Level 4, 18 Waterloo Quadrant  
Auckland, New Zealand  
T +64 9 923 7613  
W [clear.auckland.ac.nz](http://clear.auckland.ac.nz)  
**The University of Auckland**  
Private Bag 92019  
Auckland 1142  
New Zealand

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Ashwini Datt <a href="mailto:adat009@aucklanduni.ac.nz">adat009@aucklanduni.ac.nz</a> Ph: 9237613	Dr. John Egan <a href="mailto:j.egan@auckland.ac.nz">j.egan@auckland.ac.nz</a> Ph: +64.21.475.968	Professor Helen Sword <a href="mailto:h.sword@auckland.ac.nz">h.sword@auckland.ac.nz</a> Ph: 923 6686
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