**Making sense of life changes. What are the experiences of women entrepreneurs with Imposter Phenomenon?**

Thank you for agreeing to consider participating in this research project. Before deciding whether to grant me an interview, I feel it is important that you understand the reason why the research is being conducted, and what your participation will involve. I would be grateful if you would take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss with other people if you wish. Please do not hesitate to contact me if any of the information is unclear or you wish to discuss your participation in this project.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

There is gap in the current research on women entrepreneurs, and this study aims to investigate the role of life changes, (for example births, deaths, house moves or illness) within women entrepreneurs who self-identify as experiencing Imposter Syndrome. This research will be conducted through an online interview using Microsoft Teams

**Will the interview be recorded?**

Yes, the interview will be recorded. You are not required to use your camera for the interview unless you want to, only the audio element of the interview will be retained.

**What is Imposter Phenomenon?**

Imposter phenomenon is described as doubting your own abilities and achievements and feeling like a fraud .

**Who is running the study?**

The study is being conducted by me, Leila Ainge for my Psychology Masters project. My project supervisor is Kristina Newman Please see the Contact details below.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, your participation in this research is entirely voluntary. You can also withdraw from the study either by contacting me before the interview, asking to terminate the interview, or withdrawing your data after the interview has taken place and before the deadline date of 30, April 2022.

If you do decide to take part, I ask that you read and fully understand the information on this sheet and sign and complete a separate informed consent form. If you decide not to take part in the research, you will not be asked to give any explanation. Also, please see contact details below if you decide to take part in the study and after the interview you change your mind and decide to withdraw your data.

**What do I need to do?**

I would like you to take part in an interview lasting approximately 1 hour, online at a time that is convenient for you. Interviews will be taking place throughout March and April, and I will contact you by email to arrange a date and time that is convenient for you. The interview will be carried out by me and will follow a semi-structured format. As part of the informed consent form I would like your permission to record the interview using Microsoft Teams to ensure the data you provide is accurately documented.

**What questions will be asked in the interview?**

You will be asked to talk about your own experiences, specifically life events that have occurred during your entrepreneurship. The interview will also cover topics on Imposter Phenomenon, Online Communities, and your motivation for becoming an entrepreneur.

You do not have to answer the questions, you can let me know at any point if you would like to stop recording and end the interview. Any questions that you would not feel comfortable answering will be omitted from the interview.

In addition to this, if you feel uncomfortable whilst in the interview you may refuse to answer, or give no comment to any of the questions, and I will continue on to the following question.

**What will happen to the information I provide in my interview?**

The recording of your interview will be transcribed and analysed. This information will then be incorporated into the findings and conclusions of the research. All transcripts will be kept online in private cloud storage (hosted by Microsoft), in encrypted files. Any printed transcripts will be kept in a locked drawer in a secure office to ensure your data’s security.

At the end of the study and after my graduation from NTU the data will be destroyed in a secure manner.

**How will the researcher deal with confidentiality and protect my anonymity?**

All transcripts will be fully anonymised and will be kept in a secure location at all times. Only myself and my research supervisor will have access to these documents and recordings of interviews. Hard copies of data will be kept in a locked drawer and electronic copies will be stored in a private cloud in encrypted/password protected files in line with the British Psychological Society’s code of ethics.

You will not be named or otherwise identified in any publication arising from this research. I will exercise all possible care to ensure that you and your business cannot be identified in the write-up of findings.

I will also initiate a conversation around anonymity during the interview if the topic is particularly sensitive, inviting input from you on anonymising strategies. Post interview I may deploy the use of an additional pseudonym detaching or ring-fencing a part of your interview from other extracts.

However, due to the method of data analysis, direct quotes are likely to be taken from the interviews and used in my project report. Whilst these quotes will be anonymised, I cannot guarantee complete confidentiality.

**What are the possible risks/disadvantages of taking part?**

The main cost to you will be the time taken with the interview. The risks to you may include providing information that you may not feel comfortable with. However, as outlined above, any information you do provide will be kept anonymous and secure. Questions may cause you distress if you are recalling difficult periods or sensitive events in your life. In addition, you can choose not to answer any of the questions or withdraw your data at any time until the final date specified for withdrawal of data.

**What are the possible benefits/advantages?**

I hope that you will find the interview interesting, and will take satisfaction from helping to develop a greater understanding of Imposter Phenomenon. I also hope that you will find the research process interesting and helpful in your business.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

I will write up the results of the research for my final year project. The results of the study can be made available to you as a report, upon request, when the research is completed.

**How can I find out more about this project and its results?**

For more information about the project please do not hesitate to contact me or my research supervisor. I will send you a full copy of the interview questions before the interview and an electronic copy of the report, upon request, once the research is completed.

**Has the study been reviewed by anyone?**

The research has been subject to ethical approval by the University’s School of Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee. It has been designed with reference to the British Psychological Society’s code of ethics.

**Who is responsible for the study?**

I will be responsible for the conduct of this research.

**Contacts and further information**

Please feel free to contact me or my research supervisor:

**Student Researcher: Leila Ainge**

Email: leila-jane.ainge2020@my.ntu.ac.uk

**Research Supervisor: Kristina Newman,**

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