

TRANSITION TO FIRST-TIME MOTHERHOOD: THE NEXT GENERATION

INFORMATION SHEET

You are invited to participate in a new study on women's experiences of transition to first-time motherhood. This study repeats an earlier study which looked at the same topic 20 years ago. Before you decide if you want to participate it is important for you to understand why this study is being undertaken and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

What is the purpose of the study?

This study wants to find out about your experiences of becoming a mother for the first-time. Although there is a significant amount of research interest in women's lives, the ways in which women experience managing pregnancy and early motherhood with workplace and other demands deserves research attention.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be asked to sign a consent form. You would be free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. Any data you do not wish to be used can also be withdrawn before data analysis begins.

What will happen to me if I take part?

I will contact you to arrange a convenient time and place to meet for the interviews. The research is designed so that each participant who gives their permission will participate in three separate interviews across approximately one year as they become a mother. The interviews will take place at approximately 7-8 months into your first pregnancy, then at between 6 – 8 weeks following the birth and finally at approximately 9-10 months. Each interview will be conducted by the same researcher and last approximately one hour. I would request your permission to digitally record the interview. I will be interested to hear about your experiences of preparing for and becoming a mother and how the early months of mothering unfold.

What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?

The one possible disadvantage in taking part in the study is the time it will take to be interviewed (approximately one hour, sometimes a little longer).

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

In previous research participants have found the opportunity to talk about their experiences enjoyable – including the women in the original study! As a result of the study I would hope to provide a careful and sensitive account of what it is like

for contemporary women becoming mothers for the first-time and how they manage the new responsibilities associated with motherhood as well as other home and work demands.

Will what I say in this study be kept confidential?

All information given by the participants in the study will be kept confidential (within the limitations of the law). Pseudonyms will be used in the place of your name on transcripts of recordings and in any reports or publications. Papers and recordings will be kept in a locked filing cabinet. Data collected during the study will be kept in accordance with the University's policy on Academic Integrity. The data will also be kept securely in both paper and electronic form for a period of ten years after completion of this phase of the longitudinal study.

Will any of the data collected be available to other researchers?

Women's experiences of different phases of motherhood are of policy and research interest as family lives change. Because of this the anonymised data from this study may be placed in a data repository so that it can be used by future researchers studying the topic. The type of repository it might be archived in has been developed as part of the 'Timescapes' project based at Leeds University (<http://www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk>). If the data is placed in such a repository, no one would be able to identify you, but your experiences would help future researchers to understand women's everyday experiences of motherhood.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results of this phase of the study will be written up as academic papers and other publications. Presentations of the findings will be made at relevant conferences. The findings will also be compared to the findings from an original study on 'Transition to First-Time Motherhood' undertaken by the same researcher approximately 20 years ago. All participants will be provided with a summary of the findings (if they would like them) once this phase of the research is complete.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is being carried out by me, Dr Tina Miller, and I am a Professor in Sociology in the Department of Social Sciences in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Oxford Brookes University. The research is funded by Oxford Brookes University.

Who has reviewed the study?

The University Research Ethics Committee at Oxford Brookes University has reviewed the study. If at any time you had any concerns about the way in which the research is being conducted, please contact the Chair of the University Research Ethics committee on: ethics@brookes.ac.uk

Contact for Further Information

If you have any queries about the study, please contact me Dr Tina Miller (01865 483764), email: tamiller@brookes.ac.uk, text or call me on 07706898615 or write to me at:

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Thank You

Many thanks for taking the time to read this information sheet.

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