

Project Title: Youth's perceptions and participation in the co-production of the future 'smart city'. Engaging, connecting and empowering the roles of young citizens in the planning of cities in Europe.

Aims of the study: The research aims to appraise the perceptions and engagement of young citizens (15-19 years of age) towards 'smart city' developments. The research will evaluate how such perceptions hinder or enable the design of urban spaces. The project will compare your views with those of young people in four cities across England, Spain and Bulgaria.



Research questions: What are youth's perceptions and attitudes towards technological developments in the planning of cities within European democracies?

How are twenty-first century technological and digital advances creating avenues available to youth to enable their wider participation and co-production in the planning of future cities within the European context?

The purpose of this information leaflet is to inform you about the project, so that you can decide whether to take part.

Why me? You have been invited to participate as you are between the ages of 15 and 19 and you live in a city in which the research takes place. Your views towards 'Smart City' and town planning developments are sought.

Is participation voluntary? Participation is entirely voluntary and non-participation will have no adverse effect to you.

What is expected of participants if you consent? By agreeing to participate in this research you agree to be asked questions as part of a pre-set questionnaire or as part of a focus group.

The research will take place within the school and comprise a teaching and research part. You will be at all points under the supervision of a DBS checked individual. The research will take form of group workshops and individual in-depth interviews, consulting on your views and understanding of the planning system and the concept of 'smart cities' (cities which use technological advances). No personal information and no photos will be taken at any point, unless you wish otherwise. All gathered information will be treated confidentially. The participation will take place over the course of a single day.

Under the National Curriculum in England the study will aim to build up your knowledge, mainly in the areas of arts and design, citizenship, design and technology and geography.

The Researcher: The researcher observes Birmingham City University ethics code. and is bound by the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Royal Town Planning Institute's Codes of Conduct. The researcher has undergone a DBS Check.

Potential benefits of participation: Your participation will be able to inform and potentially influence policy in the planning of cities when considering digital advances. It will develop your understanding of citizenship and the planning of cities.

Potential risks of participation: There are no significant risks to participation identified by this research.

Confidentiality arrangements: All data collected will be treated confidentially. In order to prevent identification, coding techniques will be employed whereas the participant's identity is protected by assigning codes to the data. If cases of visual data collected separate consent will be sought for the specific event. Data storage will comply with internal BCU policies. All confidential data will be stored on BCU servers. Analysis of the data will employ codes and the researcher alone will have access to the confidential information. Interpretation of the data will aim to reduce the risk of identification. Data will be retained until all publications stemming from the research have been completed. The project is scheduled to run until 2022. Research progress and final outcomes will be shared through online platforms and a final report available.

Data protection: Any personal data collected will be treated accordingly to the Data Protection Act 1998 and GDPR legislation. The collected data will be securely stored digitally on BCU servers for the duration of the study. Access will only be available by the researcher and the supervisors. The data storage will keep in line with BCU policies and insure that any data is stored in secure location in electronic and physical form and only the researcher has access to it. In the case of electronic data, the BCU secure servers online and encrypted devices will be used. In the cases of physical data, procedures will be put in place to digitalise the data as soon as possible and destroy any physical copies.

Participants' rights: You have the right of informed consent. If any point you feel that you have not been sufficiently informed about the study or the use of the data that you have provided you have the right to withdraw your consent at any stage without prejudice. The data collected will be treated in a confidential manner. The data collected will be treated confidentially according to data protection law and BCU research practices. Your consent and that of your parent are both needed for the data to be collected and analysed.

Who the funders are: The study is funded by the Birmingham City University STEAM Scholarship program.

Details of anyone who has been responsible for reviewing the study: The study is reviewed by two supervisors as part of the Birmingham City University doctoral processes and an internal Ethics Review Panel.

Details of Supervisors/senior academics:

Dr Silvia Gullino: silvia.gullino@bcu.ac.uk
Prof Peter Larkham: peter.larkham@bcu.ac.uk

Details of who to contact if participants have a complaint:

BCU_ethics@bcu.ac.uk or by phone the Research team at: +44 (0)121 331 6858

Researcher's contact: For further information you can contact: simeon.shtebunaev@mail.bcu.ac.uk

Researcher's UK phone number: +44 (0) 7460832916

Website and social media of the project: <https://shtebunaev.com/phd/>

You can provide informed consent by signing the attached consent form.

THANK YOU!