

This study is being undertaken by Dr Kim Wilson, Dr Janet Dutton and Mr David Chilton.

Participant Information and Consent Form: Phase 1—Delphi Questionnaires

Dear History Teacher,

You are invited to participate in the study: **Teaching and Learning History in the Information Age.**

What is the research?

This project investigates the ways that on-demand access to online historical information and information processing tools are shaping the teaching and learning of historical thinking in secondary schools. Phase 1 of the project will gain an expert consensus of how history teachers define historical thinking in their classroom and the way that teaching and learning are shaped by on-demand access to online historical information and information processing tools.

Who can participate?

History teachers who have taught each of Stage 4, Stage 5 and Stage 6, are accredited as proficient, or higher.

Are there any benefits to participating in the study?

Involvement in the study will contribute to the development of a protocol for the use of online information and information processing tools in history classrooms. The protocol will be the product of expert teacher consensus and informed by scholarly literature. The protocol will help guide teachers as they take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the information age, while mitigating any detrimental factors. All participants will receive a copy of the protocol at the conclusion of Phase 1 of the project. Participants will also be invited to continue in the second phase of the project which will test and refine the Historical Thinking in the Information Age protocol.

What will participants be required to do?

Participate in the Delphi Protocol which will consist of:

1. Questionnaire Round 1: answer a number of questionnaire items including both close and open-ended questions (30 mins electronic questionnaire)
2. Questionnaire Round 2: Review answers from Questionnaire 1 in light of what other participants have said. (30 mins electronic questionnaire)
3. Questionnaire Round 3 (only if no consensus reached after Round 2): Review answers from Questionnaire 2 in light of what other participants have said. (30 mins electronic questionnaire)

4. Protocol Review: provide feedback on the protocol that has been developed by the research team (30 mins electronic questionnaire)

Are there any potential risks or side effects from the study?

There are no anticipated risks to you participating in this study, although we acknowledge that participation in the study may be a burden on your time.

Confidentiality and the Right to Withdraw

Each participant's name will be de-identified. Any information or personal details gathered in the course of the study are confidential. Access to data is limited to persons directly involved in the research project. No individual or school will be identified in any publication of results. Participation in the study is entirely voluntary: you are not expected to participate and if you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without having to give a reason and there will be no consequences. Furthermore, the decision whether or not to participate and/or withdraw will have no consequence for the participant's relationship with Macquarie University or the school in which you work.

If you decide to take part, you will need to sign the consent form. You are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

If your involvement in this research causes distress at any point during the study, please discuss the concerns with the researcher or Dr Kim Wilson who will attempt to address the concerns immediately or provide recommendations for referral. You may also wish to contact the following support services:

- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636

Publication and dissemination of findings

De-identified questionnaire responses will be made publicly available in an online repository of qualitative data. Future researchers may access these responses for future projects. Findings will be analysed and reported through scholarly journals.

If you would like to participate in this study, please complete the form attached and return it to Dr Kim Wilson or Mr David Chilton (david.chilton@hdr.mq.edu.au). If the form is not working, please send an email indicating that you would like to accept the invitation to participate.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Kim Wilson
Chief Investigator
Email: kim.wilson@mq.edu.au

CONSENT FORM

I have read and understand the information above and any questions I have about the study have been answered to my satisfaction. I know that I can withdraw from further participation in the research at any time without consequence. I have been given a copy of this form to keep.

Participant Name:

Participant Contact email:

Participant Signature:

Date:

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Macquarie University Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any complaints or reservations about any ethical aspect of your participation in this research, you may contact the Committee through the Director, Research Ethics (telephone 9850 7854; email ethics@mq.edu.au). Any complaint you make will be treated in confidence and investigated, and you will be informed of the outcome.