

Participant Consent Form – Photography-Based Educational Research

1. Project title

Disrupting visual literacy through smartphone zoom photography.

2. Researcher

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3. Purpose of the research

This action research project investigates how the intentional use of smartphone zoom photography can support critical thinking and visual literacy within photography education. The research is undertaken as part of a PgCert qualification.

4. Voluntary participation

In line with the BERA Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research (2024), participation in this research is entirely voluntary. Choosing not to participate, or withdrawing, will have no effect on your grades, assessment, or relationship with staff.

5. What participation involves

If you consent, your participation may involve the creation of photographic images using a smartphone zoom function, contribution to group discussions or critiques, and completion of short written reflections or questionnaires.

6. Right to withdraw

You have the right to withdraw from the research at any time, without providing a reason. On withdrawal, your data will be removed where reasonably possible, unless it has already been anonymised and incorporated into assessed PgCert work.

7. Use of images and contributions

Photographic images and written reflections will be used solely for PgCert assessment and internal academic purposes. They will not be used for public exhibition, publication, or online dissemination without further explicit consent.

8. Anonymity and limits to confidentiality

Your identity will be protected through anonymisation or the use of pseudonyms where possible. However, due to the visual nature of photographic research, complete anonymity cannot be guaranteed. This limitation has been considered in the ethical design of the study.

9. Data protection and storage

Data will be collected and stored in accordance with UK GDPR and UAL data protection policies. Questionnaire data will be collected via Microsoft Forms and stored on UAL OneDrive. Data will be retained for up to five years and then securely deleted.

10. Risks and wellbeing

No risks beyond those normally encountered in teaching and learning activities are anticipated. You may decline to answer any question or stop participation at any time.

11. Concerns or complaints

If you have concerns about the conduct of the research or your rights as a participant, you may contact UAL Research Ethics at research.ethics@arts.ac.uk.

Consent

Please tick each box to indicate your consent:

- I have read and understood the accompanying Participant Information Sheet.
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and separate from assessment.
- I understand that I may withdraw at any time without penalty.
- I consent to my photographic work and reflections being used for this research.
- I understand how my data will be stored and used.

Optional:

- I consent to being credited by name if my photographic work is used.

Participant name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Researcher signature: *Kalpesh Lathigra* Date: _____