



Focus group

Research Participant Information and Consent form

Research title: Who in Ireland speaks and understands Russian? An investigation into cultural and linguistic diversity.

Principal Investigator: Sarah Smyth, Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies, Trinity College, Dublin 2

Research Assistants: Svetlana Eriksson & Feargus Denman

You are invited to participate in this research project which is being carried out by Sarah Smyth. Your participation is voluntary

The study is designed to investigate the following questions:

- Who in Ireland speaks Russian?
- How do we use our languages? How do we feel about our languages?
- How do our life stories contribute to our understanding of who we are?
- How have we (re-)integrated into Irish society?
- What is the future for Russian and our other languages in Ireland?
- What can society learn from us? How can our experience as people who speak many languages inform public policy on education and integration?

If you agree to participate, this will involve meeting other members of the Russian-speaking community in a focus group to discuss your experience of living in Ireland. You may choose to take part in an English- or Russian-speaking group.

Time commitment

Your participation in this focus group will last approximately two hours. The transcript of your interview will be sent to you within two months, and will take 1–2 hours to read and check. Your total time commitment will be 4–6 hours over two months.

Your concerns

We do not anticipate any discomfort to you from being in this study. We will emphasize to all participants the importance of confidentiality. However, it is possible that participants may repeat comments outside of the group. We encourage you to be honest and open, but to remain aware of these limits in protecting confidentiality.

In the focus groups questions are directed to the group, not to individuals. You have the right to: (a) not answer a question, (b) terminate the interview, or (c) withdraw from the study at any time in the process.

Confidentiality

All potentially identifying information will be removed; we are committed to protecting your identity.

The archive

The discussions will be recorded, transcribed and translated into English/Russian. All texts will be kept in strict confidence after the discussion until you give permission for their publication. We agree that the texts generated in the research process are the joint property of the researchers and the participants.

The original recording and transcripts will be available only to those working on the current project. All data will be kept in a secure location in the Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies in Trinity College Dublin. Data will only be shared with your consent.

Publication of discussions

With your permission the discussions may be made public in the form of data archives, web sites, journal articles, or books.

You will not be paid anything for participating in this research. You will, however, be paid any expenses you may incur from your participation.

If you have any questions about this research, please do not hesitate to contact the research team.

Signature of research participant

I understand what is involved in this research and I agree to participate in the study. I have been given a copy of this form.

Signature of participant

Date

Signature of researcher

I believe the participant is giving informed consent to participate in this study

Signature of researcher

Date