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Those Who Follow: Art, Religion, and Community in Oxford

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Ethics Approval Reference: R53938/RE001

1. Background and aims of the study

This research is interested in responses to the 'Imagining the Divine' exhibition running at the Ashmolean museum (Oct. 2017 – Feb. 2018), and to 'Those Who Follow', a modern photography exhibit of Oxford's religious buildings at the Classics Faculty.

The purpose of the study is to further research into the following areas:

- 1) How people think about material culture – objects, images, buildings – in relation to religion
- 2) Whether people feel strong attachments between the material cultures of the past and the present
- 3) How people relate to the public face of their religious communities, particularly in buildings
- 4) How religious communities are understood from outside perspectives through their material cultures

This study is funded by The Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities (TORCH).

2. Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited following your expression of interest in the study, and are over the age of 18.

3. Do I have to take part?

No. You can ask questions about the study before deciding whether or not to participate. If you do agree to participate, you may withdraw yourself and your data from the study at any time, without giving a reason and without penalty, by advising the researchers of this decision.

4. What will happen in the study?

If you are happy to take part in the study, you will be asked to:

- Fill in two questionnaires; one at the start, and one at the end of the day (approx. 30 minutes total)
- To visit the two exhibitions, *Imagining the Divine* and *Those Who Follow* (approx. 90 minutes total)
- To participate in a small group discussion of between 7-8 people (approx. 40 minutes)
- To participate in a larger group discussion of between 20-25 people (approx. 15 minutes)

This should take approximately 4 hours and 30 minutes, including two breaks.

The study will take place at the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, and at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

With your consent,

- discussions will be audio recorded and written notes will be taken, and/or
- some photographs of groups may be taken.

Below is an outline of the day:

- **10:50-11:00**- Arrive: Ioannou centre
Drop bags, large coats, have a cup of tea, and sign-in
- **11:00-11:40** – Introductions and Questionnaire
Explain the plan of the day, tell you about the research, fill in a brief questionnaire
- **11:40-13:00** - *Imagining the Divine*
See the exhibition with curators on hand to answer any questions
- **13:00-13:45** - Lunch and Coffee
A buffet lunch with sandwiches, salads, and some other bits made by the curators
- **13:45-14:00** - *Those Who Follow*
A chance to look around the exhibition
- **14:00-14:40** - Small Group discussions
In groups of 7-8, we'll discuss some of the themes of the exhibitions, including art, material culture, and buildings, and how these work in Oxford today
- **14:40-14:45** – Comfort break
- **14:45-15:30** - Whole Group discussion and Questionnaire
A final questionnaire, followed by a discussion of the themes that came up in smaller groups

5. Are there any potential risks in taking part?

Participants are reminded that the Ioannou Centre (semi-private – access through security door) and Ashmolean Museum are public spaces, and that in order to move between the two we will be on the street. The hosts of the event have reviewed the relevant health and safety procedures for the buildings, and will be on hand in the event of an emergency.

Parents are welcome to bring children to the workshops, and space will be provided for them away from small group discussions whilst they are taking place. However, the Ioannou Centre is a semi-public space and parents are reminded that the hosts cannot take overall responsibility for the well-being of their children.

6. Are there any benefits in taking part?

The participants will benefit from access to the Ashmolean exhibition *Imagining the Divine* and the *Those Who Follow* exhibition, with the opportunity to discuss both with the curators.

7. What happens to the data provided?

The **research data** will be stored confidentially using encrypted Microsoft Office file formats at the University of Oxford.

Your responses will be anonymised.

Personal/sensitive data will be stored confidentially using encrypted Microsoft Office file formats until no longer needed for the research study.

The researcher and research team, as well as responsible University staff (e.g. IT staff/ethics committee staff) will have access to personal/sensitive data/research data.

We will ask all participants for their permission to use direct quotes.

All research data and records will be safely stored for a minimum retention period of 10 years after publication or public release of the work of the research.

8. *Will the research be published?*

The research may be published in an academic peer-reviewed journal or book, and findings may contribute to online publications through the Empires of Faith website (www.empiresoffaith.com).

9. *Who has reviewed this study?*

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee: R53938/RE001

10. *Who do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?*

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please speak to the relevant researcher [Dominic Dalglish, dominic.dalglish@wolfson.ox.ac.uk or 07984745264], who will do their best to answer your query. The researcher should acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how they intend to deal with it. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the relevant chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter in a reasonably expeditious manner:

Chair, **Social Sciences & Humanities Inter-Divisional Research Ethics Committee**; Email: ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk; Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD

11. *Further Information and Contact Details*

If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

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