

Walking Interconnections: conversations of sustainability



Information sheet.

What is this research about?

We are looking at the experiences of disabled people and people who are trying to live more sustainably in everyday life. We are interested to see whether their experiences of assessing risk, meeting barriers and obstacles, and being (inter)dependent on others gives disabled people any insights or knowledge that could be useful when thinking about how we can all live more sustainably.

This research will use discussion and photography and other arts based methods to explore these issues.

Who is doing this research?

We are a small team of researchers from three universities (University of Bristol, University of the West of England and the University of Glasgow). The project is led by Dr Sue Porter and Professor Dee Heddon. Dr Suze Adams, Alison Parfitt and Dr Shawn Sobers are also working on the project. Anna Wheeler from the West of England Centre for Inclusive Living (WECIL) is advising the team.

What will happen in the research?

If you agree to be involved, we will meet you three times as part of the study.

- The first time will be in a small workshop, where you can find out more about the research and decide details of how you'd like to be involved. You can also explore using the cameras and any art materials you'd like to use.
- The second time we'd like you to pair up with another participant to plan and take two walks together. You can choose where you walk, they can be short and as local as you like. We will provide you with a camera, audio recorder and other materials you need to record your conversations and your walks. We will also ask you to write a little about your experience of the walks. After the walks, we will also work with you to reflect on and record your experiences.
- Later on we would like to come back together in the group to discuss how things went for you in your walking pairs, and to talk about the photos you've taken and things you've recorded and your writing.

We have a budget to cover transport and, for disabled participants, any support worker time you need to participate in the research project.

We will provide you with cameras, audio recorders and other materials you need to record your conversations and your walks. We will show you how to use them, and explain the sorts of things we'd like you to photograph and record. You can keep copies of all the photos you take. We will also invite you to contribute to the project's website through the blog and twitter feed, we will show you how to do this, and provide help where needed.

We'll use the photos and recordings to write a report and to put onto the project's own website. We may also use quotes from you and your photos in articles we write, but we will not use your name unless you would like to be named. The recordings and photos will be kept in a safe place and only the parts you are happy for us to use will be made public.

What happens next?

We will write a report on what we find out and make sure that people who are thinking about sustainability know what we find. These are likely to include the City Council, the Environment Agency and other people who make policies and plan for sustainability. We will also upload things to the project website, where lots of other people can see what we've found out.

Before we write our report, we'll check with you that it's still OK to use the comments or photos you have agreed we can use in the report and on the website. If you don't want us to use them, we'll take them out.

At the end of this project, we will organise a presentation and exhibition to tell you what we've found. We'll also produce a report to give to you and all the other people involved in the research.

Please note, if there is anything disclosed to you (or a researcher) during the research that causes you concern, for example illegal activity or harm to others, then please discuss your concerns with Sue Porter.

Why have I been asked to participate?

You have been asked to participate because you are either a disabled person, and or someone who is interested in sustainability. If you choose not to take part we will not contact you again, but you are welcome to keep in touch with the project via our website.

Do you have any questions?

If you do, please get in touch with Sue Porter via email at sue.porter@bristol.ac.uk, or write to her at –

School for Policy Studies,
8, Priory Road,
Bristol,
BS8 1TZ.

Do you have any concerns about the research?

If you have any concerns about the research, get in touch with Beth Tarleton via email at beth.tarleton@bristol.ac.uk , or write to her at –

School for Policy Studies,
8 Priory Road, Bristol, BS8 1TZ.