

Volunteers wanted to take part in our project on shared housing

Do you live in shared housing? If so, we would like to talk to you about your everyday experiences of living with others. We are especially interested in your experiences of sharing if you currently:

- **have a lodger or are lodging with others**
- **live in a shared house with non-family members**
- **live in a co-housing project or housing co-operative.**

What led you to live this way? Is it due to the high cost of renting or buying a house on your own? Do you prefer living with others to living alone? Have you always shared a house? Has your view of communal living changed as you have got older? Is it easier or harder to live with others than to live alone or with family members only? What is the balance between privacy and sharing?

Taking part

If you are interested in talking to a researcher about these and other questions about your experience of living with non-family members, we would like to invite you to take part in a research interview.

What will the interview involve?

The interview will last approximately 90 minutes and we will ask you about your current living arrangements as well as about your past housing experiences. Topics will include:

- your reasons for sharing
- the pros and cons of communal living
- 'house rules'
- household finances
- how space is allocated and used
- whether and how you spend time with others in the household
- any longer term housing plans.

We will also invite you to draw a simple plan of your house to help us understand how private v shared spaces are used in your home at different times of the day/week.

Following the interview, we may also invite you to take part in a further stage of the research, but there is no obligation to participate further.

How to take part

If you would like to take part in our research, or if you have any questions, please contact Rachel Scicluna (details below). Rachel will contact you to arrange a convenient time for the interview, which can take place at your home or at another location of your choice. She will also ask you a few background questions about yourself. Please contact Rachel if you have any questions about the research. If you do decide to take part, you may withdraw from the research at any time and without giving a reason.

Contact Rachel

Email: rachel.scicluna@manchester.ac.uk

Phone: 0161 275 3445

Address: Morgan Centre, Sociology, Arthur Lewis Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL





How the research will be used

Findings will be published in various formats, including reports, articles and presentations, and via our website. They will be of interest to academics, others interested in housing policy and contemporary living arrangements, more general audiences and the media.

Ethical practice

Any information you give us will be held securely and treated in strict confidence. Real names and other identifiable details, eg house location, will not be used in publications and reports. The data, with your permission, once suitably anonymised, will be archived for use by other researchers and for training purposes. Our project abides by the British Sociological Association's ethical guidelines, which can be viewed at: www.britsoc.co.uk/about/equality/statement-of-ethical-practice.

Possible outcomes of the research

More and more people are living in shared housing at some point in their lives, yet it remains an under-researched topic. We hope that our study will help to pave the way for new and exciting ways of thinking about shared housing, especially from a social policy perspective. We have also established an Advisory Group. Through their support, we aim to reduce the gap between academia and policy related issues in relation to housing.



Further information

Our research is hosted by the Morgan Centre for the Study of Relationships and Personal Life at the University of Manchester. You can see more about the Morgan Centre and the Under the Same Roof project on our website: www.manchester.ac.uk/morgancentre/research/shared-housing/

The 'Under the Same Roof' project began in May 2013 and runs to the end of November 2015. It is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the UK's largest funder of social science research (www.esrc.ac.uk).