

Community-led investigation of community environmental issues

This research will investigate your experiences of community-led investigating community environmental issues (e.g., littering, dog fouling). It is being run by researchers from the Open University (OU) as part of the Citizen Forensics research project (<https://www.citizenforensics.org/>), which is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. This study has been given a favourable opinion by the OU Human Research Ethics Committee (reference number HREC/3958/).

What do participants need to do?

The study includes an online workshop session, 8-week use of the system nQuire, and finally an online focus group session.

- In the workshop, participants could choose one environmental issue that they would like to investigate collectively (e.g., 2-4 participants in a group), we will firstly ask you to share your experience of dealing with community environmental issues, and then to co-design community-led investigation framework together with other participants (via Miro <https://miro.com/>), followed by using nQuire (<https://nquire.org.uk/>) to set-up and manage nQuire missions among your local community members.
- After the workshop, you are required to fill weekly reports about your progress of community-led investigation for eight weeks.
- At the 4th and 8th week, you will be asked to join the online catchup meeting.
- After eight weeks, you will be invited to our focus group session to evaluate Citizen Forensics community-led investigation prototype.

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a digital consent form.

How long?

- There will be an online workshop (2.5 hours) to firstly interview participants, and then introduce how to use nQuire platform to do self-investigation.
- Then participants will have 8 weeks to deploy & run self-investigations, including weekly self-report (5 minutes each), and 2 monthly catch-up meetings (0.5 hour each).
- In the end, all participants will be gathered online to join our focus group (2 hours).

Time compensations

- £20 One4all gift vouchers will be offered to each participant who completes the online workshop session.
- £40 One4all gift vouchers will be offered to each participant who completes the 8-week investigation and the final focus group session.

When?

The workshop is planned to start in **early July** (depending on your availability), and then your investigation will last for 8 weeks in July-Aug, followed by a focus group session in **early September** (depending on your availability).

How data will be collected?

We request screen recording for capturing the co-design workshop & focus group sessions to support data analysis. Screenshot photos of the workshop & focus group sessions will also be taken for event dissemination purpose. The questionnaire will collect your anonymised responses and demographics information.

How will data be stored and for how long?

The screen recordings of workshop & focus group sessions will be destroyed once the project has ended. Textual transcription and survey responses will be stored on the secure, password protected server at the Open University <https://ordo.open.ac.uk> for a maximum 10 years.

How will the data I provide be used?

Your anonymous data and de-identified information may be used for any publications arising from the research and the research group website <https://www.citizenforensics.org> and twitter @citizenforensic. Screenshots of workshop & focus group interviews will also be taken for event dissemination and publishing purpose. In this case, the pixilated photo of study venue will be only made public, for example on Citizen Forensics project website and Twitter @citizenforensic, if all people present in the photo have given consent to be published. All published data will be anonymised and de-identified. It will not be used commercially.

Your right to withdraw from the study

Your participation is voluntary, and you are free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason. If you decide to withdraw up to 28 days after your participation, it will be possible to withdraw and for your data to be deleted, you might contact Dr. Min Zhang by email min.zhang@open.ac.uk; but after this point the data will remain in the study.

How do I agree to take part?

Thank you for taking time to read the information sheet. If you'd like to take part, please contact researcher:

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If you would like to contact another independent person apart from Dr Min Zhang you can contact Prof. Arosha Bandara at the Open University.
Email: aroshabandara@open.ac.uk