

Information Sheet

QuBr – <http://qubr.designresearch.works>

This information sheet relates to *QuBr*, a research study led by researchers at Lancaster University.

1. Who are we?

We are a team of academic researchers at LICA (Lancaster Institute for Creative Arts), Lancaster University. This study is led by Dr. Joseph Lindley and Dr. David Green. It is part of a research project called *Design Research Works* - <http://designresearch.works>.

2. What is the study about?

This study is about **design research**. We want to stimulate and capture questions and answers, framed around the overarching question, *what is design research?* To facilitate the study, we have developed an online platform – *QuBr* – to capture questions and answers.

3. What is the aim of the study?

The aim of the study is to explore the question, *what is design research?* We are using an approach inspired by a documentary project called *Question Bridge*¹. This approach involves asking individuals in a community to **answer** a question about a topic and then (at the same time) to **ask** a follow-up question about that topic for others to answer. In this case, the topic is *design research*.

4. What is the objective of the study?

The objective of the study is to create an online, asynchronous, moderated Q&A that will serve as both a public forum *for* the design research community to share ideas, and as a source of information and research data *about* design research.

5. Why are we doing this?

We think this is an interesting way of facilitating dialogue within the design research community and exploring the question, *what is design research?*

6. Who is being asked to take part?

Anyone can take part. You may have been invited by the researchers to take part. You may have some knowledge and/or experience of design, research, and/or design research. You may have found this project online, via social media, or via word of mouth. In any case, you are invited and welcome to participate.

7. Where can I find *QuBr*?

QuBr can be found *online* at <https://qubr.designresearch.works>. It can be accessed and used on both desktop and mobile devices.

¹ Question Bridge (2012) - <http://questionbridge.com/>

8. When can I participate?

You can participate at any time. The project will run for at least twelve months from February 2022.

9. Where do I start?

If you are interested in taking part, please visit the *QuBr* website. Use the 'Explore' page to browse questions. Use the 'Question' pages to navigate between questions and answers. If/when you find a question you would like to answer, click 'Respond'.

10. How do I contribute?

There are three ways to contribute. *Video* is preferred and selected by default. There are also *audio* and *text* options. To record video and audio, you will need to allow the browser to access your camera / microphone. To record, press the 'record' button (●). You can review video and audio contributions using the 'play' button (▶) and re-record by pressing the 'record' button again - this will overwrite any previously recorded clips. When you are ready to submit, click the 'save' button (📄) or, to submit a text contribution, click the 'submit' button. You will then be asked to provide your name and a contact email, and to provide consent for your contribution to be included in the research study (see 11b below). Please complete the form. You will then be guided back to the home page.

11a. How will my contribution be used on the QuBr site?

Each time a contribution is submitted, the research team are alerted via email. Each contribution is moderated before being published (see 12. below). Every kind of contribution (video / audio / text) will be formatted into a video and accompanying text summary prior to being included on the site (NB this process will take about ~14 working day hours from the time of submission).

For video and audio contributions: We will write a short summary of your question and answer. This ensures all questions and answers can be presented on the site in an accessible format.

For audio and text contributions: We will generate a video that renders your question and answer in both on-screen text and audio. This ensures all contributions have equal visibility on the site.

11b. How will my contribution be used if I consent to being included in the research?

By providing consent to be included in the research, you are giving us (the researchers) permission to use your contribution as research data *in perpetuity*. This means we may use aspects of your contribution (words, images, audio and/or video adapted from your contribution, in-full or in-part) in publications and/or presentations arising from the study, at any time. If you have volunteered identifying information within your contribution, we may use this attribution in publications and/or presentations. Otherwise, we will not identify contributors by name and we will attribute quotes only to the corresponding URL on the QuBr site. If you do **not** consent to being included in the research, your contribution will still appear on the QuBr site (see 11a), but we will not use your contribution in the way outlined in this section (11b).

12. How is QuBr moderated?

All contributions are moderated by the research team. Our moderation policy is inclusive and intended to filter spam, abusive, targeted or hateful language. All relevant contributions will be included, usually within 48 hours of submission. Text contributions may be edited for clarity but we will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the message.

13. Will my personal data be made public?

No. When you submit a contribution, we ask for your name and an email address. This is so we (the researchers) have a private record of participants, in case we need to contact you. We will not share this information anywhere - it will not be published on the QuBr website or anywhere else. It will be stored safely and securely at Lancaster University for a minimum of ten years. It will not be shared with any third parties, and it will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998) and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (2016).

14. Is participation in QuBr anonymous?

Contributions to QuBr are anonymous in the sense that we do not include attributions. However, we do not *guarantee* anonymity. If you submit video or audio, you may still be recognisable to others. You may *choose* to identify yourself in the video (for example, you may choose to verbally introduce yourself). You may also claim authorship of a contribution when you share it (e.g. on social media). By contributing to QuBr, you are contributing to the public domain. If you want to participate completely anonymously, please submit a text-only contribution.

15. Do I have to take part?

No. It's completely up to you to decide if you want to take part.

16. Can I change my mind about taking part?

It is not possible to withdraw consent for us to use your contribution as part of our research after you have provided consent. The reason for this is that we may publish outputs from this research study at any time from February 2022 onwards (i.e. before the end of the project). You may withdraw your consent to appear in video / audio *on the site* at any time. You do not need to provide a reason for this and we will not ask you to provide a reason. Simply email us at designresearchworks@lancaster.ac.uk with your request and a link to the relevant question page. We will replace your audio/video contribution with an anonymous text-only version.

17. Are there any incentives or benefits to taking part?

No. We are not offering any incentives for participation, although we hope that you will enjoy it!

18. Are there any risks involved in taking part?

There are no significant risks involved in taking part. However, we want to remind participants that, although it is moderated for content, QuBr is a public discussion and you may encounter perspectives you disagree with. We kindly ask all participants to treat other participants with kindness and respect and avoid contributing anything you wouldn't say publicly. Contributions containing abusive, targeted or hateful language will not be published.

19. Who has reviewed the project?

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Ethics Committee at Lancaster University.

20. Where can I obtain further information about the study if I need it?

If you have any questions about the study, please contact the researchers:

Joseph Lindley – j.lindley@lancaster.ac.uk

David Green – d.p.green@lancaster.ac.uk

21. What if I have a question or concern?

If you have any concerns or complaints that you wish to discuss with a person who is not directly involved in the research, you can also contact: Alan Marsden (Head of LICA Department), Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (LICA), The LICA Building, Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom, LA1 4YW email: alan.marsden@lancaster.ac.uk / phone: +44 (0)1524 510873

If you have any concerns about the use of your data, you can contact compliance@lancaster.ac.uk

For further information about how Lancaster University processes personal data for research purposes and your data rights please visit our webpage: www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/data-protection

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.