

# Participant Information Sheet

Title of Project: **‘**Authenticity, Interpretation and Ideology: the case of Gulag Tourism in Kazakhstan’.

Name of Researcher: Dr Guillaume Tiberghien

**Invitation**

*You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.*

*Thank you for reading this.*

**What is the purpose of the study?**

This research project investigates the perception of authenticity in Kazakhstani Gulag museum practices through the lenses of **senior management,** museum curator and guides **of the Karlag and Alzhir museums,** experts in post-Soviet prison heritage, governmental officials, tour operators and members of NGOs involved in the development of Gulag tourism in the country**.**

**Why have I been chosen?**

You were chosen as an interviewee as your work is involved with the management and curation of the Gulag museums and sites, or in Gulag tourism. Multiple sources of data will include semi-structured interviews with **senior management,** museum curators and guides **of the Karlag and Alzhir museums,** experts in post-Soviet prison heritage, governmental officials, tour operators and members of NGOs involved in the development of Gulag tourism in the country. The total number of participants is expected to be around 18.

**Do I have to take part?**

Participation in this research is voluntary, and it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

You will be asked to take part in a semi-structured interview regarding your perception of authenticity, interpretation and ideology of Gulag museums and sites. The interview will last approximately 30-45 minutes. The conversation will be audio-recorded for convenience with your permission.

**Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

All data, including the transcript of the interview and recorded file, will be kept in a locked cabinet or a locked file on computer. Your name will not be mentioned in the report, and instead you will be addressed by the name of your post when relevant or by pseudonym. After the study, anonymised data will be made available as “open data” through Glasgow University data repository ([http://researchdata.gla.ac.uk](http://researchdata.gla.ac.uk/)). This means the data will be publicly available and may be used for purposes not related to this study. However, it will not be possible to identify me from these data.

**Please note that assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of wrongdoing or potential harm is uncovered. In such cases the University may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies. Although every effort to maintain anonymity will be made, complete confidentiality cannot be maintained given the location and the small sample size. In case some information is disclosed that may harm somebody – this will be disclosed to the authorities.**

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

Interview transcripts will be studied in-depth to identify and analyse stakeholders’ perceptions of authenticity, interpretation and ideology of Gulag museum practices. The research data will be used for the writing up of journal articles and dissemination at various conferences. You can also receive a summary of the study findings and the final journal articles when published if you wish to do so.

**Who is funding the study?**

This project is funded by the BA/Leverhulme Small Research grant 2017-2018 scheme (SRG\170063 award).

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This project has been considered and approved by the College Research Ethics Committee.

**Contact for Further Information**

Researcher: Dr Guillaume Tiberghien (Email: guillaume.tiberghien@glasgow.ac.uk).

**If you have any concerns regarding the conduct of this research project, you can contact:** the College of Social Sciences Ethics Officer, **Dr Muir Houston, email:** **Muir.Houston@glasgow.ac.uk**