



## Project: Reimagining academic horizons: Stories we tell

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### Introduction

This research project is being conducted by researchers from The University of Melbourne, National University of Singapore and The University of Hong Kong. It has been funded by Universitas 21 and approved by the relevant Human Research Ethics Committee at each institution: 2020-14456-12639-2 (UOM), EA200087 (HKU), and 2020-559 (NUS). The overarching aim is to explore how academic identities are transformed through the development of resilience strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the longer-term recovery from adversity.

### What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to participate in an online survey to identify one strategy that has helped you manage your academic work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The online survey will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete, at a time convenient to you. Survey data will also be used to develop a series of theme-based narrative posts that will be available online. Some respondents may be contacted for a follow-up interview. If you are willing to participate in a follow-up interview, you will be asked to provide your email address. Should you agree to participate, you are free to use your name or a pseudonym.

### What are the possible benefits?

Your contribution is vital to a greater understanding of how academics' identities are transformed as we respond to adversity. The outcomes of this study are relevant to individual academics, and also valuable to policy-makers and institutional leaders.

### What are the possible risks?

This research contains minimal perceived risks for participants. It focuses on participants' perceptions of their academic identity and resilience in times of adversity. The survey data will generate results in the form of narratives which will be curated as themed posts as one of the research outputs. Consequently, participants' identity may be known to others. You are free to decide whether to use your real names or pseudonyms.

### Do I have to take part?

Participation is completely voluntary. You can decline to participate, or withdraw from the project at any stage without explanation or prejudice and to withdraw any unprocessed data you have provided without any negative consequences.

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**Will I hear about the results of this project?**

The research outputs will be published in a series of narrative posts and/or podcasts from academics across different disciplines, career stages and global perspectives. These will be published on an online platform that will support network building. Results will also be published in academic journals, books and at conferences as appropriate.

**What will happen to information about me?**

The data collected will be reported in the form of narratives, which will be reproduced as narrative posts as one form of research output. Consequently, participants' identity may be known to others. Opportunities will be given to participants to decide whether to use their real names or pseudonyms. If you decide to use a pseudonym, we will protect your anonymity and the confidentiality of your responses to the fullest possible extent. We will remove any references to personal information or context that might allow someone to guess your identity.

Data will be collected, used and stored in accordance with the Australian, Hong Kong and Singapore privacy laws. The data will be kept securely at The University of Melbourne (encrypted, password protected with 2-factor authentication and only accessible to named researchers) for five years from the completion of the project (including publication and public release) and will be destroyed after this time. Any hard copies of documents will be kept under lock-and-key, with access maintained by researchers at the respective universities at which the documents are held.

**Where can I get further information?**

Should you require further information, or have any concerns about the project, please do not hesitate to contact the researchers at the contact details listed above.

**Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?**

If your experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic have caused undue stress, you are invited to contact Lifeline (information available here: <https://lifeline-intl.com/>) or any well-being organisation in your region as well as the well-being and support office in your institution.

This research project has been approved by the relevant Human Research Ethics Committee at each institution. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Research Ethics and Integrity, The University of Melbourne (Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: [HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au)). All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.

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