

Participant Information Sheet For WP1 – Human-Land Relations in Japan-Okinawa-Hawai'i

UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Number: 2235

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET**Title of Study: Cultures of Joy: Human-Land Relations in Japan and Hawai'i**

Department: Anthropology

Name and Contact Details of the Researcher(s): Dr Daniel White – dan.white@ucl.ac.uk

Name and Contact Details of the Principal Researcher: Prof Joanna Cook – joanna.cook@ucl.ac.uk**1. Invitation**

You are being invited to take part in a research project conducted by researchers from UCL Department of Anthropology. Please read the following information. Feel free to ask any questions, either in person or by using the contact details listed above. Thank you for taking the time to consider this invitation.

2. Project Aims

The project aims to -

- Understand how people connect directly with elements of the natural environment (land and sea) as a form of nourishment, healing, and joy
- Support local cultural practices of observing and caring for land-sea environments to enhance community ecology and climate monitoring capacities
- Create sustainable platforms for cross-cultural exchanges among farmers and ecological stewards in Japan, Okinawa, and Hawai'i to strengthen community-land relations, enhance capacities for climate-change resilience, and advance community-led research

3. You have been invited to participate in this research because:

- You hold stories and experiences of relating with nature
- You engage in practices of caring for land

4. Participation Criteria (inclusion and exclusion)

- You are over the age of 18
- You understand the research conditions outlined here and choose freely to participate
- You do not have a dependent relationship with the researcher (for example, as an employee or patient)
- You are in a position to decide freely whether to take part, without pressure from others
- You are not experiencing acute mental or physical distress

5. Consent

You are free to choose whether you will participate in the research or not. There will be no penalties for deciding not to participate. Your decision to participate in research will have no effect on the status of your role in your organization. If you have any questions about the research project, or would like to participate, you are invited to contact the researcher using the

details listed at the top of this sheet. If you agree to participate, please read and fill out the consent form provided to you by the researcher.

6. Withdrawal

If you agree to participate in research, you have the right to withdraw at any time. This means you can use any of the contact details listed above to say that you no longer wish to participate in research. You won't be asked why you want to withdraw. You may be invited to a meeting to discuss the use of any data you have provided up to the point of withdrawal. You do not have to attend this meeting. If you choose not to attend none of the data you have provided will be used. The deadline for withdrawal and data deletion will be 31st December 2027.

7. Research activities and time commitments

The research involves two main activities:

- Participant observation – This means the researcher will work alongside you in volunteer activities and write down things he observes or learns.
- Interviews – The researcher will arrange to conduct interviews with you. You may be asked to attend multiple interviews. You can participate in as many interviews as you wish. You will be asked about your relationship with nature. The researcher will record your answers.
- Fieldwork for this project runs for 15 months from 1 July 2026 to 31 October 2027. Time commitments vary by activity, with interviews running on average from 1 to 2 hours.
- Participation is on a voluntary basis and is not compensated financially.

8. Recording of data

Your data will be recorded in two main ways:

- Written notes – during participant observation and interviews the researcher will make written notes about what you do and talk about. Your real name will never be included in these notes. These notes will be regularly transcribed and saved on to a secure cloud server. Hard copies of these notes will then be destroyed.
- Audio recordings – during interviews the researcher will record your responses. These recordings will be used exclusively by the researcher to transcribe the interview. Once recordings are completed, they will be saved to a secure cloud server. The recording will then be deleted from the device where they cannot be password protected.

9. Risks and disadvantages of taking part in research

If you agree to participate in research, we will take every possible precaution to protect your identity and your personal data. However, we cannot guarantee that there will be no way to identify you or other people that appear in the data you share with the researcher. In some cases, sharing your experiences may evoke strong feelings.

10. Benefits of taking part in research

This research aims to foster and understand joy. You may therefore benefit from this research by sharing joyful experiences with others; by strengthening connections between you and your community; by sharing your stories with broader communities that may benefit from them; and by contributing to collaborative research to help people maintain joy under conditions of stress.

11. Complaints, concerns, and cases of distress

If you have any concerns about how this research is handled, you can use any of the contact details listed at the top of this sheet to communicate them. Please note that if you would prefer to contact someone in your own language or community you may write to the Local Advisor, Dr. Hirofumi Katsuno, hkatsuno@mail.doshisha.ac.jp. If you would like to communicate your complaint directly to the researcher's home institution, you can write to the Chair of UCL

Research Ethics Committee: ethics@ucl.ac.uk. If you have experienced cases of distress due to this research and would like support, please contact the Researcher, Principal Researcher, or Local Advisor at the addresses listed above.

12. Confidentiality

If you agree to participate in research all your personal data will be kept confidential. This means that your real name will not be included in any research notes and will not be presented in the final research outputs in any form, unless you choose to be named.

The only document held by researchers containing your real personal data will be your consent form. This will be stored securely by the researcher until it can be returned to UCL premises.

13. Limits to confidentiality

It may not be possible to keep your personal data confidential if:

- The researcher hears anything during research activities that could lead them to think someone could be harmed. In this case they may be obliged to contact the relevant emergency services.
- Confidentiality will be respected unless there are compelling and legitimate reasons for this to be breached. If this was the case we would inform you of any decisions that might limit your confidentiality.

14. Project outputs

The data gathered in this project will be submitted for inclusion in academic publications, including journal articles and monographs written by the researcher and the principal investigator. It may also be presented at academic events such as conferences and workshops. Data may also be used for mainstream publications such as via social media platforms like Substack.

15. Local Data Protection Privacy Notice

Notice:

The controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk

This 'local' privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular study. Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found in our 'general' privacy notice:

For participants in research studies, click [here](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/ucl-general-research-participant-privacy-notice); or see (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/ucl-general-research-participant-privacy-notice>)

The information that is required to be provided to participants under data protection legislation (GDPR and DPA 2018) is provided across both the 'local' and 'general' privacy notices.

The categories of personal data used will be as follows:

Name
Contact information (email, phone)
Audio recordings

The lawful basis that will be used to process your personal data is: 'public task' and 'research purposes' will be the lawful basis for processing special category data.

Your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. If we are able to anonymise or pseudonymise the personal data you provide we will undertake this, and will endeavour to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk.

16. Project funding

This project is funded by a grant from the European Research Council, grant agreement ID: 101198886

17. Contact for further information

Dr. Daniel White – dan.white@ucl.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information sheet, you will be provided with a copy to take away with you. Thank you for taking the time to consider taking part in this research project.