Participant Information Sheet

Dear Participant,

You are being invited to take part in a research project. 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 information sheet.

**Research Project Title:
Lives and Careers of Caribbean Teachers in the UK**

What is the project's purpose?
This research focuses on the lives and careers of Caribbean teachers who have migrated to the UK through recruitment schemes by the UK government to fill the breach in areas of shortage within UK schools. The first wave of such migration occurred in the 1950s and the second identifiable wave has been in the 1990s. In the case of the first wave, many of these teachers have gone on to become public figures in UK politics and education and have been heralded as exemplars. Media commentaries seem to suggest that what these teachers have brought with them from the Caribbean has contributed to a unique approach to educational policy and practice that is admirable in most cases and different. Other commentaries suggest that some of the classroom practices are not congruent with the social context in which they are occurring. While others point to the idea that Caribbean teachers should position themselves as role models for 'Afro-Caribbean' students'.

Such multiple and contested representations about Caribbean teachers, their practice and their professional identity do not refer to how these practitioners account for their experience of teaching. Indeed their voices are silent. We are interested in exploring what this 'uniqueness', 'difference' and 'incongruence' means in light of the actual experiences of these teachers and so, we propose one central question for this study, that is: What insights can be gained about the practice of education from the personal and professional stories of migrant teachers from the Caribbean? This overarching key research question undergirds the aim of the study which is: to explore, the social, cultural and political factors that have influenced how Caribbean teachers in the UK have constructed and expressed their professional identity.

Why have I been chosen?
You have been selected to participate in this research study because we would like to hear about how you experienced moving from the Caribbean to the UK and how teaching in the UK has been for you. We believe that your story can contribute to the ways in which Caribbean teachers are represented.

Do I have to take part?
Participation in this study is voluntary and therefore it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep (and be asked to sign a consent form) and you can still withdraw at any time without it affecting any benefits that you are entitled to in any way. You do not have to give a reason.

Date:
Researchers: Dr Jennifer Lavia – Contact: 0114 222 8097 / Email: j.lavia@sheffield.ac.uk
Professor Pat Sikes – Contact: 0114 222 8158/ Email: p.j.sikes@sheffield.ac.uk

1

What will happen to me if I take part?
If you take part you will be asked to participate in an interview/ focus group. All arrangements will be communicated to you well in advance and will only be organised with your mutual consent.

What happens if the research study stops earlier than expected?
If the research study should stop unexpectedly, you will be provided with a full explanation.

What if something goes wrong?
It is not anticipated anything will go wrong during the study. Should something unforeseen happen or if you have a complaint about the research you should inform Dr Jennifer Lavia as the Principal Investigator in the first instance (see contact at the end of the page). If for some reason you feel that your complaint has not been handled to your satisfaction faction please contact: The Head of School of Education, at the University of Sheffield – Professor Jackie Marsh (see below)

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?
All the information that we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. You will not be able to be identified in any reports or publications.

Will I be recorded, and how will the recorded media be used?
We will ask for your consent to have the activities audio recorded. The audio recordings of your activities made during this research will be used only for analysis and for illustration in conference presentations and lectures. No other use will be made of them without your written permission, and no one outside the project will be allowed access to the original recordings.

What will happen to the results of the research project?
The results of the research study will be published as articles in academic peer-reviewed journals, as book chapters and in conference presentations and lectures. Once again we wish to reiterate that you will not be identified in any publication.

Who has ethically reviewed the project?
This project has been ethically approved via School of Education, Department of Educational Studies' ethics review procedure. The University's Research Ethics Committee monitors the application and delivery of the University's Ethics Review Procedure across the University.

Contact for further information

Researchers
Dr Jennifer Lavia
University of Sheffield, School of Education
388 Glossop Road, Sheffield, S10 2JA, UK
Telephone: 0114 222 8097,
Email: j.lavia@sheffield.ac.uk

Professor Pat Sikes
University of Sheffield, School of Education
388 Glossop Road, Sheffield, S10 2JA, UK
Telephone: 0114 222 8158,
Email: p. j.sikes@sheffield.ac.uk

Head of School
Professor Jackie Marsh
University of Sheffield, School of Education
388 Glossop Road, Sheffield, S10 2JA, UK
Telephone: 0114 222 8166
Email: j.a.marsh@sheffield.ac.uk

Finally …

You will be given a copy of the information sheet and a signed consent form to keep.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and for taking part in the research project.

Jennifer Lavia and Pat Sikes

Date:
Researchers: Dr Jennifer Lavia – Contact: 0114 222 8097 / Email: j.lavia@sheffield.ac.uk
Professor Pat Sikes – Contact: 0114 222 8158/ Email: p.j.sikes@sheffield.ac.uk

2