

## **Mediumship Research Project: The Experience of Spiritualist Mediumship Development**

My name is Fil Kinnersley, and I am studying for a PhD at the University of Northampton. My research focuses on the experience of becoming a Spiritualist medium, and I am looking for people who might be willing to help with this research.



Whereas most research into mediumship has focused on 'proving' whether communication with the deceased is possible, my research is part of a move to balance this by learning about the experiences of mediums themselves. I think this is very important; I don't think that mediumship can be properly understood just by looking 'from the outside'. And while we have research based on interviews with established mediums, very little is known about the inner experiences of those in the process of developing Spiritualist mediumship skills and abilities.

My research involves an online survey, and interviews. The survey asks people about their reasons for deciding to become a Spiritualist medium, and their past experiences and beliefs. It is important to get as many responses to the survey as possible, in order to understand the variety of reasons and experiences behind people's decision, so I really hope that people reading this will be willing to help! The survey is open to any Spiritualist medium who would be interested in responding (there are more details below).

For the final stage I will be interviewing a small number of people who are near to the beginning of their mediumship journey, interviewing each person three times over the course of eight to ten months. This will give a much more in-depth and accurate picture of the different ways in which people experience the development process, and what this means for them.

This is an exciting time for research into mediumship and there is a lot of interest in the subject! The results of this research will be published in academic journals, and I will be happy to make a report available to anyone who is interested, once the research is complete.

### **Taking part in the Survey:**

The survey is anonymous, and takes about 20-40 minutes to complete, depending on the amount of detail that you want to include. The first page is an information page, which explains how the data from the survey will be stored and used, and a consent form, which has to be completed to proceed. All other questions are optional.

There is a link to the survey here:

<https://northampton.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/mediumship-development-survey>

### **Taking part in the interviews:**

At the end of the survey there is the option for people near the beginning of their mediumship to journey who might be willing to be interviewed, to leave their contact details, and, closer to the time, I will be in touch to discuss the interviews.

If you have any questions at all, I would be happy to answer them! My email address is [fil.kinnersley@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:fil.kinnersley@northampton.ac.uk). My supervisors, Professor Chris Roe, and Dr. Glenn Hitchman, can also be contacted with questions about the research ([chris.roe@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:chris.roe@northampton.ac.uk), [glenn.hitchman@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:glenn.hitchman@northampton.ac.uk).) The survey has ethics approval from the University of Northampton.

Thank-you for reading this, and a big thank-you to anyone who goes on to respond to the survey! I hope that this research will lead to a greater understanding of the process of mediumship development.

with best wishes,

Fil Kinnersley