

**Participant information sheet:
Creative Writing Workshop, *Translating Chronic Pain***

I am a researcher at Lancaster University and I would like to invite you to take part in a creative writing workshop exploring representing chronic pain through innovative short-form creative writing. Please take time to read the following information carefully before you decide whether or not you wish to take part.

What is the event about?

This event is a Creative Writing workshop experience for up to 15 adults in Manchester. The workshop is free. It is a pilot event, and we are hoping to develop it on a larger scale in the future; for this reason, we will invite participants to complete an anonymous feedback questionnaire at the end of the workshop, to evaluate the workshop and share ideas for enhancing it in the future. We will not collect any of your creative writing, and no personal data will be retained.

Who is participating?

We are advertising the events openly. Prospective participants who contact us are interested in discussing how fragmentary creative writing may be of value to people living with chronic pain, and to those who support them.

What will I be asked to do if I take part?

If you decide to take part, the 2 hour Workshop will happen on a Saturday in January in Manchester. The event is free to attend.

What are the possible benefits from taking part?

If you take part in this study, we hope you will enjoy experimenting with different creative writing strategies. Your feedback on the workshop will also help us refine the workshop in the future.

Do I have to take part?

No. Your participation is voluntary. However, since others wish to attend, we will be grateful if you can let us know prior to the event if you will not come, so we can offer a place to others on the waiting list.

What if I change my mind?

You are welcome to leave the writing workshop at any time.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Discussing creative writing about chronic pain can be distressing, so that is a possible risk. The overriding focus of the project is about identifying ways that these fragmented forms of writing may ultimately be enriching and supportive – even distressing writing is being approached as of value - for example, in discussions of how a person living with chronic pain may feel vindicated and recognised. In addition, you can withdraw at any time during the event's discussions.

Will my data be identifiable?

No. The feedback forms are anonymous.

None of your own creative writing will be collected.

How will we use the information you have shared with us and what will happen to the results of the research study?

The anonymous feedback forms evaluating the workshop will be used in reports on the project and may be featured in research articles or academic conference papers, or media outreach. None of your own creative writing will be collected at this event.

The names and email addresses for signing up to the event will be kept until the event has occurred, and will then be deleted.

What if I have a question or concern?

If you have any queries or if you are unhappy with anything that happens concerning your participation in the study, please contact Dr Sara Wasson
s.wasson@lancaster.ac.uk.

If you have any concerns or complaints that you wish to discuss with a person who is not directly involved in the research, you can also contact: Professor Sally Bushell, head of the Department of English Literature and Creative Writing, s.bushell@lancaster.ac.uk, tel 01524 592249, Department of English Literature and Creative Writing, County Main, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YD.

Sources of support

The following charities and organisations offer a wide range of advice and support for people living with chronic pain, and for those who care for them.

- The British Pain Society: <https://www.britishpainsociety.org/people-with-pain/>
- Action on Pain <http://www.action-on-pain.co.uk/>
- A Way with Pain <http://www.awaywithpain.co.uk/>
- Pain Concern <http://painconcern.org.uk/>
- Fibromyalgia Action UK <http://www.fmauk.org/>
- Ehlers-Danlos Support UK <https://www.ehlers-danlos.org/>
- Endometriosis UK <https://www.endometriosis-uk.org/>
- Pain Relief Foundation: <http://www.painrelieffoundation.org.uk/about/pain-relief-foundation/>
- Pain Support <http://painsupport.co.uk/>

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Lancaster Management School's Research Ethics Committee.

Thank you for considering your participation in this project.