

## **PhD Research Project**

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### **Research title:**

### **I, Office: configuring person and place in everyday office computing**

#### **Research Overview**

A series of case studies will examine current and emerging forms of computing in the office. The project is also concerned with the evolution of the office, and current trends in its development. Two qualitative studies will focus on computing in the office environment and is an exploration of the experiences, ideas and feelings about computers and other technology that workers use every day.

The research will cover issues including:

- Everyday experiences including problems with computing technology
- Previous user experience with computer technologies
- Use of personal technologies such as mobile phones, blackberries, PDA's
- Organisational and self-management, personalisation and customisation of individual workspaces and collaborative environments
- Perceptions of change on work practices, self and the organisation particularly those associated with information and communication technologies

It is anticipated that the research will expand our knowledge of the implications of environmental and technological change on perceptions of self, work practices and the organisation and assist the development of new methods for understanding and evaluating how workers negotiate and adapt to contemporary office environments.

#### **Research participation**

Participation in the research involves one interview and one observation session. Study participants are also asked to keep a private technology diary for two weeks following the interview.

Participants are encouraged to jot down thoughts and feelings describing or illustrating issues and experiences while using technology in your work environment for one fortnight following the interview.

The observation session will take place at the primary work area of each worker and will be recorded on voice recorder.

A copy of the Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form is available here to be downloaded:

[Participant Information Sheet](#)  
[Participant Consent Form](#)

### **Confidentiality**

Any personal information that is obtained in connection with this study will remain strictly confidential and will be disclosed only with the written permission of the participant. Pseudonyms will be used when discussing or writing up the information to protect each participant's anonymity.

### **University Human Ethics Research Protocols**

The University of Western Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee has approved this study. However, if there are any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of the research, these can be directed to the Ethics Committee through the Research Ethics Officers (telephone: 02 47 360 883). Any issues raised will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and the person raising the issue will be informed of the outcome.

### **Further Information and Contact Details**

The contacts for the research are Justine Humphry, the Researcher and Dr Elaine Lally, University Supervisor.

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