

Ethics Reference Number: 24/0352

15 July 2024



Information Sheet: Faith Formation Project

Thank you for your interest in this project. Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding whether or not to participate. If you decide to participate, we thank you. If you decide not to take part, there will be no disadvantage to you, and we thank you for considering our request.

What is the Aim of the Project?

The *Faith Formation* project seeks to better understand contemporary faith and spirituality. It is part of Dr Lynne Taylor's ongoing research on faith formation and pastoral care.

Who can participate?

Anyone over the age of 18 who would consider themselves to be of Christian faith can participate.

What is involved?

If you agree to take part in this project, you are invited to complete an online questionnaire that should take around 30 minutes to complete. The first question invites you to write a paragraph or two (or more); and some other questions invite a short written response. Later questions will be much quicker to complete as they generally invite you to select, rank or rate responses.

Please be aware that you may decide to not take part in the project without any disadvantage to yourself. You can also skip any question you do not wish to answer. While we don't anticipate that you would experience any distress as a result of completing the questionnaire, if that should occur, we encourage you to seek support from a pastoral care provider in your church, or a trusted friend.

What data or information will be collected and what use will be made of it?

Information collected from you includes reflections on your faith journey, attributes and characteristics of God and other Christians that are important to you, your own aspirations and ideals, some information about your current spiritual practices or faith involvement, as well as basic demographic information (age, ethnicity, language, education, etc.).

You won't be asked to provide your name or contact details. Data obtained because of the research will be retained for at least 5 years in secure storage.

Only the Principal Investigator (Dr Lynne Taylor), her Research Assistant (Dr Jessica Bent) and her Psychology Mentor (Associate Professor Daryl van Tongeren) will have access to some of the raw data from the completed questionnaires.

The findings of the research will be made publicly available, including in blog posts, an online workshop for church leaders, academic conference presentations, a book, and academic

journal articles but you will not be identified. (Any potentially identifying information you provide will be changed.)

Can I change my mind and withdraw from the project?

You may withdraw from participation in the study at any point prior to the completion of the questionnaire without any disadvantage to yourself. You may also choose not to answer any question.

What if I have a question?

If you have any questions about our project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact:

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This study has been approved by the Theology Programme, School of Arts. However, if you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee through the Human Ethics Committee Administrator (ph +643 479 8256 or email humanethics@otago.ac.nz). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.

The questionnaire is here: <https://tinyurl.com/2024faithformation>

