

Individual Consent and Application Form

Open Up – New Research Spaces for the Humanities and Cultural Studies

This document must be completed by each applicant. Please save the document once you have completed the form. Please do not save or print as a pdf before submitting.

Name of applicant:

E-Mail address:

University affiliation:

1 Disciplinary self-identification

Proposals are assigned to reviewers according to the [DFG subject area structure](#). Please select **at least one** and up to three subject areas in which you can review proposals based on your expertise (in descending order). If you cannot assign yourself to any of the disciplines in the drop-down menu, please use the text box. Please also refer to the DFG subject area structure when using the text box.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Other (please use the [DFG subject area structure](#) for your entry):

2 Expectations of the DPR process

Please give us your initial views about the DPR process by answering the following questions. The following questions will not be used to make funding decisions about the proposal but may help us evaluate and improve the process of peer review.

Please tick the box with the answer that applies to you	Strongly agree	Agree	Slightly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
This process is suitable to review my proposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
This process will identify appropriate reviewers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My proposal will receive a fair evaluation under this process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall, I trust this process to select the best research to fund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I expect the process to select more adventurous proposals than conventional panel review	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I expect the process to select a similar set of proposals to panel review	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3 Consent

Applications to the call “Open Up – New Research Spaces for the Humanities and Cultural Studies” will be reviewed by the conventional Panel Review Process (PRP) and also by a Distributed Peer Review process (DPR). Proposals selected by either mechanism will be funded. The process and outcomes will be formally evaluated to allow for comparison and to contribute evidence on how research funding can be made more efficient, effective and equitable. More information on the call, on Distributed Peer Review and the evaluation of this process is provided on the [Open Up Website](#).

Benefits

The experiment provides each applicant with two opportunities to receive funding – via the conventional panel review and via the distributed peer review mechanism. Otherwise, there are no direct benefits, although participation supports evidence-informed innovation in peer review and funding mechanisms.

Data management

Data from this project exists in three categories:

- **Proposal data** – data collected as a normal part of the funding call process. This includes proposals, CVs, contact details of applicants and co-applicants. This will be managed and stored by the Volkswagen Foundation according to their standard procedures. Anonymised grant proposals will be shared for review with selected other applicants.
- **Panel data** – data collected as a normal part of the funding call process. This includes panel reviews and funding decisions. This will be managed and stored by the Volkswagen Foundation according to their standard procedures. Quantitative and evaluation measures such as review scores, post-panel scoring and funding outcome will be anonymised, aligned with and added to the review data.
- **Review data** – data collected as part of the distributed peer review process, and its evaluation. This includes scoring of proposals and associated survey questions. This will be anonymised and kept separate from the proposal data. It will be managed and stored by the Volkswagen Foundation. The Research Team will have access. No identifying details of any applicants will be shared with the Research Team.

All data, regardless of type, will be held by the Volkswagen Foundation and shared with the Research Team only to the extent necessary according to the purposes below.

Personal data will only be accessed by the Volkswagen Foundation.

Post project, quantitative and evaluation measures – but not data with risk of deanonymisation (such as a review text comments) – may be archived in a public research data repository by the Volkswagen Foundation.

Please take note of the following information

By submitting to the call “Open Up – New Research Spaces for the Humanities and Cultural Studies” you

- Agree to have your proposal evaluated by both the conventional Panel Review Process and the Distributed Peer Review process.
- Agree to participate in the Distributed Peer Review process by submitting reviews of the proposals you are requested to review by the Foundation.
- Understand that failure to submit reviews will result in your own proposal being eliminated from consideration.
- Understand that your proposal and applicant data will be held by Volkswagen Foundation in accordance with GDPR (see [Data Protection Information for Applicants and Grant Recipients](#)).
- Understand that anonymised data on applications and reviews will be shared with researchers from the [Research on Research Institute](#) and the University of Sheffield, for the purpose of analysis and evaluation of the review processes.
- Anonymised quantitative data (e.g. review scores) may be included in published reports, but no details which identify individual proposals, or applicants, or reviewers will be shared publicly.

- Agree that you may be contacted post-submission to be invited – with no obligation – to participate in interviews and reflection on the process. Information on the interview process will be provided separately to all those who agree to participate, who will also be asked separately to give their consent to take part in interviews.

Contact

For questions about the call or this agreement please contact: Hanna Denecke
(denecke@volkswagenstiftung.de)

Independent scientific advice and ethical review provided by the University of Sheffield, UK.
Please contact: Professor Tom Stafford (t.stafford@sheffield.ac.uk)

If you feel your complaint, concern or incident has not been handled in a satisfactory manner,
contact: Professor Chris Martin (psy-hod@sheffield.ac.uk)