

**Participant Information Sheet**

**Title of Project: Women’s Entrepreneurship in Digital Transformation and Innovation**

**Research Team:**

Dr. Beth Kewell, Research Fellow, INDEX, University of Exeter Business School, United Kingdom, and Dr. Tala Salah A.R Abuhussein, Assistant Professor, University of Petra, Jordan.

**Invitation and brief summary of the research:**

We would like to invite you to consider becoming a volunteer participant in our programme of interview-based research, which is designed as a small pilot study that represents a first step towards developing a conceptual framework through which to analyse the contribution female entrepreneurs are making to the capitalisation of next-generation technologies such as blockchain, focusing on the identification of any specific impediments to the advancement of women in this new field of entrepreneurship. Our aim in conducting this study is to influence both the academic and public agendas allied to blockchain innovation, by obtaining insights into women’s experience of establishing start-up projects linked to blockchain in the public, private and third sectors.

**Why have I been approached?**

Our goal is to interview between 20-25 female blockchain experts, such as yourself, with a view to identifying what you believe to be the key success factors driving blockchain innovation, how women are contributing to this push forwards and how you think this commitment is being supported/may need to be supported in the future. As a potential participant in this study, you can, therefore, expect to be asked questions about the availability of start-up capital, establishing and growing a blockchain business, opportunities in the marketplace, work/life balance, as well as your views of the current policy environment.

**What would taking part involve?**

We would be delighted if you were to take part in our study. We anticipate that the interview we propose to undertake will last for approximately 1 hour about an hour of your time to complete. Should you, during the process of the interview, decide to withdraw, you are free to do so without giving any reasons for your decision. Subject to your consent, all research materials, including interviews, will be recorded and kept securely according to the University of Exeter’s policies regarding data retention and data governance. You may, of course, opt to provide the research team with your responses in writing. You may withdraw from the study at any time, at which point the research team will ensure that any information provided to us will be disposed of in accordance with university regulations.

**Will I receive any payment for taking part?**

Participation in the study is entirely voluntary.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

As a voluntary participant in this study, you will be contributing to an emergent dialogue concerning the role of women in blockchain entrepreneurship that is likely to be of increasing importance as the sector expands. Our aim as researchers is to contribute to both an evolving academic debate on the topic and policy conversations concerning how best government and business institutions can support female entrepreneurship in the blockchain sector.

**What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?**

You may withdraw from the research at any time, without obligation by writing to Dr. Beth Kewell who will confirm that any information you have kindly provided in the form of interview data will be erased in accordance with university data retention policies.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

We do not anticipate that you will be exposed to any adverse personal or health and safety risks by our study, which will mean setting aside around 1-1.5 hours of your time to be interviewed via either the telephone, Skype or should you prefer, a face-to-face meeting at a location of your choice. We do not intend to ask any questions that are of a commercially sensitive or potentially upsetting nature. We are purely interested in canvassing your opinion of opportunities and challenges related to the growth of female blockchain entrepreneurship. A copy of our Interview Schedule can be viewed prior to meeting with us, should you wish to see it. All resultant interview materials will be kept in accordance university policy and concomitant data protection laws and statures (please see below).

**How will my information be kept confidential?**

The University of Exeter processes personal data for the purposes of carrying out research in the public interest. The University will endeavour to be transparent about its processing of your personal data, and this information sheet should provide a clear explanation of this. If you do have any queries about the University’s processing of your personal data that cannot be resolved by the research team, further information may be obtained from the University’s Data Protection Officer by emailing [dataprotection@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@exeter.ac.uk) or at [www.exeter.ac.uk/dataprotection](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/dataprotection/)

All information provided to us will thereby remain entirely confidential. Any personal/identifiable data that we keep will be stored securely, in compliance with the 'University of Exeter Generic Privacy Notice', Drs. Kewell and Abuhussein will have sole access to this data for the duration of the study (a period of 1-2 years). Upon expiry of the project, any remaining personal data remaining will be erased in accordance with university policy. Where consent is given, we will endeavour to provide you with updates about our research, using contact information provided to us for this purpose. This information will remain strictly confidential and will not be shared with third parties.

**What will happen to the results of this study?**

Our aim is to publish the anonymised results of the study in high-quality academic journals from the social sciences. It may also be the case that we use insights and quotations from the research in conference papers and reports allied to the study, and where appropriate, future funding applications to support further research-based engagements with the blockchain community.

**Who is organising and funding this study?**

The research is respectively supported in-kind by the Initiative for the Digital Economy at Exeter (INDEX) in the United Kingdom and the University of Petra, Jordan.

**Who has reviewed this study?**

This project has received a favourable opinion from the University of Exeter Business School, Research Ethics Committee (Reference Number UEBS001876 v3.0).

**Further information and contact details**

We are a two-person research team, for whomDr. Beth Kewell will act as the main point of contact for any questions or concerns that you might wish to discuss with either one or both of us. She may be contacted via her email address, which is:

[e.j.kewell@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:e.j.kewell@exeter.ac.uk)

You may also wish to write to Dr. Kewell at INDEX, which is based in London at the following address:

Halkin,

1-2 Paris Gardens,

INDEX, Office 3.05

London,

SE1 8ND

The Director of INDEX, Professor Roger Maull may be contacted via ([r.maull@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:r.maull@exeter.ac.uk)), should any concerns arise during the course of your participation in the study. Any concerns that you may have may also be discussed in strictest confidence by contacting Gail Seymour, Research Ethics and Governance Manager:

[g.m.seymour@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:g.m.seymour@exeter.ac.uk), 01392 726621

Thank you for your interest in this project.