

Do you want to participate in

“Health, European Muslims and Gender: Medical Authority and Assisted Reproductive Technologies in Islam (HEMGEN)”?

This is an inquiry about participation in a research project where the main purpose is to analyse how Muslims in a minority context in Europe navigate between the authority of medical science and the authority of religion with a gender perspective. In this letter I will give you information about the purpose of the project and what your participation will involve.

Purpose of the project

You are invited to participate in a project where the aim is to provide empirical data about the tensions between health, Islam and gender through the study of the case of Assisted Reproductive Technologies. The main objectives are to analyse how health professionals and Sunni Muslims understand and practice the relationship between Islam and health in a minority context, as well as the role of possible gender differences and other diversity aspects. The study will compare empirical data gathered in two cities: Barcelona and Oslo.

The research is part of a postdoctoral project conducted by the experienced researcher Dr. Rosa Martinez-Cuadros. The collected personal data will not be used for other purposes.

Why are you being asked to participate?

You are being invited to participate because you are considered to be a key informant (or a Muslim woman/men who has used or considered using ART or a Health Professional expert on ART or relate topics) with valuable information about possible relationship between religion and health issues in Oslo/Barcelona. The sample will also include health professionals and Muslim informants who have who had either experienced ART treatment or had contemplated its use at some point.

Who is responsible for the research project?

OsloMet University is the institution responsible for the project. The project is funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions- Postdoctoral Fellowships (HE MSCA PF).

Participation is voluntary

Participation in the project is voluntary. If you choose to participate, you can withdraw your consent at any time without a reason. If you choose to withdraw all information about you as well as transcripts will be deleted. All information about you will be anonymised. There will be no negative consequences if you choose not to participate or later decide to withdraw.

What does your participation entail?

If you chose to take part in the project, this will involve that you will participate in an interview. It will take approx. 45 minutes. The interview includes questions about your experience and understanding about the relationship between Islam and health, as well as the ways you have had to negotiate possible situations of conflict. You can reject to answer any question and stop the interview anytime with no consequences.

The interviews will be audio recorded with Diktafon for Nettskjema by University of Oslo, and notes will be written down by the researcher during the interviews. The recordings will be stored in a encrypted USB-device and the notes and consent forms will be locked securely.

Brief information about data protection

I will only use data about you for the purposes described in this letter. We will process personal data confidentially and in accordance with data protection legislation (the General Data Protection Regulation and Personal Data Act). You can read more about privacy below*.

Sincerely,

Rosa Martinez-Cuadros
Project Leader

**You can read more about data protection on below.*

Data protection - how we store and use your personal data

- The project leader (Rosa Martinez-Cuadros) will be the only person who will have access to the data during the research period
- To ensure that your personal data that is collected will not be read by unauthorised individuals I will store sensitive data and privacy information on an encrypted USB-device or on an Oslo Met served only available to me.
- The researcher will not be applying your name in transcripts or papers, but instead use a code/number or fictive name.
- Participants will not be recognisable in publications and personal data will not be disclosed.

What gives us the right to process data about you?

We will process your personal data based on your consent.

Based on the agreement with Oslo Met and SIKT - Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research has assessed that the processing of personal data in this project is in accordance with data protection legislation.

On behalf of OsloMet, the Data Protection Services at the Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research (Sikt) have assessed that the processing of personal data in this project meets requirements in data protection legislation.

What happens to your personal data when the project ends?

The project is expected to end 31.08.2027. The collected data will then be anonymised for future use (deleting or rewriting identifiable data).

Your rights

As long as you can be identified in the collected data, you have the right to request access to the data we are processing about you, to request that the data is corrected or deleted. If you contact us regarding your rights,

you will hear from us within a month. We will provide an explanation if we cannot identify you or if your rights cannot be exercised. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Authority about how we are processing your data.

If you have questions or want to exercise your rights, please contact:

- OsloMet University via Dr. Rosa Martinez-Cuadros (rosa.m.cuadros@oslomet.no)
- Our Data Protection Officer: personvernombudet@oslomet.no

If you have questions about how Data Protection Services have assessed the project, you can contact them by email: personvertjenester@sikt.no, or by phone: 73 98 40 40.

Consent form

I have received and understood information about the project *Health, European Muslims and Gender: Medical Authority and Assisted Reproductive Technologies in Sunni Islam (HEMGEN)* and have been given the opportunity to ask questions. I give consent:

- ☐ to participate in an interview that will be recorded
- ☐ for my personal data to be processed in this project, until the end date of the project 31 August 2027.

(Signed by participant, date)