



Ollscoil Chathair
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

Evaluating the impact of the BOHEMIAN project on engagement with bioaerosol forecast and health mitigating behaviours



Researcher: Dr Emma Delemere & Leyre Alonso Valdivia, School of Psychology

You are being invited to take part in an experiment conducted by Leyre Alonso Valdivia and Dr Emma Delemere, from the School of Psychology, DCU. The experiment is part of the BOHEMIAN project funded by the Research Ireland National Challenge Fund.

What is this research about?

The BOHEMIAN project aims to expand and refine bioaerosol forecasts, providing a more accurate, localized information of air quality, including concentration of allergen particles. These enhanced forecasts will be used to provide travel information through a smartphone application specifically developed as part of the project. The smartphone application will provide alternative routes with lower level of pollutants/allergen particles and propose additional behaviours that can be taken to reduce the exposure to these particles during the trip.

Why is this research being conducted?

Reducing exposure to pollution and allergen particles is a first step to improve health and quality of life, particularly among people with medical conditions affecting the respiratory system, such as asthma.

Specifically, this research seeks to map the behavioural contingencies involved in engaging with bioaerosol forecasts and health mitigating behaviours. While some research has been done in this area from a health perspective, the motivators and barriers impacting this engagement is lacking. This research will attempt to bridge the gap and will help to develop forecasts that are more easily accessible as well as to inform future research.

Why have you been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part because either you or a person in your care has been diagnosed with asthma or a medical condition which is impacted by air pollution.

What will happen if you decide to take part in this study?

If you decide to take part, you will be presented with short survey followed by a choice experiment during which you will be introduced to several travel scenarios. Firstly, the survey will enquire about your engagement with bioaerosol forecast (e.g., frequency), your ability to engage and interpret said forecasts, and motivation to do so. For the second part related to the experiment, you will be presented to different scenarios. In each you will be given different alternatives of actions you can take to carry out the trip, and you will be asked to choose among several options which one you would do.

How your data will be used?

Your data will be used to help us to better understand how air pollution might be better communicated to individuals with Asthma or similar health conditions to allow them to engage in actions to protect their health and avoid areas of high air pollution. Specifically, your data will help us to understand the barriers faced in engaging with air pollution forecasts, and how these barriers might be addressed to make forecasts more useful for those who might need them. All the data you share during the course of this research will be used solely for the purpose of the research itself. In this case, the data will be used to inform future stages of the project.

No personal information will be collected as part of the research. Participation is anonymous and confidential. Thus, responses cannot be attributed to any one participant. Dr Emma Delemere will be responsible for the secure storage of your data on a secure Google Drive folder accessible only to the researchers listed on this project. Data will be securely retained for a maximum of 5 years and will be destroyed following this period.

You have a right to access your own data, for as long as it is not anonymized, in which case identifying your data is not possible. Once you have submitted the survey your data will be anonymized. you can access your data by contacting the researchers (see below for contact information). You also have a right to lodge a complaint concerning the use of your personal data with the [Irish Data Protection Commission](#).

If you have any further questions about how your data is used or your rights you can contact DCU Data Protection Officer Mr. Martin Ward (data.protection@dcu.ie, Ph.: 7005118 / 7008257) who will handle any data protection concerns arising from the research.

How will your privacy be protected?

This research uses an anonymous survey. General information will be requested; however, no identifying information will be requested. You have the right to request access to your data, to have your data corrected and to withdraw consent for processing of your data for as long the data has not been anonymized. As this is an anonymous study, your data can be withdrawn or accessed only up until you submit your survey, while the attempt is live. Once you submit the attempt, the researchers will be unable to know which survey is yours as it will be anonymous. For more information, please reach out to the researchers above. You can also lodge a complaint with the [Irish Data Protection Commission](#).

Please note that confidentiality of information can only be protected within the limitations of the law - i.e., it is possible for data to be subject to subpoena, freedom of information claim or mandated reporting by some professions

What are the benefits of taking part in this study?

There are no direct benefits for you for taking part in this stage of the project, however by participating you will help us to better understand how air pollution information might be more effectively communicated to support those with asthma or similar medical conditions to be aware of air pollution they may encounter and what they could do to reduce the impacts on their health. By better understanding how individuals with asthma or similar conditions interact with air pollution forecasts we can help inform the design of more effective, accessible means of communicating these forecasts.

What are the risks of taking part in this study?

This study does not include potential risks to participants greater than encountered in everyday life.

How will you find out what happens with this project?

You can find out more about the projects progress by following our social media (links) or our website (link). If you would like to find out more about the results of this specific study you can email Dr Emma Delemere (emma.delemere@dcu.ie) to receive a copy of the study results once available.

Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from this study?

Participation in this research project is voluntary and you may withdraw from the research study at any point up until you submit your survey response. Once the anonymous information has been submitted, this information is no longer identifiable and therefore

cannot be withdrawn. The information provided will still be processed for the purposes of the study as stated above.

Contact details and further information

If you have any further questions, you can contact the researchers via:

Dr Emma Delemere - Emma.delemere@dcu.ie

Leyre Alonso Valdivia - leyre.alonsovaldivia@dcu.ie

If you have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact: The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Research and Innovation Support, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel 01-7008000, e-mail rec@dcu.ie