

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

KCL Ethics Ref: LRS-19/20-17416

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET



Study Title: Why do manufacturers develop love dolls and sex robots and why do customers use them? A look at the people in the robot sex business.

What is the purpose of the study?

This study forms the basis of a book chapter in an academic publication entitled *Maschinenliebe: Liebespuppen und Sexroboter aus technischer, psychologischer und philosophischer Perspektive (Machine Love: Love Dolls and Sex Robots from a Technical, Psychological and Philosophical Perspective)*, to be published by Springer. It is a continuation of research conducted for the book *Turned On: Science, Sex and Robots*, published in 2018.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You are being invited to participate in this study because you have indicated that you are willing to share your insight on doll creation and ownership.

What will happen if I take part?

If you choose to take part in the study you will be asked to participate in a single interview with me, Dr Kate Devlin, Senior Lecturer in Social and Cultural Artificial Intelligence at King's College London, or with my PhD student, Chloé Locatelli.

You should only participate if you want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please do ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What will I be asked to do?

We will arrange a time for an interview with you. This may be via email, messaging or voice/video call, depending on your preference. The interview time will vary depending on how much participants have to say, but it should take no longer than 45 minutes. Interviews will take place from the end of February 2020 onwards. You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to. You may take a break or terminate the interview at any time.

Some of your answers may be particularly interesting and we may want to quote them in the final publication. Excerpts and quotations may be used in online or print publications with your permission. You will be offered the choice of having your comments fully attributed (by name), partially attributed (by an agreed upon pseudonym or designation), or fully anonymous.

In addition, please note:

You may withdraw from the study at any time during the course of the project by contacting kate.devlin@kcl.ac.uk, and any data you have provided, including interview notes and personal details, will be permanently deleted. Please note it will not be possible to withdraw from the study or withdraw the data you have provided (including non-anonymized data) after 14th April 2020 as the publication will be submitted to the editor after this date.

If you agree to take part, you will be asked whether you are happy to be contacted about participation in future studies. Your participation in this study will not be affected should you choose not to be re-contacted.

Data Protection Statement

Your completed questionnaire, including all personal details, will be held in a secure electronic system at King's College London for four years from completion of the project. Archived data is held in the format that you agreed (e.g. either identifiable, or pseudonymous, or anonymous). The data controller for this project will be King's College London (KCL). The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. The legal basis for processing your personal data for research purposes under GDPR is a 'task in the public interest'.

You can provide your consent for the use of your personal data in this study by completing the consent form that will be provided to you. You have the right to access information held about you. Your right of access can be exercised in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation. You also have other rights including rights of correction, erasure, objection, and data portability. Questions, comments and requests about your personal data can also be sent to the King's College London Data Protection Officer at info-compliance@kcl.ac.uk. If you wish to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office, please visit www.ico.org.uk

What will happen to the results of the study?

The study will form the basis of an academic publication. The results may also form the basis of a general interest publication such as a print or online media article. A copy of the project's final report, and offprints of any academic articles arising from the study, will be sent to you on request.

What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?

Further information can be obtained from kate.devlin@kcl.ac.uk .

If this study has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the study you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

The Chair, Arts and Humanities REP

Email: rec@kcl.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.