



University of
St Andrews

PARTICIPANTS WANTED

'Older Scots for Modern Scots' Initiative

The wider goal of this project -- run by Prof. Rhiannon Purdie of the School of English at the University of St Andrews in collaboration with the SQA -- is to reintroduce Older Scots literature as an optional unit for the SQA Higher and Advanced Higher English curriculum and to increase its presence in the Scots Language and Scottish Studies Awards. For further details, see www.readolderscots.scot/osms/

Participants are wanted to take part in one-off, half-hour interviews on the teaching of English or Scots Language in Scottish secondary schools. We are keen to interview current or retired teachers of SQA H/AH English and/or Scots Language or Scottish Studies Awards from a range of different schools. Please see the OSMS Questionnaire for the list of questions to be addressed. Alternatively, you may send written responses to part of all of the OSMS Questionnaire directly to Rhiannon Purdie at the address below.

Responses from these interviews will help us to develop a viable package of materials -- literary, linguistic and pedagogic-- to assist teachers and pupils in studying this unfamiliar material. The interviews are to help us to understand:

- how the curriculum is actually delivered in the secondary school classroom
- what kinds of materials (worksheets? annotated texts? language-learning apps? podcasts? etc.) are most useful for teachers and attractive to pupils
- what would put teachers off teaching Older Scots literature; what would encourage them to try it (if anything!)

Interviews are to be conducted remotely by Zoom, Teams or whatever platform is convenient for the interviewees. They are intended to last for no more than 30 minutes and the list of questions (the OSMS Questionnaire) will be circulated beforehand. Participants can alternatively choose to reply in writing if they would prefer.

NO knowledge of Older Scots is required. There is **NO** obligation have anything further to do with the OSMS Initiative, although you of course have the opportunity to do so.

If you are interested, please get in contact using the details below. You will then be given a Participant Information Sheet (also available at www.readolderscots.scot/osms/) with further details of the project and you will have the opportunity to ask questions before being asked whether you consent to participate.

Contact Details

Researcher: Professor Rhiannon Purdie
School of English, University of St Andrews

rp6@st-andrews.ac.uk