



University of
St Andrews

'Older Scots for Modern Scots' Initiative

Prof. Rhiannon Purdie

What is the study about?

'Older Scots for Modern Scots' is an initiative set up to explore how best to (re)introduce Older Scots texts as options for the SQA Higher and/or Advanced Higher English award, and to augment resources on Older Scots for the SQA Scots Language or Scottish Studies Awards. It is run by Rhiannon Purdie (Professor of English and Older Scots at the University of St Andrews) in conjunction with the SQA.

Our ultimate goal is to put together a suite of course materials -- texts, study guides, classroom packs, recordings, podcasts, and an interactive web app for learning to read Older Scots -- in order to make it manageable for teachers, and attractive for pupils, to choose a Higher or Advanced Higher unit on an Older Scots author, or include more detailed work on Older Scots for the Language award. **This phase of the OSMS Initiative consists simply of interviewing current or retired teachers so that we can understand better how H/AH English, Scots Language and Scottish Studies are currently taught, and who would need what kinds of resources to make the study of Older Scots literature more feasible at this level.**

Why have I been invited to take part?

Invitations are being issued to any willing current or retired teacher of Higher/Advanced Higher English, or Higher Scots Language or Scottish Studies Awards.

Do I have to take part?

This information sheet has been written to help you decide if you would like to take part. It is up to you and you alone whether you wish to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be free to withdraw at any time without providing a reason, and with no negative consequences.

What would I be required to do?

Interviews will be by Zoom/Teams/Skype or other appropriate online communication platform of your choice, and are expected to last ca. 30 minutes.

Alternatively, you may simply fill in and return the written questionnaire which sets out the questions to be covered in the interviews.

There is NO obligation to review the teaching materials created on the back of these interviews, nor to try them out yourself, although you will be invited to do one or both of these things if you wish. NO previous knowledge of Older Scots is required.

Are there any risks associated with taking part?

None identified: all interviews will take place remotely and all data will be thoroughly anonymised in any reports or working papers drafted for the SQA or other bodies (e.g. Education Scotland, the National Library of Scotland, the Association for Scottish Literary Studies.)

Informed consent

It is important that you are able to give your informed consent before taking part in this study and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions in relation to the research before you provide your consent.

What information about me or recordings of me ('my data') will you be collecting?

I will collect your name, place of employment, level taught (i.e. H, AH or both) and your answers to questions on how H/AH English or Scots Language is currently taught, and what kinds of resources you think you and your pupils would need to make the study of Older Scots literature feasible at this level, if at all.

How will my data be securely stored, who will have access to it?

Your data will be stored in FULLY IDENTIFIABLE FORM, which means that your data will be identifiable as yours. It will be stored on the secure University Server and be accessible only to myself and my research assistant Alice Gibson. Audio recordings will be taken on an encrypted device and transcribed at the earliest opportunity before being destroyed OR archived for future use.

How will my data be used, and in what form will it be shared further?

All data will be **thoroughly anonymised** in any reports or working papers drafted for the SQA or other bodies, which means that no-one could use any reasonably available means to identify you from the data.

It is expected that the project to which this research relates will be finalised by August 2023.

When will my data be destroyed?

The data will be retained by myself (Rhiannon Purdie) and its deletion will be subject to periodic review (5 years from point of last access).

Will my participation be confidential?

Yes, your participation will only be known to myself and Research Assistant Alice Gibson.

Use of your personal data for research and data protection rights

The University of St Andrews (the 'Data Controller') is bound by the UK 2018 Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which require a lawful basis for all processing of personal data (in this case it is the 'performance of a task carried out in the public interest' – namely, for research purposes) and an additional lawful basis for processing personal data containing special characteristics (in this case it is 'public interest research'). You have a range of rights under data protection legislation. For more information on data protection legislation and your rights visit <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/terms/data-protection/rights/>. For any queries, email dataprot@st-andrews.ac.uk.

You will be able to withdraw your data within three months of the date of your interview. If your data is anonymised, we will not be able to withdraw it, because we will not know which data is yours.

Ethical Approvals

This research proposal has been scrutinised and subsequently granted ethical approval by the University of St Andrews Teaching and Research Ethics Committee.

What should I do if I have concerns about this study?

In the first instance, you are encouraged to raise your concerns with the researcher. However, if you do not feel comfortable doing so, then you should contact my Supervisor or School Ethics Contact (contact details below). A full outline of the procedures governed by the University Teaching and Research Ethics Committee is available at <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/research/integrity-ethics/humans/ethical-guidance/complaints/>.

Contact details

Researcher(s)	Prof. Rhiannon Purdie rp6@st-andrews.ac.uk	Research Assistant:	Alice Gibson (student) (contact via Prof. Purdie)
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