**Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title**: Does Accounting Change Destroy the Common Good? Evidence from a Comparative Case Study

**Researcher**: Shahenda Shehata

**ERGO number:** **78534**

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

**What is the research about?**

I am a PhD researcher at the University of Southampton and my project is fully funded by the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research. The extensive use of Performance measurements systems (PMSs) in academia, such as: REF, TEF and KEF, have affected academics; resulting in different responses; one of it is fake compliance with the system by gaming it. Few scholars have paid attention to gaming the research aspect of the PMSs in academia, however research into gaming in general and manipulating the teaching aspect of the system in specific, how it arises, its process, causes or even its consequences is still underdeveloped (Graf, 2019; Aboubichr and Conway, 2021; Liu, Yang and Wu, 2021; Taylor, 2021). I seek to explore this issue with regard to the responses of academics toward the extensive use of PMSs in general, and their coping strategies through gaming the system, in specific. In the context of the mentioned gap, the research addresses the following questions: How do PMSs affect professional academics in the UK? What are the pressures emerged faced by the professional academics? What kind of strategies they use to cope with the rise of it, and whether they engage in gaming strategies in order to cope with the system?

**Why have I been asked to participate?**

The research context is academics from different UK universities as they are the most affected stakeholders of the extensive application of PMSs in academia, and participant selection criteria are being an academic in a UK university, while their numbers depend on the size of their business schools and their willingness and availability to participate as well.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

A semi-structured interview would be conducted between you and the researcher (Shahenda Shehata) ranging from 30 to 120 minutes in your office or zoom meeting; a follow up interview might be needed, also the interview would be audio-record in order to be easily transcribed without revealing the name of you or other participants. To ensure privacy of my participants, a coding system of fictional names would be used.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

There is no direct benefit to the participant, however, the study may help improve our understanding of the impact of extensive use of PMSs on academics, their gaming behaviour and its consequences.

**Are there any risks involved?**

No risks involved.

**What data will be collected?**

The researcher would collect data about academics’ responses, resistance, or/and gaming behaviour to adopting an extensive PMSs in academia, to deepen an understanding of the phenomenon in its context through collecting empirical evidence from people in contemporary real life situations with no control of the researcher. To ensure privacy of my participants, a coding system of fictional names would be used in addition to lockable cabinets for hard data, such as: personal data, contact details and consent forms which would be kept separate from non-identifiable data.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

Electronic data would be stored and encrypted using flash drive, OneDrive, my laptop, and University storage. My paper-based interview notes and consent forms would be physically stored in a secure filing cabinet.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time (except after submission of the dissertation) without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent. You can receive a copy of the results, upon your request.

**Where can I get more information?**

The Researcher: Shahenda Shehata ( [s.shehata@soton.ac.uk](mailto:s.shehata@soton.ac.uk) )

Main Supervisor: Dr. Nunung Nurul Hidayah ( [n.n.hidayah@soton.ac.uk](mailto:n.n.hidayah@soton.ac.uk) )

Second Supervisor: Dr. Mahmoud Al-Sayed ( [m.al-sayed@soton.ac.uk](mailto:m.al-sayed@soton.ac.uk) )

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researcher who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

The Researcher: Shahenda Shehata ( [s.shehata@soton.ac.uk](mailto:s.shehata@soton.ac.uk) )

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**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, ‘Personal data’ means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University’s data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/ls/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University’s policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason (‘lawful basis’) to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the ‘Data Controller’ for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for four years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University’s data protection webpage (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@soton.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@soton.ac.uk)).

**Thank you.**