



“My sofa has the mark of my ass”

**Urban nomads, furniture waste, and emotional durability
design as a strategy for the circular economy**

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Master of Research
The Innovation School, The Glasgow School of Art
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Call for Participants



Call for participants

My name is Crystal Zeng, a student, researcher in Innovation School, Glasgow School of Art, and I'm doing a research project titled Challenging Urban Nomads' Behaviours with Mass-produced Furniture through Emotional Durability Design. This study is trying to understand the potential role of emotional durability -- a strategy to keep the resource and objects in use, in urban nomad's daily life to challenge current actions. This aims to inform a dialogue between urban nomads and furniture designers to explore its value to a more sustainable mass-manufactured furniture industry.

I'm looking to recruit participants, who are self-identified as 'urban nomads', for my research project.

Are you between 18-35 years old?

Are you currently based in Glasgow?

Have you moved from city to city due to future opportunities, such as education or work?

Do you worry about using furniture for a short period due to frequent relocation?

Are you concerned about sustainability and environmental issues?

Are you willing to share your story of furniture use?

If you answer **yes** to the above and you are interested in my research project, please do not hesitate to contact me and become a part of this research project. I will be very happy to have your participation.

If you would like to take part, you will receive an information sheet and consent form by email, where you can have a more detailed understanding of the project before deciding whether to take part.

Here are my contact details:

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]



Consent Form

Jie (Crystal) Zeng, Innovation School, Glasgow School of Art

Research Title

Changing Urban Nomads' Behaviours with Mass-produced Furniture through Emotional Durability Design

Stage 1 Consent Form

Please read each question carefully, circle yes or no and write your initials in the final column.

I confirm that I have read and understood the project information sheet

YES NO

I confirm that I have had the opportunity to ask questions.

YES NO

I agree to be a participant for the purposes of the above research project.

YES NO

I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason.

YES NO

I am aware that any information I have given will be used with my permission.

YES NO

I agree to being video/audio recorded during the interview. I understand that these recordings will only be used for purposes of the research and will not be shared or made public.

YES NO

I understand that I can turn off my video camera if I do not wish my face to be recorded in the video.

YES NO

I understand that any research data made publicly available in the final output, such as quotes or images from the recording, will be altered to obscure any identifiable details about myself, and that I will be identified using a pseudonym.

YES NO

I am happy to be contacted about any future studies including the next two stages of this project.

YES NO

I agree that my personal contact details can be retained in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

YES NO

Please provide your preferred Contact Details

Participant Name:

Participant Signed:

Participant Dated:

Researcher signed:

Researcher dated:

Consent Form II

Jie (Crystal) Zeng, Innovation School, Glasgow School of Art

Research Title

Changing Urban Nomads' Behaviours with Mass-produced Furniture through Emotional Durability Design

Stage 2 Consent Form

Please read each question carefully, circle yes or no and write your initials in the final column.

I confirm that I have read and understood the project information sheet

YES NO

I confirm that I have had the opportunity to ask questions.

YES NO

I agree to be a participant for the purposes of the above research project.

YES NO

I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason.

YES NO

I am aware that any information I have given will be used with my permission.

YES NO

I agree to being video/audio recorded during the focus group. I understand that these recordings will only be used for purposes of the research and will not be shared or made public.

YES NO

I understand that I can turn off my video camera if I do not wish my face to be recorded in the video.

YES NO

I understand that any research data made publicly available in the final output, such as quotes or images from the recording, will be altered to obscure any identifiable details about myself, and that I will be identified using a pseudonym.

YES NO

I agree that my thoughts will be shared with other participants in the discussion and co-creation process.

YES NO

I agree that my personal contact details can be retained in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

YES NO

Please provide your preferred Contact Details

Participant Name:

Participant Signed:

Participant Dated:

Researcher signed:

Researcher dated:

Information Sheet

Jie (Crystal) Zeng, Innovation School, Glasgow School of Art

Research Title

Changing Urban Nomads' Behaviours with Mass-produced Furniture through Emotional Durability Design

Invitation

You are being invited to take part in this research project exploring the role of Emotional Durability Design in mass-produced furniture for people who move from city to city, such as Glasgow, due to future opportunities, who this study refers to as *urban nomads*. This research is part of a Masters of Research programme based at The Glasgow School of Art.

What is this project about?

With increased awareness of the importance of sustainability and the circular economy, which tries to reduce any unnecessary waste in the production of products to zero, product longevity is becoming more valued. Emotional Durability Design (EDD) is considered to be an effective way to extend the life of the product by establishing an emotional connection between the user and the product.

Considering the connection between furniture waste in Glasgow and the temporary purchase and use of furniture by urban nomads, this study is trying to understand the potential role of emotional durability in urban nomad's daily life to challenge current actions. This aims to inform a dialogue between urban nomads and mass-produced furniture designers to explore its value to a more sustainable mass-manufactured furniture industry.

Why should I be a part of the project?

You are invited to be a part because you are meet key criteria of urban nomads, and your experience and knowledge can bring valuable insights to this research, which will support the development and application of EDD in the circular economy, and contribute to the sustainable development of the mass-produced furniture industry, even society.

What does the project involve?

If you decide to participate, you will be interviewed remotely online. You may then be asked if you would like to participate in two later stages of focus groups and co-design workshops. Agreeing to be interviewed does not commit you to any later stages of the research.

Interview

At this stage, we will conduct an online one-to-one semi-structured interview. I hope to hear the story between you and your furniture. For example, what kind of emotional connections do you think you have with different pieces of furniture? How does emotion affect the relationship between users and furniture? How could we change user behaviours with furniture? The amount of detail you choose to provide is up to you. You will never be asked to share information that you don't want to.

At later stages of this research, you may be invited to take place in further activities. These are presented here for your interest and your consent to participate would be requested again once the details for these activities can be provided.

Focus group

At this stage, you would share your experience of the connection with furniture in a group, and discuss the value and significance of emotional durability.

Co-creation

At this stage, you would design furniture together with other participants based on a brief formed at the focus group stage and evaluate the role of EDD in this process and its potential value to the circular economy.

What tools will be used?

The interview will use the video conferencing software Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>), with a secure Pro account. This means each session can be safely recorded and stored securely using the Zoom platform.

The focus group and workshop engagement tools will also be carried out online using Miro. The information shared at Miro will remain private, except for the participants.

Will my taking part be kept confidential?

Yes. Your participation will be kept entirely confidential except to me and my supervisors.

How will this happen?

With your consent, I will record a video of our online interview. You can also choose to turn off your camera during recording. The video and audio files will only be accessible by myself and my supervisors at The Glasgow School of Art, and will not be made public.

During the presentation of my research thesis, any use of still images, I will blur all faces and personal information to ensure that they remain anonymous.

Some quotations from our interview will be used anonymously in the research outputs.

Any information you share on Miro will be treated anonymously.

What will happen to the results?

Any information collected during the research will be anonymised and identified using a pseudonym (fake name). This will be altered to remove and/or obscure any personal or identifying data.

If you change your mind about anything you have shared, you can notify me to remove the information you provided from my output. If you are interested, you will also have an opportunity to review the final output and give consent before it goes into the published version. Your anonymised information will be used in publications (e.g. my thesis and portfolio). It may also be used in an anonymised form on The Glasgow School of Arts and my personal website, journal articles, lectures as part of future research and teaching.

What if I want to withdraw?

You can choose to withdraw from the project at any time, simply by notifying me that you wish to do so. If you decide to withdraw, any information regarding yourself and your participation will be securely deleted, and your research data will not be used in any output.

Who should I contact for further information?

If you have any other questions or requests about this project, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Crystal Zeng – [REDACTED]
Innovation School, The Glasgow School of Art

If something goes wrong?

If this project has caused any harm to you, or you have concerns about anything related to this project, you can contact my supervisors:

Dr Michael Pierre Johnson – [REDACTED]
Innovation School, The Glasgow School of Art

Dr Paul Smith – [REDACTED]
Innovation School, The Glasgow School of Art

Information Sheet II

Jie (Crystal) Zeng, Innovation School, Glasgow School of Art

Research Title

Changing Urban Nomads' Behaviours with Mass-produced Furniture through Emotional Durability Design

Invitation

You are being invited to take part in this research project exploring the role of Emotional Durability Design in mass-produced furniture for people who move from city to city, such as Glasgow, due to future opportunities, who this study refers to as *urban nomads*. This research is part of a Masters of Research programme based at The Glasgow School of Art.

What is this project about?

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Considering the connection between furniture waste in Glasgow and the temporary purchase and use of furniture by urban nomads, this study is trying to understand the potential role of emotional durability in urban nomad's daily life to challenge current actions. This aims to inform a dialogue between urban nomads and mass-produced furniture designers to explore its value to a more sustainable mass-manufactured furniture industry.

Why should I be a part of the project?

You are invited to be a part because you are meet key criteria of urban nomads, and your experience and knowledge can bring valuable insights to this research, which will support the development and application of EDD in the circular economy, and contribute to the sustainable development of the mass-produced furniture industry, even society.

What does the project involve?

If you decide to participate, you will join a focus group remotely online, where you can share your story within a group of people. You may then be asked if you would like to participate in the last stages of this research project --- co-design workshops. Agreeing to be a part in focus group does not commit you to any later stages of the research.

Focus group

At this stage, you would share your experience of the connection with furniture within a group, which including urban nomads and mass-produced furniture designers, we will discuss the value and significance of emotional durability, also chosen a specific furniture as a brief for the co-creation workshop. This process will use both Zoom and Miro, as engagement tools.

Co-creation

At this stage, you would design furniture together with other participants based on a brief formed at the focus group stage and evaluate the role of EDD in this process and its potential value to the circular economy. This process will mainly use Miro as engagement tools.

What tools will be used?

The interview will use the video conferencing software Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>), with a secure Pro account. This means each session can be safely recorded and stored securely using the Zoom platform.

For our collaborative work in focus group and co-creation workshop, we will be using an online tool called Miro (<https://miro.com/>). This tool will create a virtual whiteboard where we can work together. The whiteboard will be secure and will only be shared with other participants during the work process.

After we have completed our work, I will further restrict sharing to myself only to ensure that your information is secure.

Will my taking part be kept confidential?

Yes. Your participation will be kept entirely confidential except to me and my supervisors.

How will this happen?

With your consent, I will record a video of our online interview. You can also choose to turn off your camera during recording. The video and audio files will only be accessible by myself and my supervisors at The Glasgow School of Art, and will not be made public.

During the presentation of my research thesis, any use of still images, I will blur all faces and personal information to ensure that they remain anonymous.

Some quotations from our interview will be used anonymously in the research outputs.

What will happen to the results?

Any information collected during the research will be anonymised and identified using a pseudonym (fake name). This will be altered to remove and/or obscure any personal or identifying data.

If you change your mind about anything you have shared, you can notify me to remove the information you provided from my output. If you are interested, you will also have an opportunity to review the final output and give consent before it goes into the published version. Your anonymised information will be used in publications (e.g. my thesis and portfolio). It may also be used in an anonymised form on The Glasgow School of Arts and my personal website, journal articles, lectures as part of future research and teaching.

What if I want to withdraw?

You can choose to withdraw from the project at any time, simply by notifying me that you wish to do so. If you decide to withdraw, any information regarding yourself and your participation will be securely deleted, and your research data will not be used in any output.

Who should I contact for further information?

If you have any other questions or requests about this project, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Crystal Zeng – [REDACTED]
Innovation School, The Glasgow School of Art

If something goes wrong?

If this project has caused any harm to you, or you have concerns about anything related to this project, you can contact my supervisors:

Dr Michael Pierre Johnson – [REDACTED]
Innovation School, The Glasgow School of Art

Dr Paul Smith – [REDACTED]
Innovation School, The Glasgow School of Art

Interview questions

About You:

How old are you?

Why do you see yourself as an Urban Nomads, who move a lot?

Why chose Glasgow?

What kind of property are you in? Furnished or Unfurnished?

Furnished: How do you feel about the furniture? Why?

Unfurnished: How do you get your furniture?

What kind of furniture would you like to choose? Why?

About furniture:

Is there a piece of furniture you think you are emotionally connected with? What is it?

What is the story behind it?

How do you treat this furniture?

What do you think will cultivate the emotional connections between you and furniture, in general?

Furniture for urban nomads:

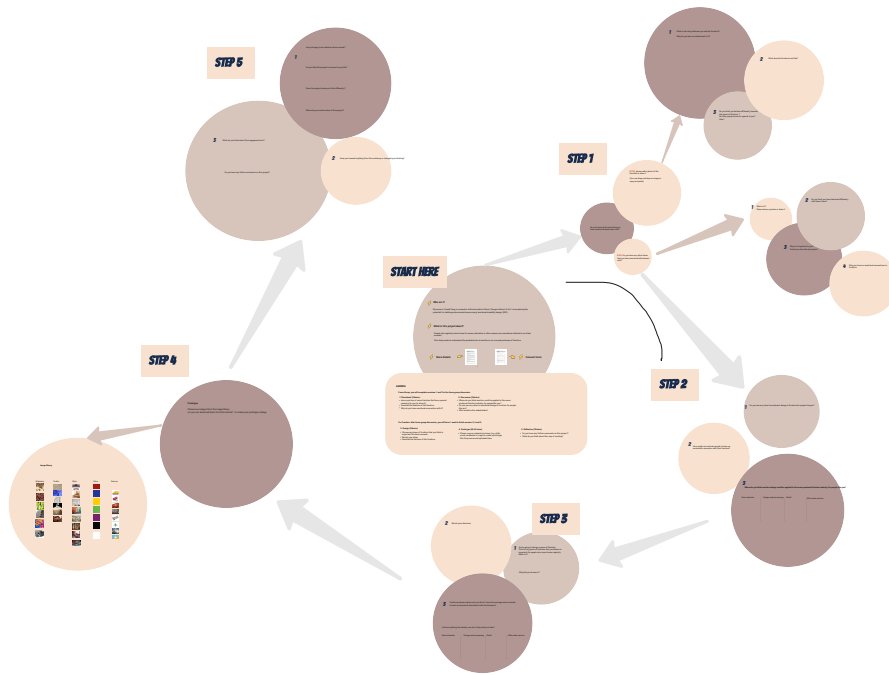
Would you like to share one of your experiences with furniture whilst you are moving places?

How do you feel about furniture whilst you are moving places?

What kind of furniture would suit your lifestyle as an urban nomads in your mind?

If you can design your furniture, or the systematic way of using your furniture, what would be the most important feature for you?

Online Engagement Tool



START HERE

Who am I?

My name is Crystal Zeng, a researcher at the Innovation School, Glasgow School of Art. I am exploring the potential for tackling environmental issues using 'emotional durability design' (EDD).

What is this project about?

People who regularly move house for career, education or other reasons are sometimes referred to as 'urban nomads'.

This study seeks to understand the potential role of emotion in our use and purchase of furniture.

More Details



Consent Form

AGENDA

Focus Group: you will complete sessions 1 and 2 in the focus group discussion

1. Throwback (20mins)

- show a picture of some furniture that has a special meaning for you (or draw it)
- Describe the features of the furniture
- Why do you have emotional connection with it?

2. Discussion (20mins)

- Where do you think emotion could be applied in the mass-produced furniture industry for people like you?
- Do you see any value to emotional design in furniture for people like you?
- Who would be the stakeholders?

Co-Creation: after focus group discussion, you will have 1 week to finish session 3, 4 and 5.

3. Design (30mins)

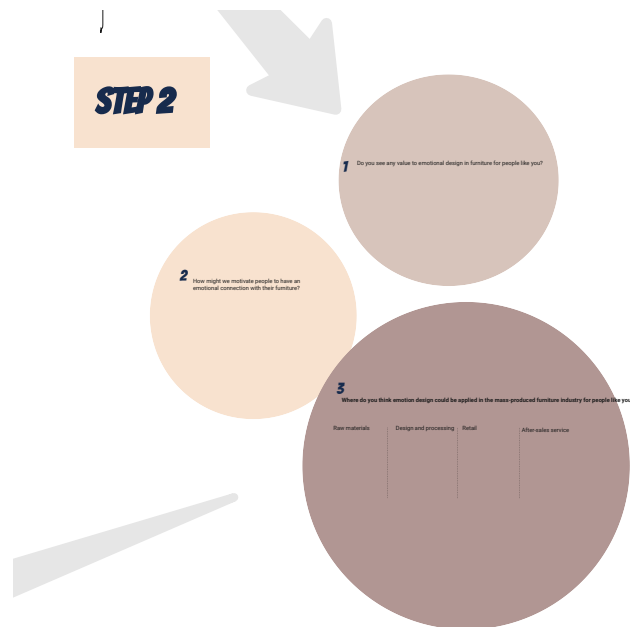
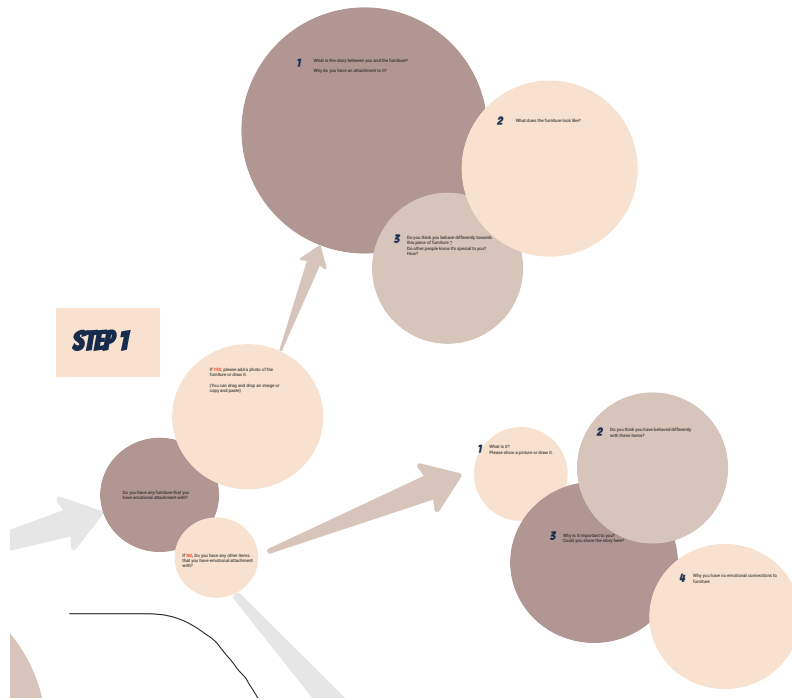
- Choose any piece of furniture that you think is important for urban nomads.
- Sketch your ideas.
- Describe the features of the furniture.

4. Prototype (40-60 mins)

- Please use any material you have, (e.g. cloth, wood, cardboard or Lego) to make a prototype, film the process and uploaded here

5. Reflection (20mins)

- Do you have any further comments on this project?
- What do you think about this way of working?



STEP 3

2 Sketch your idea here

1 You're going to design a piece of furniture. Think of any piece of furniture that you believe is important for people who move house regularly. What is it?

Why did you choose it?

3 Could you please explain why you think it should encourage urban nomads to have an emotional attachment with this furniture?

Is there anything the industry can do to help with your idea?

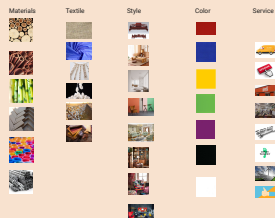
Raw materials Design and processing Retail After-sales service

STEP 4

Prototype

Please use images from the image library (or you can download them from the internet) to create your prototype collage.

Image library



STEP 5

1

Are you happy to be called an urban nomad?

Do you think this project is relevant to you life?

Does this project make you think differently?

Where do you see the value of this project?

3

What do you think about this engagement tool?

Do you have any further comments on this project?

2

Have you learned anything from this workshop or changed your thinking?