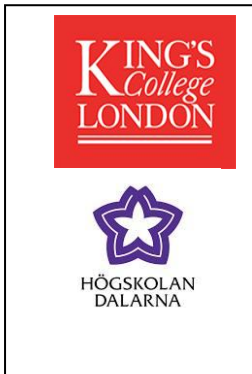


Information sheet EMBARC



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Title of Study: **EMBARC:** Equitable Maternal Care and Birth through Antiracist Co-production
Principal Investigator Professor Stephani Hatch, King's College London. Department of Psychologic
UK: Email: stephani.hatch@kcl.ac.uk

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET

We would now like to invite you to participate in an interview as part of an original research project concerning racism in maternal care in the UK. The research project is organised by King's College London and Dalarna University in Sweden and is funded by the Swedish Research Council. The study has been approved by King's College London Health Faculties RESC, reference number HR-24/25-45977.

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 get back to us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

Please note that participation is voluntary, and you should only participate if you want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way.

What is the purpose of this study?

Research from the UK documents the persistence of racial inequalities among various groups of racially minoritised women. It is therefore important to increase knowledge about racism in maternal care and

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highlight the often subtle and unconscious processes that lead to poorer care and ill health. The aim of the study is to use this knowledge to improve maternal care.

Why have I been invited?

We are asking women, who are between 18 years and 59 years, and who have been exposed to racism in connection with maternal care in the UK at some point in the last 10 years and who would be willing to share these experiences, to participate in an individual interview. To participate you would need to be able to speak in English or Arabic.

What will I be asked if I take part in the study?

If you agree to participate, you will be given a copy of this information sheet and asked to sign a consent form. The study consists of individual interviews aimed at those who have been exposed to racism in connection with maternal care and/or obstetric care in the UK. You will participate in one interview but may be asked for additional information on another occasion. During the interview, the researcher will ask you open-ended questions about your experiences of racism in connection with maternal care in the UK. The researcher will also ask some background questions about, for example, your age and how many children you have. The interview will take place at a location convenient to you or digitally (via Zoom/Teams) and is estimated to take 45-90 minutes. The interview will be recorded (audio only), subject to your consent, and then transcribed. The questions are about:

- Experiences and perceptions of being pregnant and/or giving birth in the UK
- Experiences of having been treated differently or discriminated against in maternal care in the UK
- Views about what the future of maternal care should look like and what is needed to get there

Do I have to take part?

No. It is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. Taking part in the research is completely voluntary and will not affect any healthcare you will receive in the future. You should only take part if you want to, and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Once you have read the information sheet, please contact us if you have any questions that will help you decide whether to take part. If you decide to take part, we will ask you to sign a consent form, and you will be given a copy of this consent form to keep. Even if you decide to take part, you may leave the study at any time, without giving a reason.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results will be published as articles in scientific journals. They will also be presented at academic conferences, in popular science journals and open lectures. Your identity will never be revealed in any publication or presentation. It is up to you to decide whether you would like to access the results of the study, in which case you can download the articles via the project website or contact the lead researcher.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no direct benefits to taking part in this study. However, your participation will contribute towards a greater understanding of racism in maternal care. This will aid future policies and improvements to maternal health services that will help both care providers and people in the community.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

There are no major risks involved. However, the interview entails that you think about discriminatory experiences you have experienced, which some people may find stressful or unpleasant. It is up to you to decide how much you would like to share, and everything you say will be treated confidentially. If you find it stressful during the interviews, the interviewers are there to support and help you. You can choose not to answer certain questions or stop participating altogether. If you want to stop the interview, you can do so at

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any time without giving us any reason. In addition to withdrawing yourself from the study, you may also withdraw any information you have already provided.

Should your participation provoke reactions that would make you need further support afterwards, we can help by guiding you to where such support can be found.

Data handling and Confidentiality

All personal information about you is regarded as strictly confidential. Only the researcher asking these questions and members of the research team will be able to trace the information you have given us to your personal details. The recorded interviews will be transcribed (written down verbatim) and analysed. To protect your identity, we will use codes or made-up names instead of using your real name in any documents or reports. We will store any of your personal information securely in our universities' cloud storage. Only the research team will have access to your personal information. This ensures that suitable standards of security and confidentiality are applied. All information collected will be handled with care and in compliance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, the university's Research Data Management Policy and the General European Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We will retain identifiable contact details (names, email addresses) until the end of the research period (31st of May 2026). We will hold anonymised research data for research purposes until 1st January 2035.

If you would like more information about how your data will be processed under the terms of UK data protection laws, please visit the link below (this information is also available in printed form if requested)

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-use-of-personal-data-in-research>

Disclosure of sensitive information

As this project handles a sensitive issue, we would like to inform you to refrain from mentioning names, locations, clinical settings or any other information that would result in identifying and or implicating specific healthcare staff involved in a healthcare interaction associated with racism in maternity care.

An issue to be aware of is that if someone tells us about illegal behaviour violence/abuse, or medical malpractice, there are some instances where we are obliged not to keep information confidential due to the nature of the disclosure or concern of risk of harm to yourself or others.

If sensitive information is disclosed during the interview, such as information about serious medical negligence or abuse during an interaction in maternity care, we may have to report this information if it is deemed a safeguarding concern. The incident disclosed will be documented in detail, including date and time and with the specific words that you have used to describe the incident. We will also keep a record of the incident and any follow-up conversations or actions taken.

All disclosed names, locations, clinical settings, etc., will be removed from the transcripts to ensure confidentiality. Names of staff will be substituted with the word Staff. Names of places or locations will be removed from transcripts.

If you tell us something that makes us concerned for your welfare, one of our trained researchers will call you to discuss options for getting you the help that you need.

Do I have to take part?

Participation in the study is entirely optional. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason up until one month after the data is collected as after that time their data will have been incorporated into analysis and may be committed to a report/peer-reviewed article. In order to withdraw, please contact the researcher whose details are listed below.

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Additional Information

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact me using the following contact details. You may also visit the following website for more information on the project www.du.se/embarc.

Dr Sarah Hamed. King's College London. Email: sarah.hamed@kcl.ac.uk. Telephone: 07376900588

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

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

You can also contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information: The Chair, Health Faculties Research Ethics Subcommittee, rec@kcl.ac.uk

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

Professor Stephani Hatch
Principal Investigator: UK