



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of Geosciences

Information Sheet

Research project title: A multi-perspective approach to snow model developments
(part of EC H2020 CHARTER)

Research investigator: Dr Cecile Menard

Address & contact details of research investigator: cecile.menard@ed.ac.uk

Other Researchers may be involved in this project:

Dr Sirpa Rasmus, University of Lapland, CHARTER project manager

Dr Ioanna Merkouriadi, Finnish Meteorological Institute, CHARTER researcher

About the Project

The aim of this study, “A multi-perspective approach to snow model developments” is to understand what motivates model developments, taking developments in snowpack models as a case study, from multiple perspectives: model end-users (e.g. ecologists and anthropologists), model developers, remote sensing scientists, field scientists and funders. The study is part of the EU Horizon CHARTER project and bridges multiple work packages. CHARTER aims towards a better understanding of the processes that have been driving rapid climate and land use changes in the Arctic. CHARTER wants to co-develop tools with local herders, land users and experts to adapt better to climatic and biodiversity changes and to show optional future pathways for the region. The project’s research questions concern practitioners’ observations on environmental changes and their effect on land use, for example reindeer herding, strategies for adaptation, as well as the main challenges and future prospects for herding.

Who is responsible for the data collected in this study?

Dr Cecile Menard, research associate at the University of Edinburgh, is leading the “Multi-perspective approach to snow model developments” study and will be conducting all interviews. Hereafter, the research team refers to Dr Menard, Dr Sirpa Rasmus, University of Lapland, and Dr Ioanna Merkouriadi, Finnish Meteorological Institute.

During the research, access to the transcripts will be restricted to the research team. It is not anticipated that the data will be accessed when in transit. The results of this

study may be summarised in published articles, reports and presentations. Quotes may be used and may be attributed to groups of participants, but not to a named individual. At the end of the research, it is your choice whether you decide that all, part or none of the transcript can be stored in a data repository. You do not have to decide at this stage; the study lead will confirm with you before the submission of outputs using your data and associated dataset how much of your data you agree to share. Data may be kept for future research and the use of the data will be in accordance with your choice.

The data will be accessed from a university computer either on university premises or from Dr Menard's home when working remotely. Two copies of the transcripts will exist until the end of the study: one on the University of Edinburgh Datastore, another on a password-protected encrypted external hard drive Dr Menard's home and that she, alone, has access to.

What is involved in the study?

You are being asked to participate in this research because of your expertise in one of the six groups identified for interview:

1. Ecologist / anthropologist
2. Field scientist
3. Remote sensing scientist
4. Snow physics modeler
5. Climate modeler
6. Funder

We aim for a minimum of three people per group to be interviewed separately. The semi-structured interview will be conducted remotely via Teams or Zoom at a time that is convenient to you. The interview should take around 30 to 45 minutes. The interview will be recorded and transcribed. All recordings will be deleted within three weeks or once the transcripts have been checked, whichever is the earliest. We aim for the first group of three interviews to be conducted between July and September 2022. The timetable of each subsequent group will depend on previous groups and availability.

The questions will differ depending on the group you belong to, but all groups will be asked questions about the representation of snow in models. Each group will be interviewed sequentially and the answer from each group will inform some of the questions in the next group.

Will my taking part be kept confidential?

Your data will be processed in accordance with Data Protection Law (further information available <https://www.ed.ac.uk/records-management/policy/data-protection>). All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential until, at the earliest, the end of all interviews. Your name will remain unknown to the other participants and you will not be informed of the other participants' names. Your

consent information will be kept separately from the transcript of your interview. You will be given the choice to remain confidential, to be named as a participant or to be a co-author in publications stemming from this study. You do not have to decide at this stage; Dr Menard will contact you when a final decision will be required. You will be kept informed on the progress of the study regularly and can contact Dr Menard and the research team for updates at any time.

What are the risks involved in this study?

There are no significant risks associated with participation.

What are the benefits for taking part in this study?

There are no direct benefits to participating in this study. Indirect benefits: the conversation and study may lead to snow model developments that will benefit the research of any of the participants

What are your rights as a participant?

If you do decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. Your data may be used in the production of formal research outputs (e.g. journal articles, conference papers, theses and reports) prior to your withdrawal so you are advised to contact the research team at the earliest opportunity should you wish to withdraw from the study.

Will I receive any payment or monetary benefits?

You will receive no payment for your participation. The data will not be used by any member of the project team for commercial purposes. Therefore you should not expect any royalties or payments from the research project in the future.

For more information

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Edinburgh University School of Geosciences Research Ethics Board. If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please contact:

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What if I have concerns about this research?

If you are worried about this research, or if you are concerned about how it is being conducted, you can contact the Chair of the GeoSciences Ethics Committee, University of Edinburgh, Drummond St, Edinburgh, EH8 9XP (or email at ethics.geos@ed.ac.uk).

