



GARY BUXTON MBE
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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Research Project Title

The Impact of Psychological Knowledge and Skills on Coaching Practice: A Thematic Analysis of Coaching Philosophies in Applications for Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society

Invitation

You are being invited to participate in this study as you are a Coaching Psychologist who has applied (or are applying) for Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society (BPS) through coaching. This study aims to understand how you draw from your psychological knowledge and skills in your coaching practice. Specifically, we are interested in how you believe that psychology influences your practice, which philosophical or academic themes emerge within your practice, and the difference you believe this makes to your clients. We aim to explore this through a thematic analysis of Coaching Philosophies, where you will have reflected deeply on these questions. We believe that these will provide deeply reflective, but relatively spontaneous, rich data that will support our understanding of the nature and practice of coaching psychology, and therefore support the development of the profession.

What is the project's purpose?

The project aims to understand the cognitive processes of a coaching psychologist as they deliver coaching services. Many past studies have focused on behavioural indicators, such as the questions coaches ask or frameworks they use, which does not necessarily distinguish between those with an academic background in psychology and those who have entered the profession through other routes. This study seeks to explore more deeply the conscious and subconscious use of psychological knowledge and skills by coaching psychologists, exploring how their academic knowledge influences their practice and supports their clients.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been invited to participate in this research as we believe you have applied (or are applying) for Chartered Membership with the BPS through coaching, and will therefore have already deeply reflected on the role of psychology within your coaching practice. This will have been captured in your Coaching Philosophy document.

This piece of research is self-funded and will be used as part of Gary Buxton's application for chartered status (Standard 4). Gary has already written and shared his own Coaching Philosophy and the acquisition of other philosophies will be gathered for the purpose of this research only.



Do I have to take part?

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you can withdraw your consent to participate at any time up until the point of analysis. After analysis begins, withdrawal will not be possible. You can withdraw your consent for participation until the end of August. The analysis will occur in September, with the final research project published by the end of September or early October.

What will I need to do if I take part?

If you wish to take part, you will be asked to send the lead researcher (Gary Buxton: hello@garybuxton.co.uk) the Coaching Philosophy document that you submitted to the BPS during your application for Chartered Membership. You are asked not to make any alterations to your documents other than redacting personally identifiable information, as we aim to analyse the original content to understand the themes across submissions from those applying to the BPS. You will not be required to do anything other than share your Coaching Philosophy document. No compensation or expenses can be offered in exchange for the document.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

We do not foresee any significant disadvantages or risks in taking part. You are required to redact any personally identifiable information from your Coaching Philosophy document before submission to maintain anonymity of both yourself and your clients. We will hold and process all information in compliance with GDPR regulations.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We hope to gather a substantial number of Coaching Philosophy documents, providing a rich data set for thematic analysis. This will offer insights into the way that psychologists leverage their psychological knowledge and skills in service of their clients. We hope that this will contribute to practitioner and service user understanding of the benefits of working with a coaching psychologist, and contribute to the development of our profession. As a participant, you will receive the research output, which may provide valuable insights into the practices of colleagues across the industry.

What if something goes wrong?

We anticipate minimal ethical risks for this study. If participants have any concerns, they can contact Gary Buxton, the lead researcher, or Dr Marie Stopforth, the research supervisor.

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

We assure all participants that their data will be held in compliance with GDPR legislation. We will ensure that all information stored and analysed is redacted to exclude personal identifiable information. Only the research team will have access to the raw data, and the

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thematic analysis will focus on the research question outlined above. We may quote from the Coaching Philosophies, but only in a way that preserves anonymity.

What will happen to the results of the research project?

The results of the research will be shared with all participants once the project is complete (www.garybuxton.co.uk/research). We will also be seeking to publish the research in a peer reviewed coaching psychology journal. The research will also be submitted to the BPS as part of the lead researcher's submission for Chartered Membership with the BPS, satisfying Standard 4 of the Coaching Psychology Standards.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is organised and conducted by Gary Buxton, with supervision from Dr Marie Stopforth. The project is self-funded.

Contact for further information

For more information or to discuss any concerns, please contact:

Lead Researcher:

Gary Buxton

hello@garybuxton.co.uk

07815 138 084

Research Supervisor

Dr Marie Stopforth

drmstopforth@gmail.com

Thank you for your contribution to this important research. Your participation will help advance our understanding of coaching psychology practices.

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