

Participant Information Sheet for MV Ilala Survey Participants

Name of department: Humanities

Title of the study: MV Ilala: 75 Years Serving Lake Malawi

Introduction

My name is Dr David Wilson. I am a historian in the Department of Humanities at the University of Strathclyde. I have been studying the fisheries of Lake Malawi for the past five years, leading collaborations between colleagues in Malawi and Scotland.

What is the purpose of this research?

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the MV Ilala, the project seeks to gather written reflections, photographs, and other data related to people's experiences of the MV Ilala over the past several decades. As a regular feature on the lake over the past 75 years, it is expected that the stories and memories gathered about the MV Ilala will provide insights into various aspects of Lake Malawi's histories, communities, and ecologies. Principally, though, this is a project to share and celebrate public memories of the MV Ilala.

Do you have to take part?

You do not have to take part in this study. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you may withdraw your participation in this research at any time for any reason without prejudice or jeopardising any future relationship with the University. If you choose to withdraw, then the records of any information that you may have already shared that you no longer wish to be shared will be destroyed and not used in the project.

What will you do in the project?

You will be asked to share as much or as little as you like about your experiences and reflections about MV Ilala. There are no set questions. Write as much or as little as you like — a paragraph or several pages. You might tell us about:

- *a particular voyage, and where you were going*
- *the ports and places you passed through*
- *the people you met on board or the crew*
- *what the ship meant to your experiences, family, work, or community*
- *how the Ilala, the lake, or the journey has changed over the years*

We also welcome photographs and other material — tickets, postcards, letters, sketches, cuttings — connected to the ship.

What are the potential risks to you in taking part?

There are no specific risks or harm associated with participating in this study. All participants have the choice to be credited by name or to remain anonymous. If you choose to remain anonymous, we will remove any identifying details from anything we publish. The choice is yours, and you make it when

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you submit. If you change your mind about your participation, you may ask us to remove your material from the online archive at any time.

What information is being collected in the project?

We welcome any information about MV Ilala, including your experiences, reflections, and anecdotes relating to the ship. Please only share information that you are comfortable sharing publicly. These reflections will be published online as part of a digital archive commemorating the MV Ilala.

Who will have access to the information?

The information will be publicly accessible through blogs, articles, and other digital media. This includes an online archive where the information shared will be stored and accessible for future studies and commemorative activities. If you have chosen to have your contribution credited, you will receive full credit for your contributions and information / material shared. You will retain ownership of any images and will control distribution rights for these.

If you have chosen to remain anonymous, your data will be fully anonymised at the point of upload so that no personal details will be recorded or shared. Neither your identity nor any sensitive information shared will be revealed in any publications unless otherwise consented to by you.

Where will the information be stored and how long will it be kept for?

All information and material will be kept in a safe and secure online folder that no one except the researcher can access. After 5 years, all data will be destroyed except that shared in publications and the online archive.

Thank you for reading this information – please ask any questions if you are unsure about what is written here.

All personal data will be processed in accordance with data protection legislation. Please read our [Privacy Notice for Research Participants](#) for more information about your rights under the legislation.

What happens next?

If you agree with all of the above and would like to participate, please use the following link to share your reflections and recollections: https://hass.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_byHY9g9N9OOObZCS

Alternatively, submissions can be made directly by email to David Wilson at david.wilson.101@strath.ac.uk.

Researcher Contact / Chief Investigator details:

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This research was granted ethical approval by the University of Strathclyde Department of Humanities Ethics Committee.

If you have any questions/concerns, during or after the research, or wish to contact an independent person to whom any questions may be directed or further information may be sought from, please contact:

Chair of the Department Ethics Committee (Humanities)
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