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The African Global Ties Project

Invitation to Participate:

I am a university researcher trying to understand the role of mobile phones and the Internet in helping people from Ghana to connect to those in diaspora, and back home. I or my research assistants would like to interview you about these and other issues related to technology. I also want to connect with you over social media about this research. In our interviews I may use an audio or video recorder. If you prefer, I will simply write down answers. The interviews will last between 20-60 minutes in length.

About this project: I am a professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison in the U.S.A. I study the internet in Africa. This research project is called 'African Global Ties'. This project examines the ways Africans use mobile phones and social media to connect internationally. The research in this project will contribute to a book I am writing about the Internet in Ghana. I will also likely write shorter articles on this for special audiences within academia, as well as some news publications or blogs. With your permission, this research data can help me and my audience of academic researchers, tech developers in Ghana, and perhaps public officials to systematically understand homeland-diaspora relations, the digital tools that make that possible. Find out more at www.raroyston.com/africanglobalties.

Participation and Benefits to you: I may ask for more contact information to follow-up on this interview with a phone call or email. There is no direct benefit to you for taking part in this study. I hope the knowledge generated by this project may eventually yield benefits to society such as new technologies, better policies, and better services targeted to Ghanaians and other Africans living at home and those abroad.

Privacy: Confidentiality is an important concern on any research topic. All interview data will be kept on an encrypted computer hard drive or server at UW Madison, accessible only to researchers on this project. You as a participant will have the opportunity to keep your identity public or to de-identify any personal information. Recording interviews will allow us to speak freely without writing notes. But we may also use your audio or video in our research and publications. If we have recorded the interview via audio, you may choose to be anonymous or have us use your real name in our research and publishing. If you would like to remain completely anonymous we will not record video. For anonymous individuals, we will be using a pseudonym. If you are a public or notable figure in society, business or social media, you may choose to use your real name. Audio and video recordings of interviews will be kept on encrypted hard drives in locked offices or on secured computer servers. Interview transcripts will be de-identified. Pseudonyms will be created for de-identified individuals. A file connecting pseudonyms to real participants will be kept separate from the transcript and stored on password protected computers in locked offices available only to researchers. Recordings will be used for analysis only, unless otherwise noted and discussed with you. Only research project staff will analyze interview data. Names will be changed in the audio transcriptions.

Risks: This study presents minimal risk to you. As with all research projects, there is a small chance that the confidentiality of the information collected could be compromised, but I will take care to prevent this from happening. For notable or public figures who would like for us to use real names, there may be a risk to your reputation if you choose to share stories that reveal sensitive information.

Rights: You may decline to respond to any question related to that topic during the interviews. We will conduct the interview in private to ensure that personal details of our conversations will not be overheard. Should you decide to not use your real name in the interview, we will de-identify you. You may change your mind about how you wish to be identified at any point in time, even after the interview is over.

For any further questions, or to clarify the terms of consent, please reach us by using the contact information at the top of this page. You see this form at www.raroyston.com/informed-consent. If you are not satisfied with the response of the research team, have more questions, or want to talk with someone about your rights as a research participant, you should contact the Education and Social/Behavioral Science IRB Office at the University of Wisconsin Madison at 608-263-2320.



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Informed Consent

In order to conduct research that is ethical and respects your rights, privileges and privacy, my institution requires that 'informed consent' be provided. Your information is also protected by the conditions under the EU's General Data Protection Regulation protections. Informed consent means the following:

- 1) Your consent to participate in this project must be freely given. You may choose to not participate, or curtail aspects of your participation at any time.
- 2) You are aware that Reginold Royston or his assistants are responsible for any data collected during this research, ensuring its safe-keeping and protecting your privacy in the modes described above.
- 3) You understand that we as the research team will collect data via interviews, at live events, at community gatherings, and via interactions during online observations and online interviews.
- 4) Your consent to participate in this research indicates you understand what kinds of data will be collected, how this data will be collected, and in what form it will be used.
- 5) You have the right to request anonymity, meaning your name or any personally identifying information will be not be made public in this research project, unless with your permission.
- 6) The data in this study will be used for research purposes, teaching and academic publishing. The data may be used in other research projects by Reginold Royston where the research topics are related. As such, all data will be kept in possession of the researcher Reginold Royston indefinitely.
- 7) In cases where consent was given to use real names in audio and video, the data may be used in public presentations and documentary media.
- 8) Please do not consent to this interview if you feel that an individual in a position of power or authority or oversight is mandating your participation in any way.
- 9) Withdrawing from the project: If you choose to withdraw participation in this research, please email Reginold Royston directly using the information above. The research team will respond as soon as possible, detailing the types of information that was collected. You may ask for copy of the data collected in a form that is usable to you. We will confirm that your participation is withdrawn and describe our methods for erasing your data.
- 10) If there is a breach in the protection of your data, we will contact you within 72 hours following the discovery of the data breach. A security breach includes any actions leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorized disclosure of, or access to, personal data transmitted, stored, or otherwise processed by Reginold Royston and his team.

If you agree to participate, please sign or mark below. You will be given a copy for your records.

Name	Signature	Date
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Please also respond to the following questions verbally:

I give my permission to allow researchers to collect information and interact via social media.

- I do
- I do not consent

I give my permission to use audio or video in published accounts related to this research.

- I do
- I do not consent

I give my permission to use real name in published accounts.

- I do
- I do not consent