

Part 1: The EU referendum - one year on

It has been over a year since Britain voted to leave the European Union on the 23rd June 2016. With the subsequent General Election and negotiations now underway with a minority government for its withdrawal, this directive looks at different elements of life in the UK more than 12 months on.

Feel free to talk about any elements of life in the UK after the EU referendum that are important or significant to you.

Your vote

What was the most important issue or issues influencing your vote in the EU referendum? How did you choose to vote? How do you think or feel about that issue or issues one year later? What do you feel the impact of leaving the EU will be on these issues? Please tell us if you have any concerns and if so, why.

Relationships

Did the EU referendum change the way you see yourself and other people? If yes, in what way/s? Did this come as a surprise?

Has the EU referendum affected any relationships you have for example within your family, friends, colleagues or other people in your community? If so, please explain in what way/s?

Belonging

How has the EU referendum affected (if at all) where you feel you belong? We are interested to know your thoughts and experiences for example, with regards to family, to the area in which you live and/or communities or groups you have been part of.

Society

Do you think that prejudice is more prominent in UK society since the referendum? If so, do you feel that this has had any impacts on people's individual or community safety, and social, regional or cultural divisions within society?

Since the EU referendum, have your views about immigration changed in any way? If yes, please explain why and in what ways/s?

Have your views about UK politics changed more generally in any way? If yes, please explain why and in what ways/s?

Please start each part of your Directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number, sex, age, marital status, the town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.

Remember *not to identify yourself or other people inadvertently within your reply*. It is best to use initials instead of real names.

Moving forward

What are your hopes and expectations for the negotiations? Do you feel more or less optimistic about the future since the EU referendum? If so, in what way/s. Are these feelings linked to particular politicians and or decision leaders?

Part 2: ‘Lend me your ears: when adults read aloud rather than in silence’

This Directive is about how and why adults read *aloud* in their everyday lives. We want you to write about all of the instances where you experience reading aloud, either as speaker/reader or listener, however long or short these moments might be. This may be alone or in a shared experience with others, at home, work, or within your community or communities.

We would like you to reflect on all the occasions when you read aloud, even if only a few words. For example, an article in the newspaper, a TV guide, a book, menu, bingo numbers, religious text or a letter. Reading aloud is often thought of as reading to children. If this is something you do, we would be delighted to hear about it, but we are also particularly interested in other adult reading aloud practices, including those performed alone or shared with other adults.

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How you read

We are keen to hear whether you read aloud in a very quiet voice, murmuring or whispering, or you may shout it out, chant or sing. You may read aloud in different ways with different texts or for different purposes. We are interested in all of these.

If you read aloud, or listen to others reading aloud, in a different language from the language or languages you may usually use for communication, we would love to hear about this.

You may have experience of reading aloud as something planned (perhaps even rehearsed) or you may have experience of reading aloud that was spontaneous and/or unexpected.

You could write about why you do it, how it feels, how you developed this practice and why you think it is important to be reading aloud rather than reading in silence. What does reading aloud give you? What does the voice bring?

Do you find that others read aloud in similar ways or differently? Why do think this is?

What proportion of your reading is aloud rather than silent?

Technology

We are also interested to hear about your experiences and thoughts on the role technology plays. Do you, for example, read aloud from digital devices or listen to audio books? Do you listen to 'Book at Bedtime' on the radio or something similar?

Task: Reading aloud diary Please complete a week's diary briefly listing instances of reading aloud, or being read aloud to:

- *Where* are you when you are reading aloud or being read to? For example, is it at work or at home, in your leisure time, in community life or another domain?
- *What* kind of text is it? For example, a recipe, a poem, a newspaper article or something else?
- *Who* are you with when you are reading aloud, or being read to? If you are reading aloud with others, why is this important?

Finally, if anything comes to mind that you usually do, but didn't do this week, please note this down too.

Reflecting on the past and the future

What have been the situations in which you read aloud, were read aloud to, or took part in shared reading aloud, in the past? Please tell us more about when and why this happened.

Were you ever taught how to read *aloud* in particular? Or did you find a way to learn certain techniques?

Is your experience of reading aloud today similar or different to your past? Why do you think this is? Does it *feel* different today?

Looking to the future do you think your experience of reading aloud, to yourself or others, might change? Why do you think this is?

Feelings and Challenges

What memories and emotions do you attach to the practice of reading aloud? This could be in the present day, or reflecting on your past.

Are there times when you find reading aloud particularly challenging, or particularly enjoyable or fulfilling?

This study/project

Finally, in reflecting on these questions, do you believe that it is beneficial to create a record of adult reading aloud practices across Britain? Why do you feel this way?

Please post your response to: Freepost: RTGU-AYJE-YSSC, The Mass Observation Archive, The Keep, Woollards Way, Brighton, BN1 9BP or by email to: moa@sussex.ac.uk
KP/JW Spring Directive No. 109