Are you interested in taking part in the research project entitled

Harassment, Intimidation and Threats in the Sciences

Purpose of the project
You are invited to participate in a research project where the main purpose is to map political scientists' experiences of harassment, intimidation, and threats (or lack thereof), the potential impact this has on their work and personal lives, and the responses to threats and intimidation by relevant institutions.

The outputs of this project will be disseminated through academic publication channels, as well as non-academic outputs. A key aim is to inform better responses to threats and harassment experienced by academic staff.

Which institution is responsible for the research project?
The Center for Research on Extremism (C-REX) at the University of Oslo (UiO) is responsible for the project (data controller). This project is a collaboration with Leiden University and the University of Ottawa.

Why are you being asked to participate?
We kindly ask for the participation of all political scientists employed at higher education institutions, to capture the full spectrum of experiences (or lack thereof) in relation to this topic. We have collected publicly available email addresses of political scientists working at universities across a range of countries, to request their participation in the survey.

What does participation involve for you?
If you choose to take part in the project, this will involve that you fill in an online survey. This will take approximately 15 minutes. The survey includes questions about your experiences and expectations concerning threats and harassment towards academics, your opinion on institutional responses to threats and harassment, the potential impact of threats and harassment on your professional and personal life, as well as some demographic questions. It is important to note that we seek to include the perspectives of those who have not experienced threats and harassment, to provide a representative mapping of the scope and nature of this issue among political scientists.

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Participation is voluntary
Participation in the project is voluntary. If you choose to participate, you can withdraw your consent at any time without giving a reason. In case your entry is identifiable in the data, the information about you will then be made anonymous. There will be no negative consequences for you if you choose not to participate or later decide to withdraw.

Your personal privacy – how we will store and use your personal data
We will only use your personal data for the purpose(s) specified here and we will process your personal data in accordance with data protection legislation (the GDPR). Only the direct project members at C-REX and Leiden University will have access to the raw data, which will be stored in a secure digital environment protected with strictly limited access and two-factor authentication. Your name and email address will not be connected to the survey data, which will thereby automatically de-identify the collected data.

Participants of the project will not be recognizable in any publications. The de-identified data will be presented in aggregated form, and all text inserted in open question format will be anonymized in any publications. *We also strongly encourage all participants to not enter any personal information in any open question formats, that may identify them or others.*

What will happen to your personal data at the end of the research project?
The planned end date of the project is 31 December 2027. The de-identified data will be archived on a secure UiO server indefinitely, for the purpose of future comparative and longitudinal research on this topic.

Your rights
So long as you can be identified in the collected data, you have the right to:
- access the personal data that is being processed about you
- request that your personal data is deleted
- request that incorrect personal data about you is corrected/rectified
- receive a copy of your personal data (data portability), and
- send a complaint to the Norwegian Data Protection Authority regarding the processing of your personal data

What gives us the right to process your personal data?
We will process your personal data based on your consent.

Based on an agreement with the University of Oslo, The Data Protection Services of Sikt – Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research has assessed that the processing of personal data in this project meets requirements in data protection legislation.

Where can I find out more?
If you have questions about the project, or want to exercise your rights, contact:

- The Center for Research on Extremism (C-REX) at the University of Oslo via Iris B. Segers (email address: i.b.segers@stk.uio.no)
- Our Data Protection Officer: Roger Markgraf-Bye (email address: personvernombud@uio.no)

If you have questions about how data protection has been assessed in this project by Sikt, contact:

- email: (personverntjenester@sikt.no) or by telephone: +47 73 98 40 40.

Yours sincerely,

Iris B. Segers (C-REX, University of Oslo)
Anders Jupskås (C-REX, University of Oslo)
Audrey Gagnon (University of Ottawa)
Sarah de Lange (Leiden University)