

Letter of Information for former Soviet citizens



Title of research project: Diplomats on Skates: A Historical Analysis of Hockey in the Soviet Union from 1954 to 1987

Date of ethics clearance: 8 November 2011

Ethics Clearance for the Collection of Data Expires: 31 May 2012

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Colin Hickman and I am a Master's student with the European and Russian Studies (EURUS) department at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. I am conducting a research project for my degree on the role hockey had in the Soviet Union from 1954 to 1987. There is a lack of academic research on why Soviet players were playing hockey, why they started to play, what motivated them to keep playing the sport for a long time, etc. Most of the literature focuses on the political aspects of the game from tournaments and what players said about the Soviet Union.

I am trying to determine not only why players chose to participate in the sport but also what hockey meant to Soviet citizens. Was hockey a sport that played for fun, was it a means to a better education or job, did the sport promote the Soviet government's goals and political ideology? Or was it a combination of reasons or something else?

I would like to invite you to participate in this study by taking part in a questionnaire which should take 15-30 minutes about your experiences of hockey when you lived in the former Soviet Union. I have attached a copy of the questions with this letter to help you with your decision.

I understand that there could be some emotional risk to you to recall life in the Soviet Union. Therefore, your participation is voluntary. You are not required to answer all of the questions. You will not be identified in the final report and your responses will not be attributed to you. Only my supervisor and I will have access to your responses and the questionnaire will be destroyed once I have written my project paper.

All questionnaires will be printed out and kept in a locked cabinet to which only I have access. I will not retain your email address. No questionnaire responses will be stored on my computer. In addition, if you decide later on that you do not want your answers being part of my project, I will delete the returned questionnaire and not use any of the answers in my paper. The last day in which you can opt to have your answers out of my project is February 22, 2012 after which time it will not be possible to extract data from the analysis and writing stage of the project.

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the paper after it is completed I would be happy to send you one.

This project has been reviewed and cleared by the Carleton University Research Ethics Board (CUREB) and if you have any questions about the project you may contact the chair Professor Antonio Gualtieri at 613-520-2517 or through email ethics@carleton.ca or you may contact my supervisor Professor James Casteel at 613-520-2600, ext. 1934, james_casteel@carleton.ca

If you are interested in participating, please e-mail me at the following email address: chcikma2@connect.carleton.ca. I will then send you the questions and a consent form. In order to participate in this questionnaire, you must complete the consent form. You can either mail it to me on the address contained in the consent form or scan it and send it vial e-mail Your responses to the questions can be sent via e-mail.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Colin Hickman