Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

22/04/2026

Information Sheet

For research project:

Experimenting with Geopolymers: Material Specific Evaluation for Ceramic Practices

This research focuses on the use and evaluation of (raw)materials for creative practices. As it is, individual practitioners are free when it comes to choosing the materials they want to work with. This point of decision can be personal, based on how the practitioner perceives the material world and the ideological basis on which the creative practice is built. In addition, the practitioner develops a close relationship with the materials they are working with. However, in the future, facing the growing limitations on material availabilities and the global demand to lower CO2 emissions will tighten up the freedom of material usage. Considering this future direction, this research aims for a justified evaluation structure for sustainable and ethical material usage within a studio context.

The starting point of this research is geopolymer experimentation in the creative studio context that aims to develop a greener material alternative for Creative Practices. The basis for the research is the ceramics studio where the material development will be conducted. In addition to the material research, the data is collected data from creative practitioners, students and educators for studio based practices.

The basis for the research is the ceramics studio, where the material development on geopolymers will be conducted. In addition to material research, interviews and surveys are used for collecting data from creative practitioners, students, and educators of studio-based practices.

Research team expertise:

The PI of this study has a background in ceramics and an understanding of the studio as a research and learning environment. In addition to the studio practices, the PI has develop research on material relationships through embodied cognition, embodiment and therapeutic dimensions of close material relationships with clay as the creative material. The PI has extensive experience on working and coordinating research projects. The PI also has experience in practice-led research, artistic methods, interviews, surveys, observation-based research, as well as autoethnography.

Funding or financier(s) of the research

This study is funded by the Research Council of Finland (2026 – 2029). Funding decision number 368002.

Compensation (or lack of) paid to research participants

No compensation will be provided for participation in the study.

Voluntary nature of participation, right to discontinue participation at any time without obligation to disclose any specific reasons for discontinuing; research data collected up to the time discontinuation may still be used.

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Participation in this study is voluntary. You can discontinue your participation in the study at any time. Should you decide to discontinue your participation, you will not be subject to any negative consequences, but information gathered up until the point of cessation of your participation may be used in the study according to the Data Privacy Notice and the applicable data protection legislation.

Possible risks and their prevention

In the context of this study, the possible risks are primarily around mental and social aspects. For example, you may perceive the survey as an additional demand on your time and thus might be worried about the effort required to participate in the study. Also, you may have concerns that the responses you provide in the survey could potentially disclose views or information that might affect your professional reputation as creative practitioner. Additionally, you might have concerns related to your privacy and data protection.

To address these potential risks, we implemented the following mitigation strategies. Firstly, the participation in the study is voluntary, allowing you to discontinue your participation at any moment. To answer the survey has one month time that allows freedom to choose the most convenient time for answering the questions. The provided information from surveys will be pseudonymised meaning that the answers are not connected to any participants. Additionally, for everything concerning privacy, data usage and data protection please refer to the Data Privacy Notice.

Communication with the research staff during data collection

You have the possibility and right to contact the coordinating researcher (Dr. Falin) at any point during the data collection process. You can find the contact details below.

Description of research situation (how long it will take to participate, etc.)

The completion of the survey takes around 30 minutes. Expert interviews take 1 hour.

The person in charge of the research study

The contact person in matters related to the research study:

Academy Research Fellow
Priska Falin
priska.falin(at)aalto.fi

Updated information about the project will be available here:

materialrelations.aalto.fi