My name is Dr. Natalie Letsa and I am a professor at the University of Oklahoma in the United States. I am an American. However, I do not represent or work for the American government or the Cameroonian government or any other government group or organization. I also do not work for any NGO or religious group. I am here on my own as an academic researcher. I'm interviewing Cameroonians because I am working on a book that seeks to explain why some people in Cameroon come to support the RDPC, while other people come to support opposition parties, and finally why some people do not support any party and are not interested in politics. The theory I am proposing has to do with political socialization and social networks. In brief, I argue that people are strongly influenced by the people in their lives with whom they talk to and hang out with the most—their families, friends, and neighbors. I am hoping to learn more about how this happens by interviewing nine ordinary Cameroonians and getting a full account of their childhoods and adolescence. I want to know how their family and friends talked about politics when they were growing up and what influence that had on their current beliefs about politics. In addition, for each of these nine research subjects, I want to speak briefly with each of the social contacts in their lives; the people with whom they chat with on a daily or weekly basis—for example, brothers or sisters, friends, acquaintances from church, or aunties and uncles with whom they go to for advice or gossip or news. I then plan to contact each of these people and ask a short series of questions. The overall goal is to get a sense of how and why different people in your life may have influenced the way you think about politics. Importantly, when I publish my findings, all of the people I speak with will be completely anonymized. I will change names and locations and any identifying details and also delete all of my recordings so that no one who reads my research will ever have any idea who I interviewed.

There are a few things I want you to know before you agree to this process. First, this interview will ask you many personal questions. Mostly, I will be asking a lot of questions about your political beliefs, so if you are not comfortable talking about politics and government, we should not proceed with the interview. Also, as I mentioned, I would like to contact all of the people in your life with whom you speak to regularly—I will be asking for their names and phone numbers. I will then contact them myself, and ask if they will be willing to answer some short questions, mostly about you—how long you have known each other, how often do you speak, what they think your political beliefs are, and so on. So if you don't feel comfortable with me contacting your friends and family, we should not proceed with the interview. As mentioned, I will completely anonymize the information you and friends and family provide for me, but you may not feel comfortable discussing these things in the first place, and that is fine, but then we should not proceed with this interview. Second, this interview will take at least several hours. We can always stop to take breaks and even meet over the course of a couple of days. But the interview is not worthwhile for my purposes if you skip details or information in order to make the interview go faster. So before you agree to the interview, I want you to know that it will take a very long time and may sometimes be tedious or boring. Although I would like you to consider these things *before* you agree to the interview, you also should know that you are completely free to terminate the interview at any point if you do not wish to proceed for any reason whatsoever. You are also free to not answer questions you are not comfortable answering. But again, if you are not comfortable answering many of the questions, then I may choose to terminate the interview. You are also welcome and encouraged to ask me any questions you'd like, either right now, or throughout the interview process. Are you interested in participating in this research project?

Demographic Information

1. What year were you born?
2. How old are you?
3. Where were you born? How long did you live there? Have you ever lived anywhere else? What year(s) did you move? How long have you currently lived here? (e.g. full timeline)
4. What is your ethnicity?
5. When you were growing up, what language did you speak in at home?
6. What language do you speak at home now?
7. Are you religious? Which church/mosque do you attend? How often do you attend services? Do you go to any Quran or bible study classes?
8. How many years of education did you complete?
9. What do you do now to earn money?
10. What does your spouse do to earn money?
11. Is there any other way your household earns money?
12. How many children do you have?
13. Can you please name all of the people who live in your household?
14. How often do you listen to NEWS on the radio? Which station do you listen to most often? How about the TV? Which station do you watch for news? What about newspapers? Which ones do you read?

Childhood

15. Can you tell me about your life with your family in your childhood?
    a. Who did you live with?
    b. What did your parents do?
    c. How would you describe your socioeconomic status as a child? Did you always have enough to eat? Did your family ever struggle to pay school fees? Did you ever feel that you were poorer or richer than the other people in your community?

16. Did you enjoy going to school when you were a child?
    a. What kind of student were you? Did you have a lot of friends?
    b. What was your favorite subject? Your favorite teacher?
    c. Did you have any lessons about civics and government? Do you recall any of these lessons?
        i. Were you taught about the importance of elections or democracy?
        ii. Were you taught that it is important for citizens to vote or join political parties?
        iii. Were you taught that is good to be active in politics, or bad?

17. When you were younger, what kind of groups or organizations did you belong to?
    a. Did you go to a church or mosque?

18. Do you remember having a happy childhood? Or were there difficulties?

Childhood Influences

19. I want to know more about when you first started thinking or hearing about politics when you were a child or adolescent. Do you have any recollection of this?
    a. Did anyone in your family support any political party (parents, sibling, grandparent, aunt/uncle/cousin/family friend)?
        i. Do you remember what he/she said about the party or about politics in general? What kinds of opinions did he/she hold? Why did he/she feel this way?
        ii. Do you remember feeling positively or negatively about their beliefs?
        iii. Do you think their beliefs influenced your own at the time?
        iv. Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
        v. Do you recall if he/she had a broader influence on the community in general? Did he/she try to influence other people's political beliefs? Did people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
        vi. How much older than you were they? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Did he/she have any leadership roles in the community?
    b. Did any of your childhood friends support any political party or have any political opinions that you recall?
        i. Do you remember what he/she said about the party or about politics in general? What kinds of opinions did he/she hold? Why did he/she feel this way?
        ii. Do you remember feeling positively or negatively about their beliefs?
        iii. Do you think their beliefs influenced your own at the time?
        iv. Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
        v. Do you recall if he/she had a broader influence on the community in general? Did he/she try to influence other people's political beliefs? Did people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
        vi. Were they the same age as you? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Did he/she have any leadership roles in the community?
    c. Did any of your teachers or mentors at school support any political party have any political opinions that you recall?
        i. Do you remember what he/she said about the party or about politics in general? What kinds of opinions did he/she hold? Why did he/she feel this way?
        ii. Do you remember feeling positively or negatively about their beliefs?
        iii. Do you think their beliefs influenced your own at the time?
        iv. Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
        v. Do you recall if he/she had a broader influence on the community in general? Did he/she try to influence other people's political beliefs? Did people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
        vi. About how old were they at the time? Ethnic group? Did he/she have any leadership roles in the community besides being a teacher?

d. Did anyone in [the groups you belonged to] support any political party have any political opinions that you recall?
    i. Do you remember what he/she said about the party or about politics in general? What kinds of opinions did he/she hold? Why did he/she feel this way?
    ii. Do you remember feeling positively or negatively about their beliefs?
    iii. Do you think their beliefs influenced your own at the time?
    iv. Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
    v. Do you recall if he/she had a broader influence on the community in general? Did he/she try to influence other people's political beliefs? Did people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
    vi. Were they the same age as you? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Did he/she have any leadership roles in the community?
e. Were there any other people or events that strongly influenced your first thoughts and opinions about politics?
    i. Do you remember what he/she said about the party or about politics in general? What kinds of opinions did he/she hold? Why did he/she feel this way?
    ii. Do you remember feeling positively or negatively about their beliefs?
    iii. Do you think their beliefs influenced your own at the time?
    iv. Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
    v. Do you recall if he/she had a broader influence on the community in general? Did he/she try to influence other people's political beliefs? Did people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
    vi. Were they the same age as you/How much older than you were they? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Did he/she have any leadership roles in the community?

Current Political Beliefs

1. Next I want to ask you about your current political beliefs? Have they changed at all since your childhood?

2. IF NO: What do you think about politics now? Why do you think that? Who or what do you think had the most influence on why you think this way? Do you feel close to any party?
    a. IF NO: Why do you think you have never wanted to support a party?
        i. Would you say you just don't think about politics, or that you do think about politics, but that the current system or parties don't reflect your political values? Or something else?
        ii. Can you imagine any circumstances in the present day under which you would consider supporting a party, for example, if they offered you a paying job, or if someone in your family asked you to join? Have you ever received something from a party before?
        iii. Are you afraid to support a party?

iv. Do you think if the political system was different, you might become more interested in supporting a party? If so, what would need to be different?

b. IF YES: Why do you support this party?
   i. Who first got you interested in supporting the party?
   ii. Have you ever received anything from the party? Even just a t-shirt or rice?
   iii. Do you hope that by supporting the party, you might get something in return—even if it's just networking and meeting the right people? If yes, what would you hope to receive?
   iv. Have you ever felt pressure from someone to support the party? Like something negative might happen if you don't vote for the party or go to a rally or something?
   v. Do you think that supporting the party can make this country better somehow?
   vi. What about the community? Do you think that supporting the party can make this community better somehow?
   vii. Are there any things you disagree with the party on?
   viii. Have you ever considered being more active for the party, like running for office or helping to campaign? Why or why not?

3. IF YES: How have your beliefs changed from when you were younger? Why do you think your opinions changed?
   a. Who or what do you think had the most influence on your political beliefs in your childhood?
   b. Who or what do you think has had the most influence on your political beliefs now?
   c. Do you feel close to any party now?
      i. IF NO: What are the reasons you don't support a party?
         1. Would you say you just don't think about politics, or that you do think about politics, but that the current system or parties don't reflect your political values? Or something else?
         2. Can you imagine any circumstances in the present day under which you would consider supporting a party, for example, if they offered you a paying job, or if someone in your family asked you to join?
         3. Are you afraid to support a party?
         4. Do you think if the political system was different, you might become more interested in supporting a party? If so, what would need to be different?
      ii. IF YES: Why do you support this party?
         1. Who first got you interested in supporting the party?
         2. Have you ever received anything from the party? Even just a t-shirt or rice?
         3. Do you hope that by supporting the party, you might get something in return—even if it's just networking and meeting the right people?

4. Have you ever felt pressure from someone to support the party? Like something negative might happen if you don't vote for the party or go to a rally or something?
5. Do you think that supporting the party can make this country better somehow?
6. What about the community? Do you think that supporting the party can make this community better somehow?
7. Are there any things you disagree with the party on?
8. Have you ever considered being more active for the party, like running for office or helping to campaign? Why or why not?

4. Of all the people in your life, past or present, who do you think has had the biggest influence on your political beliefs?

5. Do you think that the place you grew up in influenced what you think about politics? Do you think you might have different views about politics or support a different party if you had been born somewhere else? What about the place you live now?

6. Do you think your ethnicity has influenced what you think about politics? Do you think you might have different views about politics or support a different party if you were from a different ethnic group?

7. Why do you think other people support the RDPC? The SDF? UDC? (etc.) Why do you think many people do not support any party at all?

8. Do you think the parties rely on social networks to mobilize support? [IF YES] How do you think this works? Can you think of any examples?

Current Social Network

9. Can you tell me more about the people in your life now? I want to know about ALL the people you talk to regularly—even if it has nothing to do with politics, and even if you only speak with them occasionally and are not that close to them.
    a. Are you close to any family members? [For each family member:]
        i. How often do you see and/or speak with him/her?
        ii. How long have you known him/her? How has your relationship changed over time?
        iii. What do you mostly speak to him/her about?
        iv. Would you say that you're close enough to share your personal problems or secrets with him/her?
        v. How often do you discuss politics or current events with this person? Do you believe this person is well informed about politics? Does he/she have any particular political beliefs? Do you feel like you mostly agree about political issues, or mostly disagree (what do you agree or disagree about)? Do you enjoy discussing politics with him/her, or do you try to avoid it?
        vi. Does he/she support any party? [IF YES] Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?

vii. Do you think this person has a broader influence on the community in general? For example, do people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
viii. What is their age? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Do he/she have any leadership roles in the community? Where do they live? Do they live in the same household/compound?

b. Which friends are you closest to? [For each friend:]
   i. How often do you see and/or speak with him/her?
   ii. How long have you known him/her? How has your relationship changed over time?
   iii. What do you mostly speak to him/her about?
   iv. Would you say that you're close enough to share your personal problems or secrets with him/her?
   v. How often do you discuss politics or current events with this person? Does he/she have any particular political beliefs? Do you feel like you mostly agree about political issues, or mostly disagree (what do you agree or disagree about)? Do you enjoy discussing politics with him/her, or do you try to avoid it?
   vi. Does he/she support any party? [IF YES] Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
   vii. Do you think this person has a broader influence on the community in general? For example, do people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
   viii. What is their age? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Does he/she have any leadership roles in the community? Where do they live? Do they live in the same household/compound?

c. What about your spouse/girlfriend/boyfriend?
   i. When did you get married?
   ii. How often do you discuss politics or current events with him/her? Do you believe this person is well informed about politics? Does he/she have any particular political beliefs? Do you feel like you mostly agree about political issues, or mostly disagree (what do you agree or disagree about)? Do you enjoy discussing politics with him/her, or do you try to avoid it?
   iii. Does he/she support any party? [IF YES] Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
   iv. Do you think this person has a broader influence on the community in general? For example, do people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
   v. What is their age? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Does he/she have any leadership roles in the community? Where do they live? Do they live in the same household/compound?

d. What about your children?
   i. How old is he/she?

ii. How often do you discuss politics or current events with him/her? Do you believe this person is well informed about politics? Does he/she have any particular political beliefs? Do you feel like you mostly agree about political issues, or mostly disagree (what do you agree or disagree about)? Do you enjoy discussing politics with him/her, or do you try to avoid it?
iii. Does he/she support any party? [IF YES] Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
iv. Do you think this person has a broader influence on the community in general? For example, do people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
v. What is their age? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Does he/she have any leadership roles in the community? Where do they live? Do they live in the same household/compound?

e. What about any acquaintances from work? [For each work acquaintance:]
   i. How often do you see and/or speak with him/her?
   ii. How long have you known him/her? How has your relationship changed over time?
   iii. What do you mostly speak to him/her about?
   iv. Would you say that you're close enough to share your personal problems or secrets with him/her?
   v. How often do you discuss politics or current events with this person? Do you believe this person is well informed about politics? Does he/she have any particular political beliefs? Do you feel like you mostly agree about political issues, or mostly disagree (what do you agree or disagree about)? Do you enjoy discussing politics with him/her, or do you try to avoid it?
   vi. Does he/she support any party? [IF YES] Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
   vii. Do you think this person has a broader influence on the community in general? For example, do people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
   viii. What is their age? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Does he/she have any leadership roles in the community? Where do they live?

f. What about any neighbors? [For each neighbor:]
   i. How often do you see and/or speak with him/her?
   ii. How long have you known him/her? How has your relationship changed over time?
   iii. What do you mostly speak to him/her about?
   iv. Would you say that you're close enough to share your personal problems or secrets with him/her?
   v. How often do you discuss politics or current events with this person? Do you believe this person is well informed about politics? Does he/she have any particular political beliefs? Do you feel like you mostly agree about political issues, or mostly disagree (what do you agree or disagree about)? Do you enjoy discussing politics with him/her, or do you try to avoid it?

vi. Does he/she support any party? [IF YES] Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
vii. Do you think this person has a broader influence on the community in general? For example, do people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
viii. What is their age? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Does he/she have any leadership roles in the community? Where do they live? Do they live in the same household/compound?

g. Do you currently go to church or mosque? IF YES: Do you have any acquaintances from church or mosque that you hang out with regularly? [For each church/mosque acquaintance:]
    i. How often do you see and/or speak with him/her?
    ii. How long have you known him/her? How has your relationship changed over time?
    iii. What do you mostly speak to him/her about?
    iv. Would you say that you're close enough to share your personal problems or secrets with him/her?
    v. How often do you discuss politics or current events with this person? Do you believe this person is well informed about politics? Does he/she have any particular political beliefs? Do you feel like you mostly agree about political issues, or mostly disagree (what do you agree or disagree about)? Do you enjoy discussing politics with him/her, or do you try to avoid it?
    vi. Does he/she support any party? [IF YES] Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
    vii. Do you think this person has a broader influence on the community in general? For example, do people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
    viii. What is their age? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Does he/she have any leadership roles in the community? Where do they live? Do they live in the same household/compound?

h. Do you currently belong to any other groups? IF YES: To which groups do you belong? Do you have any acquaintances from these groups that you hang out with regularly? [For each group acquaintance:]
    i. How often do you see and/or speak with him/her?
    ii. How long have you known him/her? How has your relationship changed over time?
    iii. What do you mostly speak to him/her about?
    iv. Would you say that you're close enough to share your personal problems or secrets with him/her?
    v. How often do you discuss politics or current events with this person? Do you believe this person is well informed about politics? Does he/she have any particular political beliefs? Do you feel like you mostly agree about political issues, or mostly disagree (what do you agree or disagree about)? Do you enjoy discussing politics with him/her, or do you try to avoid it?

vi. Does he/she support any party? [IF YES] Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
vii. Do you think this person has a broader influence on the community in general? For example, do people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
viii. What is their age? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Does he/she have any leadership roles in the community? Where do they live? Do they live in the same compound/household?

i. What about the (chief of this village)? Do they support any particular political party? Is there anyone in the village who mobilizes voters during electoral campaigns or is known to work for a party?
    i. How often do you see and/or speak with him/her?
    ii. How long have you known him/her? How has your relationship changed over time?
    iii. What do you mostly speak to him/her about?
    iv. Would you say that you're close enough to share your personal problems or secrets with him/her?
    v. How often do you discuss politics or current events with this person? Do you believe this person is well informed about politics? Does he/she have any particular political beliefs? Do you feel like you mostly agree about political issues, or mostly disagree (what do you agree or disagree about)? Do you enjoy discussing politics with him/her, or do you try to avoid it?
    vi. Does he/she support any party? [IF YES] Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
    vii. Do you think this person has a broader influence on the community in general? For example, do people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
    viii. What is their age? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Does he/she have any leadership roles in the community? Where do they live? Do they live in the same household/compound?

j. Am I missing anyone? Is there anyone else in your life that you speak to from time to time?
    i. How often do you see and/or speak with him/her?
    ii. How long have you known him/her? How has your relationship changed over time?
    iii. What do you mostly speak to him/her about?
    iv. Would you say that you're close enough to share your personal problems or secrets with him/her?
    v. How often do you discuss politics or current events with this person? Do you believe this person is well informed about politics? Does he/she have any particular political beliefs? Do you feel like you mostly agree about political issues, or mostly disagree (what do you agree or disagree about)? Do you enjoy discussing politics with him/her, or do you try to avoid it?

vi. Does he/she support any party? [IF YES] Do you know the extent of their involvement with the party?
vii. Do you think this person has a broader influence on the community in general? For example, do people in the community look to him/her for guidance on political or community issues?
viii. What is their age? Ethnic group? Highest level of education? Job? Does he/she have any leadership roles in the community? Where do they live? Do they live in the same household/compound?

(Optional) Political Participation

10. Have you ever voted in an election? [IF YES] Do you remember the first time you voted (which election)? What was the experience like for you? Why did you choose to do it? Did someone encourage you to participate? Who did you vote for? Have you voted since? How do you feel about voting?

11. Have you ever been a campaign rally? [IF YES] Do you remember the first time you went to one (which election)? What was the experience like for you? Why did you choose to do it? Did someone encourage you to go or go with you? Which party was holding the campaign? Do you recall which candidates were there? Were there any other important people there? Do you recall what issues or things the candidates talked about? Did they give anything away at the rally, either to the community or to individuals? Did you receive anything? Have you been to a campaign since (years)? For which parties? What are they like? What do (different parties) talk about? Do they usually give things away? Do you think these gifts encourage people to vote? Do people receive things and then not vote? Why or why not?

12. Have you ever worked for or volunteered for a party? [IF YES] What year(s) was this? What kind of work did you do? Why did you choose to do this? Did someone ask you to or encourage you to? Did you enjoy the work? What did you learn from doing this work? Why did you stop?

13. Have you ever been threatened by someone acting on behalf of a political party? [IF YES] Can you explain what happened (and what year)?

14. Have you ever met or contacted a Municipal Councilor? [IF YES] Under what circumstances did you meet? Have you ever met or contacted a Mayor? [IF YES] Under what circumstances did you meet? Have you ever met or contacted a Deputy of the National Assembly? [IF YES] Under what circumstances did you meet? Have you ever met or contacted any other type of elected representative or party official? [IF YES] Under what circumstances did you meet?

Socioeconomic Status

15. Can you estimate about how much money your household made last month? Was this a normal month? [IF NO] How much money does your household make in a normal month?
16. About how much does your household spend on food in a week?
17. How many meals do you usually eat in a day?
18. How often do you eat meat? Fish?
19. Thinking about the people you know in your life, would you say that you are doing a bit better than them, doing worse, or about the same?