



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Project Title: A digital archive of LGBTIQ oral histories about forced migration

Researcher:

My name is Renee Dixson and I am a PhD candidate at the Research School of Humanities and Arts at the Australian National University. I fled from persecution on the basis my work as a human rights activist with a specific focus on LGBTIQ rights.

General Outline of the Project:

This research is particularly important as archival practices are fundamentally a matter of discrimination and selection, that result in the granting of privileging status to certain documents, and the refusal of the same status to others. Often LGBTIQ stories are silenced, erased, fetishised or represented as a unity without addressing our differences within (for example different gender or sexual identities).

With this research I will start preserving stories of LGBTIQ culturally linguistically diverse people who were compelled to leave their countries because of homophobia, discrimination, and persecution. This research will establish the world's first open digital archive of LGBTIQ stories of forced migration.

Description and Methodology:

In this project I have two aims:

1. To create a digital archive that will challenge knowledge hegemonies and hierarchies of normative archival practices.
2. To gather a collection of oral histories of LGBTIQ refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

I will collect interviews to preserve a history of LGBTIQ people. All interviews will be available in an open public access through a developed digital archive.

You can contribute to the project in several ways:

- Via video or audio if you are sure that this will be safe for you, your family members or acquaintances; or
- Via audio with a changed voice through software to de-identify yourself.

Participants:

If you are interested to contribute to this project and you:

- Self-identify yourself as LGBTIQ person;
- You are 18 years old;
- Having had a lived experience of migration from a non-Western country or a lived experience of seeking asylum on the grounds of being persecuted because of sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Oral history interviews will be no longer than 2 hours in a location and time of your convenience or in meeting room in libraries, universities or LGBTIQ friendly organizations.

Use of Data and Feedback:

It is planned that academic articles will be published during the research as well as the whole thesis after the completion of the project. When a digital LGBTIQ archive will be developed and ready to launch you will be the first to know about it. This research will be used in diverse' academic publications. It may also feature in reports to institutional bodies advising on better practices. Updates will also be regularly provided to participants through the website www.reneedixson.com.au. Participant Information Sheet, release form and list of support services can be accessed through the website as well. The progress of research stages will be shared through social media as well.

Participant Involvement:

- **Participation & Withdrawal:**

The participation in this project is voluntary. You are free to withdraw your consent without negative consequences and discontinue your participation at any point. Data from withdrawn participants will be destroyed and not used. Be aware, that after the Archive is launched, in the instance of participation withdrawal, all materials will be removed from the Archive. However, given the nature of the Internet and open access to the Archive, the researcher can't guarantee that an interview that provided could have been already accessed by the public. I also understand that the removal of your interview from the Archive does not guarantee its removal from the world wide web (internet).

I will ask you to sign the Release Form that will transfer all copyrights for me. This will give an opportunity to successfully maintain an archive in the future and adjust it to technological development.

- **What does participation in the research entail?**

I, as a researcher, will record participants' life stories using video or audio. During an interview, you will be asked to answer a series of questions. You can choose to discuss any aspect of your lives and you may refuse to answer any questions.

Questions that can be asked include but not limited to:

- Could you please tell me about your background?
- Can you please tell me how you identify yourself?
- Could you please tell me about yourself, your life before you left [your country]?
- Can you please tell me how you realised your sexuality?
- What do you remember about how your friends and parents reacted to your coming out?

- Were you active in the LGBTIQ movement?
- What led you to a decision to leave your home country?
- What was the journey of leaving your country like?
- What was your experience of settling in a new country?
- Did you have any expectations of a new country? Were they fulfilled?
- Who is your community now?
- After living for some time in a new country how do you identify yourself now?
- What are your dreams for the future? What are you proud of?
- **Location and Duration:**

The interview will take place at a location and time that is most convenient to you. Interviews normally take about two hours, but you may take as long as you would like and are free to stop at any time. If necessary, more interviews potentially can be conducted.

- **Benefits:**

Currently, there are no oral history collections on LGBTIQ refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants. This collection of oral histories will be unique as it will foreground the lived experience of LGBTIQ people who have migrated or been forcibly displaced.

This will be the first in the world collection of oral histories of LGBTIQ migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who speak for themselves.

You will have an opportunity to contribute to the academic body of knowledge. This archival production will be a form of knowledge production. This collection can be used by academics and activists for further research and campaigning for social change.

The project hopes to foster dialogue between official and unofficial groups invested in scholarship on sexuality, gender, trauma, agency, migration and refugees. This collection can be used by LGBTIQ activists or organization to tailor inclusive services for LGBTIQ migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. This collection potentially can help to normalise a variety of different experiences and negative feelings for LGBTIQ migrants, refugees and asylum seekers that remain unspoken in mainstream history.

- **Risks:**

The process of remembering and retelling your story can be upsetting and stressful. Before going to the details of your story, we will have a detailed conversation about how I can support you during an interview. You have a right to refuse responding any questions.

During this conversation we will outline the ways myself, as the researcher and you, as the participant may behave in the upsetting situation, and what actions you would like me to take when an upsetting situation happens. If telling a story becomes too emotional, you can stop or withdraw at any time.

Recorded interviews will be available in an open public access, meaning that depending which mode of participation you have chosen, your identity may be revealed in any publications or presentations that may result from this interview in that way.

Your identity (personal details) will remain confidential. If I choose to record an interview via audio with a changed voice through software to de-identify yourself, your identity will be known only to the interviewer and the principal investigator.

I will provide you with a list of support services available to you in your region\country.

If you choose to have a de-identifiable interview or if you feel that you shared any information that can cause any risks to you or someone you know, please notify me as soon as possible. During and after an interview you have a right to extract any information that may cause any concerns in relation connected to your safety. If I see that potentially some identifiable information can cause harm, I will discuss this with you and potentially remove that piece. You can choose to discuss any aspect of your lives and you may refuse to answer any questions. You can stop interview or take a pause that may take as long as they would like.

Confidentiality:

- **Confidentiality:**

Confidentiality will be protected as far as the law allows. During an interview, I would recommend avoiding providing any sensitive information or information about illegal activities (if this is relevant). In addition, you should not say anything defamatory. Information and confidentiality about you will be protected to the fullest possible extent within the limits of the law.

The data collected during the interview process will be stored electronically and password protected by the principal researcher.

Data will be stored in accordance with legal and ethical protocols and requirements. All of the digital materials will be stored in a secure password protected a folder on a hard drive and on a password-protected laptop as well as backed up onto the secure ANU Center for Digital Humanities Research server. Consent forms will be stored in a locked cabinet in my office in the Sir Roland Wilson building in the Australian National University. Data can only be accessed by myself as a primary investigator and my supervisor. With regard to a publication of results, information about your participation will be attributed in regard to your consent form.

Privacy Notice:

In collecting your personal information within this research, the ANU must comply with the Privacy Act 1988. The ANU Privacy Policy is available at https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_010007 and it contains information about how a person can:

- Access or seek correction to their personal information;

- Complain about a breach of an Australian Privacy Principle by ANU, and how ANU will handle the complaint.

Data Storage:

Where and How Long:

I will keep data according to guidelines of ANU. During the data collection, analysis and preparation stages, data will be stored electronically on an ANU computer, and Center for Digital Humanities Research server. It will also be password protected and encrypted. The archive of oral histories will be accessed in world wide web through a web site.

With a technological development, your interview can be transferred in the different media format to preserve and populate it in the future.

Handling of Data following the required storage period:

I will follow the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research. The principal researcher will then archive this data on the same ANU computer, and Center for Digital Humanities Research server and online in a developed digital archive for at least five years.

Queries and Concerns:

Contact Details for More Information:

You may contact the principal researcher at any time to make queries about the project. Renee Dixson can be reached at +61 0410 358 580 and renee.dixson@anu.edu.au

Supervisor contact details: Dr Katrina Grant Phone +61 2 6125 8117

Email: katrina.grant@anu.edu.au

Ethics Committee Clearance:

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2019/125). If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager

The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee

The Australian National University

Telephone: +61 2 6125 3427

Email: Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au