



Participant Information Sheet

UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Number: 22817/001

Project: Lesbian London: Social Life, Space and Networks in the Lives of LGBTQ+ Women in London, 1970-c.2000

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You are being invited to take part in an oral history interview as part of the research project: *Lesbian London: Social Life, Space and Networks in the Lives of LGBTQ+ Women in London, 1970-c.2000*. This project will study the social lives and space making practices of LGBTQ+ women in London during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, exploring the importance of lesbian space in the lives of women during this period. This study is being undertaken by PhD student Beth Charlton, to meet the requirements of a PhD research degree in history under the supervision of Dr Rebecca Jennings (r.jennings@ucl.ac.uk) and Dr Amy Tooth Murphy (Amy.ToothMurphy@rhul.ac.uk). Before you decide if you would like to take part, it is important that you understand why the research is being done, and what your involvement will entail. Please take time to read the following information carefully, and take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Please let me know if you have any questions or require any further information. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

What is the purpose and aims of this research?

‘Safe spaces’ have long been an important part of many LGBTQ+ people’s lives, and their lived experiences of these spaces in the 1970s-1990s offer unique insights into British LGBTQ+, urban and social histories. However, up until now, the histories of LGBTQ+ space have been dominated by the experiences of cis, white, gay men – often leaving the experiences of lesbian and queer women untouched. This project seeks to challenge this, by both adding to the historical record overlooked spaces and space-making practices of LGBTQ+ women, as well as diversifying the histories of lesbian London, by considering a range of identities across the lesbian and queer women communities; including races, religions, ages and gender identities. More specifically, this project aims to:

- Document the ways in which queer women established and occupied space in the 1970s-1990s, gaining an understanding of the forms these spaces took, and the areas they populated.
- Explore how these venues, neighbourhoods and communities intersected and overlapped with one another.

- Document how experiences of exclusion, both within queer and straight communities, affected the formation of space.
- Demonstrate the role that sex and sexuality played in the formation of space, and document the extent to which this motivated the socialisation of women in this period.
- Contribute an understanding of how lesbian space impacted the formation of specific and relational identities.

This project is open to and inclusive of all lesbian, bisexual, queer and trans women, or any person who identified with any of those identities during the 1970s-1990s, aged over 40.

Your involvement

If you agree to take part, you will be invited to take part in an audio recorded interview which will last between 1-2 hours. Interviews will be conducted at a time or place that is convenient to you. This may be in a community centre or library, or in your own home if you prefer. The interview will be an opportunity for you to share your stories, memories and experiences of London in the 1970s-1990s. The interview itself will be extremely flexible, giving you the freedom to discuss anything you like, or anything important to you personally. The interview will not take a 'questionnaire' approach, meaning that you will be in control of the areas we touch upon, and the stories you wish to share. There are a list of topics/themes of discussion that I will share with you prior to the interview that I'd like to explore – any areas you do not feel comfortable discussing can be written down on the consent form and will not be broached during the interview. A pre-interview questionnaire will also be sent to you prior to the interview, in order to collect basic information (about your identity, family, education, areas you have lived, occupations, etc.)

After the interview, you'll have the option of listening back to the audio file, and removing any areas you no longer wish to be included. Additionally, you will have the option to be updated on the project, being sent any publications, presentations or blog posts written using the contents of the interviews recorded during this project. If you consent, I'd also like to share with you the final draft of my thesis, welcoming any comments and feedback, and ensuring that I have accurately represented your thoughts and experiences recorded during the interview.

Participation in this project is entirely voluntary, and participants have the right to withdraw at any point during this process, up until 3 months prior to the submission of my thesis (estimated 30/09/2024).

Risks and Benefits

Although this project does not intend to explore traumatic experiences, or set out to bring up such discussions, I am aware that there is the potential risk of trauma being uncovered or traumatic experiences being recounted during the interview. In the event that unexpected trauma comes up during your interview, the interview will be paused and time will be given to ensure your safety and wellbeing. At this point you will have the option to end the interview there, or proceed if you are happy to. I have a thorough list of support services that I can refer you to in the event that you would like to seek further support, and I will provide post-interview after care to continue checking in with you.

I hope that this project will provide space for you to reflect on and share your past experiences of lesbian space, community and friendship, which I hope in turn gives you a sense of satisfaction and happiness. By giving you the space to add your voice and experiences to the historical record, which has so often erased or silenced LGBTQ+ people, I hope that this will contribute to the 'therapeutic' benefits of this project. As these histories have, until now, gone largely unwritten, I hope that this

project will provide a safe space for you to reclaim and recover your history, hopefully providing a sense of validation and empowerment.

Interview topics and themes:

- Social life/commercial life in London
- London: your relationship to the city, the geography of the city, travelling/moving around the city, a lesbian presence in the city
- Sex-life and relationships
- Friendships and relationships
- Communities, groups and networks
- Experiences of inclusions and exclusions within lesbian social space
- Domestic/home life and housing – how home settings were used for the purposes of socialisation
- Experiences of socialisation within straight settings – straight friends/straight places
- Experiences within the wider gay community: socialisation and friendships with gay men
- Feminism, the ‘sex-wars’, women’s lib, gay liberation
- Experiences of socialising in lesbian scenes of other towns and cities, both nationally and internationally

What happens to the data collected?

Special Category Data (information regarding race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender identity and sex-life) will be recorded as part of this study. The main part of this project, and what the collected data will be primarily used for, is the writing and submission of Beth Charlton’s doctoral thesis. Additionally, with your consent, extracts of your interview may also be used in published articles and book chapters, online blog posts, conference papers and public presentations. The collected audio files will be transcribed and securely stored on Beth’s personal, password-protected laptop, along with your completed consent form and a short biography – only accessible by Beth and her two supervisors. This data will be stored indefinitely on Beth Charlton’s password-protected laptop, to ensure the continued accountability of her findings, and for further research purposes in the future. These files will also be securely stored on UCL’s S:Drive server for the duration of Beth Charlton’s PhD, after which time they will be deleted from the server.

Additionally, with your permission, some of the collected data may be used to create an online mapping platform which will be accessible to the public. Information collected will be used to pin individual locations of lesbian and queer women’s social spaces on an interactive map of London, which users will be able to explore. No names or personal information will be published, but short quoted from your interview may be used in order to describe the pinned location/spaces.

In addition, you also have the option to donate the audio file of your interview to the Bishopsgate Institute – a leading archive known for its extensive LGBTQ+ collections. If you wish to donate your audio file to the archive, it will be made available exclusively in the Researcher’s Room at the Bishopsgate Institute, being preserved as a permanent resource for future research. The audio file of your interview will not be made accessible online under any circumstances, and will only be able to be consulted onsite at the Bishopsgate Institute.

Regarding confidentiality and the use of your personal information, you have the following choices:

- Use my name: Your real name and any other identifying information will be kept as is in relation to your audio file and transcript, and also in any references in print, publications and online.
- Use a pseudonym: Your real name will be replaced with a pseudonym in reference to your audio file and transcript. Any other identifying factors (such as your career, or birthplace) will also be altered. Your real name will not be used in any references in print, publications and online.

You will be asked to complete and sign a consent form, where you can indicate the terms on which the material may be used and stored.

Who can I contact if I have any questions, concerns or complaints?

The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by UCL's Research Ethics Committee. It is highly unlikely that anything should go wrong during your involvement in this project. If, however, you have any questions or concerns about any ethical aspect of your participation, in the first instance you should contact Dr Rebecca Jennings, the principle researcher (Telephone: Email: r.jennings@ucl.ac.uk). If the concern or complaint has not been dealt with to your satisfaction, you can further contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee (telephone: 020 7679 8717; email: ethics@ucl.ac.uk). Any complaint that you make will be treated in confidence and investigated, and you will be informed of the outcome.

Local Data Protection Privacy Notice

Notice:

The controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk

This 'local' privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular study. Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found in our 'general' privacy notice:

For participants in research studies, click [here](#)

The information that is required to be provided to participants under data protection legislation (GDPR and DPA 2018) is provided across both the 'local' and 'general' privacy notices.

The lawful basis that would be used to process your personal data will be: 'Public Task' for personal data and 'Research Purposes' for special category data.

Your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. If we are able to anonymise or pseudonymise the personal data you provide we will undertake this, and will endeavour to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk.

Consent

I (the participant) have read (or have had read to me) and understood the information provided above, and any questions that I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate in this research project, and I understand that I have the right to withdraw at any time. I have been given a copy of this for to keep.

Participant's Name: _____ (block letters)

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Researcher's Name: _____ (block letters)

Researcher's Signature: _____ Date: _____