

## CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

**Project Title:** “(Women’s) Archival Spaces and Trans Voices? A (Re)Search and Proposal”

**Researcher(s):** J. Curtis Main

**Faculty Sponsor:** Prudence Moylan

### **Introduction:**

You are being asked to take part in a research study being conducted by J. Curtis Main for a thesis under the supervision of Prudence Moylan in the Departments of History and Women’s and Gender Studies at Loyola University of Chicago.

You are being asked to participate because of your previously shared identity and experiences as trans(gendered/sexed). Possible participants include 5-10 acquaintances of the researcher, J. Curtis Main, who have shown a willingness and desire as openly trans to work toward more just and humane social conditions for transpeople.

Please read this form carefully and ask any questions you may have before deciding whether to participate in the study.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this study is to help analyze and reveal the complexities of women's archives and transpeople's lives, and with these, discover their possibilities to merge. Further, I am eager to understand what is necessary to include trans voices in a women's archives; and what are, if any, the specific needs and concerns of trans people.

This study has a secondary element that hopes to actively engage history and archives with transpeople. Elizabeth Myers, Director of the Women’s and Leadership Archives at Loyola University, is hopeful to gain transpeople’s voices in her collection. Participants who are interested in sharing life documents with these archives will have the opportunity through their participation. If at the conclusion of your participation you are further interested in the archival process and your inclusion, please contact J. Curtis Main further.

### **Procedures:**

If you agree to be in the study, you will be asked to:

- Take 30-90 minutes, depending on the length of your responses, to answer 20 questions in one of two forms: via email in questionnaire form or through an interview in person with Curtis Main in a chosen time and place to be decided by both interviewer and participant.
- The subject matter of the interview concerns gender identity intersecting history, and more specifically trans identified people and archives. The questions range from life experience and self-identity to opinions on historical processes.
- As for in-person interviews, the participant may suggest a closed setting to be interviewed, such as a university classroom or office. The interviews will be audio recorded using a digital recorder.

**Risks/Benefits:**

There are no foreseeable risks involved in participating in this research beyond those experienced in everyday life.

There are no direct benefits to you from participation, but the results and ramifications of this research will help provide insight and possibility into fuller inclusion of trans-identified people in historical and archival processes. Trans people are often excluded, silenced, and harmed in dominant societal structures, like history-making, and this researcher and research are inherently opposed to such practices.

**Confidentiality:**

- In the beginning of the questionnaire or interview, you will be asked how you would like to be known in this research, ranging from confidential (known only to the researcher, J. Curtis Main), to partial disclosure, such as full name and employed position. Further, you will be asked to self-identify for the research process, such as “25-year-old Latina lesbian transwoman from South Carolina working in public education with 3 biological children.”
- As for email exchange, I am limited in confidentiality due to the insecure nature of the internet. I may only guarantee, to the best of my ability and limitations, to protect the confidentiality of email. More specifically, I am unable to control the security of email *from* the participants. Only I am able to access my email and documents, which are password protected and secured.
- Gathered data will be identified as the participant desires, as mentioned. Each interview/questionnaire will be identified as a numbered system (i.e. 1-10).
- Only J. Curtis Main will have access to the data.
- Audio interviews will be kept locked in a drawer in the home office of J. Curtis Main. Both the email questionnaire and the audio interview will also exist as copies in the property of each respective participant.
- At the conclusion of the research, the audio tape or email questionnaire will be stored, unless the participant wishes them to be destroyed, at which point they will be deleted.

**Voluntary Participation:**

Participation in this study is voluntary. If you do not want to be in this study, you do not have to participate. Even if you decide to participate, you are free not to answer any question or to withdraw from participation at any time without penalty. Participation or withdrawal will have absolutely no effect on the relationship to the researcher.

**Contacts and Questions:**

If you have questions about this research study, please feel free to contact J. Curtis Main at [jmain@luc.edu](mailto:jmain@luc.edu) or 336-420-1310, or Prudence Moylan, faculty sponsor, at pmoylan@luc.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Loyola University Office of Research Services at (773) 508-2689.

**Consent Statement & Consent Agreement:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (write name here), agree to voluntarily participate in J. Curtis Main’s interview or interview questionnaire concerning the lack of transpeople in archives. Please initial beside the following statements as you agree to them:

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand and accept the aforementioned risks and confidentiality.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I will disclose my desired level of revealed personhood in the interview answers I give. I may self-identify to my own comfort level.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that only J. Curtis Main will be involved in the interview and questionnaire procedures, and that what I reveal and release to him will be potentially made public through publishing, lectures, and other forms of academia, research, and activism.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that at any point in the process I am, without penalty, free to withdraw completely, partially, or with certain omissions.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware that this research has an option to share my life documents with the Women’s and Leadership Archives at Loyola University if I so choose. I understand this is an effort to increase transpeople’s presence in history, and social acceptance/support.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lastly, I acknowledge that J. Curtis Main will, at any point, share his research process and decisions with me if I desire. I only need to contact him.

Please sign below your agreeance to this consent form.

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Sign name above)*

\_\_\_\_\_

*(date)*

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Researcher )*

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*(date)*