

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

Please complete and return by 6/3/2011

Questionnaire (email/internet)

The first 9 questions (email questionnaire only) are yes/no responses that show you understand the consent process. The remaining 21 questions are the actual interview/questionnaire.

1. Do you accept the goals of this research: to understand and broaden transpeople’s presence in history and archives?
2. Are you comfortable with the risks of this research, which are no more than the risks experienced in everyday life?
3. Are you satisfied with the possible benefits of this research: to make efforts in increasing transpeople’s presence in history and archives, possibly further strengthening social support and acceptance?
4. 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. Do you understand and accept this?
5. Are you content with self-identifying to your desired level? In the beginning of the questionnaire/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.” Does this make sense?
6. 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. Do you accept this?
7. 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. Do you accept this?
8. If you have questions about this research study, please feel free to contact J. Curtis Main at 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. Do you understand who you may contact for help or questions?

9. If you are comfortable with the interview/questionnaire, please answer yes or no, and if yes, then begin with question 10. Take as much time as you like.
10. Remember that you are in no way obligated to answer all questions, and may skip any at your choosing. If you desire clarity or further explanation, I am happy to answer. At any point you may choose to end the interview. You may also decide what information you give is recorded and further what information is used in the project. All of your information, opinions, and connection to this project is kept confidential. You will be given a copy, per your request, of the interview, the draft, and the final project. Do you have any questions or concerns?
11. Before I begin asking any questions, I want to first understand and acknowledge that you are informed of the purposes and goals of this research and project. In your own words, please reflect on how you interpreted this project when introduced to you and in what format it was communicated.
12. Are you comfortable discussing the intersection of trans people and experience with history and archives? Why? Why not?
13. What are your first thoughts on this topic?
14. Please describe your most salient identities at this point in your life.
15. How would you like to be described in the published materials as far as your name, gender identity, race, and so on?
16. Do you consider yourself a leader in the transcommunity? Why or why not?
17. What is your take on history's inclusion of gender-variance? Do trans people have a place, a space?
18. What are some ways you believe trans and gender variant people *can* be included in history and archives in a respectful, safe way?
19. How do you think you fit as an individual into history? How about trans people as a group assuming they can be designated as one?
20. Archives may be set up around social position, like leadership archives, or gender, like women's archives, or even sex and gender minorities, like LGBT archives. History has similar groupings. Where might trans people fit, if they do?
21. Do trans people need their own archives?
22. What issues and strengths do you feel exist with the identity trans in relation to history and archives?
23. So if you were, for instance, asked to be included in a men's archive as FtoM transgender, how might your documents be taken or included?

24. Should a trans status be included in a nontrans archive? In other words, considering what personal documents might reveal one's trans identity, should the documents speak for themselves or should the archive be "listed" as trans?
25. Would you consider your own life as contribution to an archive?
26. If so, which archive, if separated into certain societal positions, would you choose if you could?
27. What life documents would you NOT want included, if any, and why?
28. Do you have any more thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and feelins on this topic?
29. What do you think of this project?
30. Might you or someone you know be interested in donating some of your life documents to an archives interested in supporting the histories of trans and gender-variant people?

If you are indeed interested in trans and gender-variant materials having space in archives, please let Curtis, at jmain@luc.edu, know.

Thanks for your participation!