



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Geosciences



Information Sheet

Research project title: Cultural Geographies of LGBTQ+ Entrepreneurship in Scotland

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About the Project

This research is a collaborative PhD project between the University of Edinburgh and Somewhere EDI CIC. The principle objective of the project is to identify the networks connecting LGBTQ+ cultural entrepreneurs in Scotland, to reduce isolation and increase connectedness between LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs. The research questions are:

- Who are LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs in Scotland?
- What and where are the spaces of LGBTQ+ entrepreneurship in Scotland?
- Which industries are LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs working in?
- What networks enable and further LGBTQ+ entrepreneurship in Scotland?
- What affordances do time-limited events give LGBTQ+ entrepreneurship in Scotland and how do these compare to the affordances given by more permanent places?

The research is funded by the Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities.

The research has been reviewed and passed by the School of GeoSciences Ethics Committee on 16th August 2021.

What is involved in the study?

Taking part in the study will involve either or both of these activities:

- Participation in a creative participatory mapping workshop, of approximately 2 hours in duration, with a group size of around 5 participants.
- Participation in an individual audio recorded oral history interview of approximately 1.5 hours in duration. A transcript of this will be provided to the participant to review.

This research will be conducted primarily in-person, however Interview participants will be offered a choice in interview locations, and an online option, to ensure the greatest level of comfort. Participatory mapping workshops will take place in a private area of an appropriate LGBTQ+ supportive community space.

Who is responsible for the data collected in this study?

The research investigator is Rowan Rush-Morgan, a PhD student in the School of Geosciences at the University of Edinburgh. This is a collaborative project and the organization Somewhere EDI CIC will hold joint responsibility for the data collected. The researcher will collect

information on the personal experiences of LGBTQ+ cultural entrepreneurs through participatory mapping focus groups and oral history interviews. This information will feed into a network analysis of the spaces and places that connect LGBTQ+ communities in Scotland.

Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018, the legal basis for the collection of this personal data is 'processing in the public interest'. Due to the focus of this project, data relating to the GDPR 'special category' of sexual orientation will be collected. This special category information will be processed under the lawful basis of 'research in the public interest', where consent is provided by the participant.

The data collected will be anonymized and stored in a password protected file in the researcher's personal drive on the University of Edinburgh's server. After the submission of the PhD thesis in late 2023 the anonymized information will then be stored in the University of Edinburgh's research data repository where it will be stored indefinitely.

Audio data from oral history interviews will be archived anonymously and stored with Somewhere EDI CIC, the Doctoral Partner in the research, with the intention of depositing them in the collections at the National Library of Scotland (at a point in the future to be determined) with the explicit consent of the participants. If consent is not provided, the audio recordings will be disposed of after the completion of the researcher's PhD thesis. No data will be shared with other organizations beyond doctoral partner organization Somewhere EDI CIC and an appropriate future partner such as Our Story Scotland (who have their own LGBTQ+ oral history archive at the National Library of Scotland).

During data collection, the researcher has a responsibility to report to the relevant authorities any evidence of abuse or criminal activity.

What are the benefits and risks of taking part in this study?

The benefit of taking part in this research will primarily be in helping to expand networks of LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs in Scotland. You will also be contributing to academic research on the topics of both cultural geography and minorities in entrepreneurship. As far as possible your contribution will be kept confidential, unless you wish to be named. You will be given the opportunity to remove any information or images after taking part in the research, up to the submission of the doctoral thesis.

How do I withdraw from the study?

You can withdraw from the study at any point until submission of the doctoral thesis without having to give a reason. If any questions during the focus group/interview make you feel uncomfortable, you do not have to answer them. Withdrawing from the study will have no effect on you. If you withdraw from the study the information you have given thus far will not be retained.

Will I receive any payment or monetary benefits?

You will receive no payment for your participation. The data will not be used by any member of the project team for commercial purposes. Therefore you should not expect any royalties or payments from the research project in the future.

COVID-19 Information

Specific steps have been taken to minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19 during this study by adhering to the most up to date Scottish Government guidance. At present (July 2021) these measures include maintaining 1 metre social distancing; using face coverings if social distancing of 1 metre cannot be maintained, individuals are not stationary or are in a communal space; avoiding crowded places; cleaning hands and surfaces regularly. Further, you will only interact with researchers who have not experienced COVID-19 symptoms nor had any known contact with COVID-19 positive individuals for the 14 days prior to the research interaction. However, even with these control measures, there remains some additional risk of exposure from participating in this study.

Storing contact details (on campus)

If the research requires you to be a visitor in our University Buildings, then for the purpose of NHS Test and Protect we will request your name and contact details and store these for 21 days after the research interaction. If during this 21 day period, the researcher has a positive COVID-19 test then your contact details will be shared with NHS contact tracers who will then decide if they will contact you. The period of 21 days will ensure full cover of the typical incubation period and additional time during which people may be infectious, to allow for testing and contact tracing. This information is in addition to the data collected as part of the research study, will be stored separately from the research data, shared with NHS Test and Protect if requested, and the legal basis for collecting these data is substantial public interest.

Storing contact details (off campus)

If the research requires you to be in contact with the research team in an indoor space out with our University campus, then you may be required to provide your name and contact details to the managers of that space. If there is no requirement by the managers of that space to provide such information, then for the purpose of NHS Test and Protect we will request and store your name and contact details for 21 days after the research interaction. If during this 21 day period, the researcher has a positive COVID-19 test then, if requested, your contact details will be shared with NHS contact tracers, who may then contact you directly. The period of 21 days will ensure full cover of the typical incubation period and additional time during which people may be infectious. This information relating to your name and contact details is in addition to the data collected as part of the research study, will be stored separately from the research data, shared with NHS Test and Protect if requested, and the legal basis for collecting these data is substantial public interest.

What if I am unwell prior to the research interaction?

If you feel unwell, experience COVID-19 related symptoms, or have been in contact with a COVID-19 positive individual in the past 14 days, then please contact the researcher and we will postpone or cancel the research interaction.

What if I become unwell after the research interaction?

If you experience COVID-19 related symptoms, and/or have a positive COVID-19 test following the research interaction, please follow the Scottish Government guidance.

For more information

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Edinburgh University Research Ethics Board. If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please contact:

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Supervisors

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What if I have concerns about this research?

If you are worried about this research, or if you are concerned about how it is being conducted, you can contact the Chair of the GeoScience Ethics Committee, University of Edinburgh, Drummond St, Edinburgh, EH8 9XP (or email at ethics@geos.ed.ac.uk).