

DEPARTMENT CONTACT DETAILS

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Straight As: Queering the design, implementation and use of assessment in England

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Central University Research Ethics Committee Reference: EDUC_3454324

1. Introductory paragraph

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

2. Why is this research being conducted?

There is a growing body of research into how assessment affects minoritised groups (e.g. people of colour) and how they support or develop racism or class inequality. However, there has not been research into how exams affect LGBTQ+ people or reinforce cisheteronormativity (the assumption that being LGBTQ+ is not 'normal' or that everyone is straight and sees themselves as the gender they were given when they were born). In this research I am trying to understand how LGBTQ+ people experience exams in England and how people who design and mark exams think about fairness, LGBTQ+ people and cisheteronormativity. This will all lead to the development of a new framework that will help teachers, examination professionals and others evaluate GCSEs and A-levels in England.

3. Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to participate because you identify as LGBTQ+, were born between 1997 and 2006 and you have taken GCSEs or A-levels in England. You need to meet all these criteria to participate.

4. Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether to take part. You can withdraw yourself from the research, without giving a reason. There will be no negative consequences for you if you decide not to participate.

You can withdraw after you have participated in the research for up to 30 days after your interview. If you decide to withdraw, all the information I have collected will be deleted.

In addition to this, all the data I collect will be deleted three years after I finish my project.

5. What will happen if I take part in the research?

If you would like to take part in the research, there are two steps. Step 1 is optional.

In the first step, you will be asked to spend up to an hour creating a reflection on what it was like doing your GCSE and/or A-level exams in England. You can do this at any time before the interview. This could be a written reflection, or it could be artistic (for example a picture or other creative representation). You will then bring this to your interview.

In the second step, we will hold an interview. This will either be in-person at the Department of Education in Norham Garden, Oxford, or on Teams. This interview will be audio-recorded, but the recording will be deleted within three months of the interview, as I will use a transcription for my analysis. In the interview we will have an open-ended discussion about your reflection (if you chose to do this) and your experience of doing your exams. You will be free to pause or stop the interview at any time. The interview will last 45-60 minutes.

You will be asked to complete an informed consent form before the interview, which we will talk about briefly at the start of the interview to check that you are completely happy to participate.

6. What are the possible disadvantages and risks in taking part?

It can sometimes be difficult talking about the past. To try and make this easier, you will be given time to think about your answers and you will be able to take breaks if you need them. I will also check in with you after your interview to make sure you are well.

7. Are there any benefits in taking part?

Talking about these experiences can be rewarding and by participating in this interview you will help me produce research that will hopefully help LGBTQ+ students and young people in the future by ensuring that exams and exam procedures are fair.

8. What information will be collected and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research objectives?

The data I collect will include the information shared in the Expression of Interest form you have already completed, as well as any information from the interview. This will be analysed along with other interviews and used to help me better understand how LGBTQ+ experience exams in England. This will include data about your identity, including your sexuality and gender identity. Data will be securely stored and your privacy will be maintained at all times. I will not be asking for personal data about your romantic relationships or sexual history.

The data will only be accessible to me, my supervisor (Jo-Anne Baird) and, if necessary, authorised University staff. All data will be stored securely on the University of Oxford's servers and protected through two-factor authentication. Data will be deleted three years after the project is completed. This data will only be used in relation to this study and in any publications directly linked to this study.

9. Will the research be published? Could I be identified from any publications or other research outputs?

The findings from the research will be written up in a thesis and all or some of this thesis may be published by academic journals or publishers. Pseudonyms will be used throughout and personally identifiable data will be removed. I would like your permission to use direct quotations in any research outputs.

A copy of my thesis/ dissertation will be deposited online in the [Oxford University Research Archive](#) where it will be publicly available to facilitate its use in future research.

10. Data Protection

The University of Oxford is the data controller with respect to your personal data, and as such will determine how your personal data is used in the research. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that is performed in the public interest. Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from the University's Information Compliance website at <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/individual-rights>.

11. Who has reviewed this research?

This research has received favourable opinion from a subcommittee of the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee. (Ethics reference: **xxxxx**).

Include details of any other reviews, e.g. from a local ethics committee if the research is taking place overseas.

12. Who do I contact if I have a concern about the research or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this research, please contact Jo-Anne Baird, my supervisor and the Principal Investigator in this research, by emailing jo-anne.baird@education.ox.ac.uk or calling the Department of Education, University of Oxford: 01865274024. We will do our best to answer your query. We will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the University of Oxford Research Governance, Ethics & Assurance (RGEA) team at rgea.complaints@admin.ox.ac.uk or on +44 (0)1865 616480.

13. Further Information and Contact Details

If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

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