

Exploring LGBTQ+ people's experiences of masculinities in Outdoor Education: A case study of UK Scouts.

Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form: Scrapbook stage

We would like to invite you to take part in research on 'LGBTQ+ people's experiences of masculinities in Outdoor Education' which is being undertaken as part of a BA Sociology Dissertation.

An outline of the study is provided below. Please read this information carefully before you decide to take part. If you have any questions, please get in touch via the contact details at the end of this form.

Research Outline

In recent years, there have been a number of studies exploring the experiences of LGBTQ+ participants in Outdoor Education, in particular exploring the barriers that prevent equal participation in the Outdoors. However, this research has failed to explore how LGBTQ+ people are affected by masculine identities in the Outdoors (including their own relationship with masculinities and their experiences of other people's portrayals of masculinity). In particular, the existing research has largely focused on *participants* and has therefore ignored the ways in which LGBTQ+ *providers* of Outdoor Education perceive the impacts of masculinities on their participants. In addition, since the existing research has focused on participants, there has been a limited focus on how LGBTQ+ providers themselves experience masculinities (both their own relationship with masculinity and how they experience other people's portrayals of masculinity).

Therefore, this research will use UK Scouts as a case study to explore the following questions:

- How do different portrayals of masculinity influence the experiences of LGBTQ+ providers in Outdoor Education?
- How do LGBTQ+ providers think masculinities are changing in Outdoor Education?
- If masculinities are changing in Outdoor Education, do LGBTQ+ providers perceive these changes as improving or worsening the experiences of Outdoor Education for their participants?
- How can we utilise these findings to recommend practices that will make Outdoor Education more inclusive?

The research will ask you to create a scrapbook reflecting on your experiences of masculinities within UK Scouts. You can either choose to just share your scrapbook, or you can opt-in to participate in an additional interview discussing your reflections on your scrapbook. You do not need to decide whether you want to participate in the second phase of the research (the interview) at this stage. After you complete the scrapbook phase, you will be asked to read a second Participant Information Sheet and sign a second consent form if you wish to participate in the interview. The use of scrapbooks in this research aims to provide a more creative and flexible outlet for exploring your experiences and is designed to make it easier to express ideas that can be hard to put into words. A further document outlining advice for completing your scrapbook will be provided.

If you choose to opt-in for the second part of the interview after completing your scrapbook:

The second stage of the research builds upon the scrapbook you created in the first stage of the research. You will be asked to participate in an interview where you will discuss the reflections you made in your scrapbook about your experiences of masculinities in UK Scouts. Creating a scrapbook and using it in the interview is designed as a 'collaborative' research method, and places you (the participant) in control of the research agenda. The interview is designed to act less like a traditional research interview, and more like a 'sharing phase' where you can express your experiences. The researcher will provide some prompts for discussion in the interview, but the interview will be based on the reflections you make in your scrapbook and what you choose to discuss.

Participation Details

Why you are invited:

This research aims to explore the experiences of adult members of the UK Scout movement who identify as LGBTQ+.

To participate, you must:

- ✓ Be aged 18 years or older
- ✓ Be a current adult leader in the UK Scout movement (e.g. a Cub Leader).
- ✓ Identify as LGBTQ+ (You do not need to publicly identify as LGBTQ+, i.e. you do not need to be 'out').

Note: This study aims to go beyond the gender binary to explore how people with a variety of LGBTQ+ identities perceive masculinities and experience the impacts of how other people portray masculinities. There is no expectation that participants identify in any way as 'male' or 'masculine'.

What you will do:

Participation will entail an online meeting lasting approximately half an hour and completion of a digital scrapbook exploring your experiences of masculinities in the UK Scouts movement. The meeting will involve an outline of the study, check that you are happy with the information in this Participant Information Sheet and include a brief discussion of the scrapbooking process. You are not expected to spend more than an hour or two on the scrapbook. The scrapbook will be created digitally using the website Canva. You are invited to use both images and text reflections, but are not asked to include any identifying information or your own photographs in the scrapbook. Images of your scrapbook (with identifying information redacted) will be used and analysed in the final report.

What your data will be used for:

Your data will be used to inform a dissertation thesis which will be submitted for assessment as part of my degree in BA Sociology.

How your data will be kept confidential:

Meeting recordings will be stored digitally on a password-protected device. Written transcripts of the meetings will be produced and stored in the same secure manner as the original recordings. Following transcription, the audio-recordings will be destroyed. Photographs of scrapbooks or documents containing the digital scrapbook will also be stored digitally on password-protected devices. Images of the scrapbook will be used in the final report, but with all identifying information redacted or changed. On completion of the report and no later than 31st October 2026, all meeting transcripts and copies of the scrapbook will be destroyed.

To ensure anonymity, identifying information will be excluded from transcripts. Further, transcripts will not be shared with others. The initial meeting will be recorded and transcribed for the purpose of recording consent to participate in the study, but your contributions in this meeting will not be analysed or quoted in the research report. In all cases, a pseudonym will be used in place of your real name when referring to your data.

For further information about the University's policy for handling private data, including your rights and how to make a complaint, see:

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/about-us/governance/information-governance/privacy-notices/general-privacy-notice/>

What are the risks:

Experiences of masculinities, as well as experiences as an LGBTQ+ person can be sensitive issues which may be uncomfortable to talk about, or which may cause distress or anxiety. Of course, we will approach the scrapbook making process with due care and you may choose to withdraw from the study at any point (see below). Nevertheless, if you believe that participation is likely to result in significant distress or anxiety then you are advised to not take part. You will be asked to create the scrapbook independently, once the introductory meeting is completed. Please take care to ensure you are in a good mindset for reflecting on these potentially challenging themes before creating your scrapbook, and please utilise the 'signposting to support' document below as required. You do not have to include anything in your scrapbook that you are not comfortable discussing.

As outlined above, strict procedures will be followed to ensure that your data and participation in the study is kept confidential. However, as with all research, there is a very slight risk of you being identified through the study. The study is open to people who do not publicly identify as LGBTQ+ (who are not 'out'), however please consider whether you feel comfortable participating in the study. For example, if you are participating in the study whilst living in a homophobic or transphobic household, please consider carefully the risk that your online meeting could be overheard or your scrapbook seen. You are advised to choose a quiet place for the online meeting where you cannot be overheard and should store your scrapbook on a password-protected device that is not used by people who you would not wish to share it with.

You will be asked to use the website Canva to create your digital scrapbook. Canva requires users to make an account (and thus to provide their personal details). In addition, Canva may collect and share the information you enter into documents (for example, it may collect written reflections on a scrapbook). You should not include any identifying information in your scrapbook, such as names or photographs of yourself or others. You can read the Canva Privacy Policy here: <https://www.canva.com/policies/privacy-policy/>.

A note about Scout Safeguarding:

As outlined above, all data will be kept confidential using strict procedures. In our first meeting, you will be asked to avoid including any identifying information in our meetings or in your scrapbook. However, in the very unlikely event that a safeguarding concern is identified from our meeting or from information you include in your scrapbook, and the individuals involved are identifiable (i.e. if you included their names), I would need to report this to the UK Scout Headquarters. The UK Scout Safeguarding Policies and Procedures would be followed and would involve sharing your data with the UK Scout Headquarters. By agreeing to participate in this research, you agree that if a Safeguarding concern were to occur, your data could be shared with UK Scout Headquarters, as well as with the police (if somebody is in immediate danger). Please see 'Signposting Support' below for the Safeguarding Policies and Procedures, and how to report a concern yourself.

If you change your mind: Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You may choose not to answer any question which is asked during the meetings and choose to only include things you are comfortable sharing in your scrapbook. If you are uncomfortable answering a question, then you are encouraged not to.

If you decide that you no longer wish to participate in the study, you are welcome to withdraw at any time before or during the research without providing a reason. If you complete the scrapbook but decide later that you wish to withdraw, please contact Beth Clayton using the details below within two weeks of the final meeting asking for your data to be destroyed.

How to get in touch: If anything in this information sheet is not clear or you wish to ask any questions, please contact Beth Clayton at jfdq48@durham.ac.uk and 07561 361740.

If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this project, please contact the project supervisor Professor Simon Forrest at Simon.forrest@durham.ac.uk

Signposting to Support

Report a Safeguarding concern to UK Scout Headquarters:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/reporting-a-concern-to-safeguarding/>

The easiest way to report a concern is by using our Online Safeguarding Reporting Form. You can also:

- Phone 020 8433 7164 (9am – 5pm weekdays)
- Email safeguarding@scouts.org.uk
- Use the downloadable safeguarding reporting form

In an emergency outside the above times, you can contact the Safeguarding Team by calling the Scouts Support Centre on 0345 300 1818.

If a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm call 999 or 112 and ask for the police. Tell the UK HQ Safeguarding Team you have done this.

Safeguarding policy and procedures available at: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/policy/safeguarding-policy-and-procedures/>

Shout

You can text SHOUT to 85258 24/7. For further details, see their website: <https://giveusashout.org>

Samaritans

[116 123](tel:116123) (freephone)

jo@samaritans.org (email response may take several days)

Freepost SAMARITANS LETTERS

[samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org)

Samaritans are open 24/7 for anyone who needs to talk. You can visit some Samaritans branches in person. Samaritans also have a Welsh Language Line on 0808 164 0123 (7pm–11pm every day).

For further details, see their website: <https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/contact-samaritan/>

NHS talking therapies self-referral

nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-nhs-talking-therapies-service

Information about local NHS therapy services for certain mental health problems. You can self-refer (England only) but you must be registered with a GP.

Galop

[0207 704 2040](tel:02077042040) (LGBT+ hate crime helpline)

[0800 999 5428](tel:08009995428) (LGBT+ domestic abuse helpline)

[0800 130 3335](tel:08001303335) (Conversion therapy helpline)

help@galop.org.uk

galop.org.uk

Provides helplines and other support for LGBT+ adults and young people who have experienced hate crime, sexual violence or domestic abuse.

LGBT Foundation

[0345 3 30 30 30](tel:03453303030)

lgbt.foundation

Advice, support and information for people identifying as LGBTQ+.

Switchboard

[0800 0119 100](tel:08000119100)

hello@switchboard.lgbt

Listening services, information and support for LGBTQIA+ people.

For further information about support for LGBTQ+ people, there is a useful directory by the charity Mind <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/lgbtqiaplus-mental-health/useful-contacts/>

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Scrapbook phase Consent Form

To consent to the study, read the points below and tick the box if you agree:

I have read and understood the participant information sheet and have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study and my participation	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that my participation is voluntary and therefore that I may refuse any question asked of me and withdraw at any time without explanation	<input type="checkbox"/>
I agree to my introductory meeting being audio-recorded and later transcribed	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to receive a lay summary of the research findings after the research has been completed (after March). This is optional.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I agree to participate in the study	<input type="checkbox"/>

Participant Name

Participant Signature

Date