

Remembrance and Reminiscence: Dublin City Queer Oral History Project **Research Information Sheet**

Introductory statement

Remembrance and Reminiscence: Dublin City Queer Oral History Project is an initiative of the Dublin City Strategic Heritage Plan 2024-2029 in collaboration with University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, and St Olaf's College Minnesota, USA.

The Project Advisory Group is made up of members from the following institutions/organisations:

- Dublin City Council Heritage Office
- St. Olaf College, Minnesota, USA
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Dublin
- DCC LGBT+ Network
- Irish Trans Archive

Why are we doing this research?

This is a pilot phase of an oral history project to capture the recollections and memories of LGBTQ+ people who lived in and were socialised in Dublin in the late twentieth century. Our project places an emphasis on 'ordinary' lived experiences and those whose experiences have been underrepresented within LGBTQ+ histories to date. The recorded oral history interviews will form part of an archival and bibliographical resource for the study of queer life in twentieth century Dublin, and will be preserved and made accessible through the Digital Repository of Ireland for anyone who wishes to access them, for research or general interest. We are also inviting anybody with ephemera (e.g. pamphlets, posters, photographs, letters, items of clothing, badges, etc) from the period to have their items photographed so that it might form part of the collection.

What is this research about?

We hope to explore the following research questions/themes pertaining to the lived experiences of Queer people in the late twentieth century:

- What were the ordinary lived experiences of queer people in twentieth century Dublin?
- What were LGBTQ+ social lives like?
- How were familial, domestic, romantic partnerships formed?
- What were individuals relationships like with religion or spirituality?
- Where and how was queer community forged?
- What did they do (or felt like they had to do) to live as they wanted in Ireland?
- What was the nature of their familial relationships (in a broad sense of the term)?
- Queer activism in the late twentieth century and its expansion.
- Relationships between different parts of the LGBTQ+ acronym, in activism and community.
- Relationships between the feminist movement and LGBTQ+ movements.
- The experience of trans people in the late twentieth century.
- The intersections of queerness and other marginalised identities.
- The relationship between the queer body and officialdom (the State, medical authorities).
- The experience of the AIDS crisis in Dublin.

These themes and questions are not exhaustive, and we welcome any further relevant discussion of your experiences.

Why have you been invited to take part?

We invite your participation because we believe your contributions will help us to achieve our goal to capture the recollections and memories of queer people who lived in and were socialised in Dublin in the late twentieth century, particularly those which have not yet or not often been recorded.

The aim of the interview is to record your memories in your own words. Stories, anecdotes and asides are all welcome. The purpose of the recording is not to gain a formal history, but to learn about your personal experiences.

About your participation

What will happen if you decide to take part?

This research will take place in Dublin over the course of 2025. Interviews will primarily take place in person, but remote interviews can be arranged depending on personal circumstance. We aim to interview 40-60 people overall.

Should you agree to be interviewed, you will have an opportunity to speak to the person conducting your interview to get to know them, go through the consent forms and interview process, ask any questions you might have and agree upon a date and location (whether that be in person or online). On the day of the interview you will be asked a number of semi-structured questions about your experiences and recollections as an LGBTQ+ individual who lived in Dublin in the late twentieth century, and will be invited to share anything which was not directly asked. The length of the interview will vary from person to person, but will be approximately 40-60 minutes in length. The interviewer will make an audio recording of the interview. If you have brought any personal items or ephemera, these will be photographed.

Subsequent to the interview, you will be sent the audio recording of your interview. You will be asked to listen to the recording to ensure you are happy with the contents. If you wish to make any amendments, please make a note and inform the interviewer.

You will be invited to sign a consent form prior to beginning the interview in which you agree to participate. This will be the 'Participation Agreement Consent Form'. Following your review of the transcript of your recording, you will be sent a 'Recording Agreement Form', which will seek permission to add your contribution to our project archive. Here you will be able to outline any restrictions on dissemination of the recording/transcript should you wish to proceed, including de-identification.

Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from the study?

You may choose to withdraw from the project and ask that your data be destroyed at any time, including after the material has been deposited in the Digital Repository of Ireland. If you choose to stop participating, then you will be invited to sign a withdrawal form. You do not need to provide a reason for withdrawal.

What will happen after I consent to the 'Recording Agreement'?

The original audio recording, the accompanying verbatim transcript, the final edited recording if amendments have been made, and images of any artefacts or ephemera you have contributed will be stored safely in the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI). Any restrictions you have placed on their dissemination will be honoured, and only material that you have agreed to make public will be

accessible to researchers and/or the wider public. If you have opted to be de-identified, the audio recording of your interview will be destroyed and only the amended transcript will be deposited in the DRI.

The Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) is an interactive trusted digital repository for Ireland's contemporary and historical social and cultural data. The repository links together and preserves the rich data held by Irish institutions, providing a central internet access point and interactive multimedia tools. DRI is an educational resource used by the public, students and scholars and provides preservation and access services for stakeholders and partners. DRI also acts as a focal point for the development of national guidelines and policy for digital preservation and access. DRI preserves, manages and provides access to data deposited by member institutions. When appropriate, DRI holds archival masters of the digital assets as well as digital surrogates.

Possible research outputs

As well as forming a collection of oral history recordings which will be deposited in the DRI, this project may have other outputs, which may include a podcast, public talks, a travelling exhibition for county libraries, and a co-authored academic book or articles. You will be notified and asked for consent before your interview is used for these purposes.

How will your data be used?

By signing the Consent Form, you would be assigning rights to Dublin City Council as Data Controller for the purposes outlined in the Consent. This would allow the Dublin City Queer Oral History Project to use your interview, in part or in full [subject to any reasonable restrictions you have included in the Consent] for the purposes of the overall research project. Such restrictions might include a time limitation on dissemination of the material or a request to anonymise or pseudonymise your contribution.

Your personal information will be protected at all times and the confidentiality of your interview is guaranteed until such time as you sign the 'Recording Agreement'. It is your right to choose not to sign the agreement, but in this case the recording and transcript will remain with Dublin City Council's Heritage Office, as the Data Controller, who will guarantee not to make it public in any way without your consent. Should you decide to withdraw from the project, all of your data will be destroyed.

How will your privacy be protected?

You have a choice about whether you will be named in the research or remain anonymous (with statements attributed to a pseudonym). There may be a number of outputs associated with the project, as outlined above. You may choose which of these you contribute to and you may choose to be named or remain anonymous. The Consent Form offers options related to each output.

Any information you provide will be stored in the DRI Dublin City Queer Oral History archive, and may also be used in academic publications, a podcast, or travelling exhibition. The researchers will confirm all direct quotations from your interview prior to publication or broadcast.

For those who chose to remain anonymous, the researchers will ensure that the transcripts of the interviews are de-identified at all stages, to ensure that there is no trace back to the informant. If the researchers are in doubt about this at any stage, they will contact the participant and clarify whether they would like a particular section of the transcript removed. Any references to people, situations or institutions that may point towards the participant will be removed from the final transcript.

You will have the choice to not have your data archived at all.

Any contact information, consent forms, and original recordings and transcripts will be stored in a secure Google Drive folder accessible only to the Data Controller (Dublin City Council Heritage Office personnel). There will be a separate Google Drive folder containing anonymised transcripts accessible to members of the advisory group for the purposes of review and project steering. The Google Drive is only to be accessed via password-protected laptops or secure servers. Any paper copies of consent forms will be held in a locked cabinet in Dublin City Council's offices and destroyed upon ascent to the DRI. Consent forms, audio recordings, and transcripts will be deleted upon ascent to the DRI. You will have an option on the Recording Agreement form to allow us to keep your contact information (names, email addresses/phone numbers) on record by the Data Controllers (Dublin City Council's Heritage Office) in order to contact you with future updates on the project.

Third parties mentioned during interviews will be pseudonymised unless they are participants in the study who have agreed to be named or are well-known public figures.

What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?

You will have an opportunity to have your memories and experiences captured and preserved as a historical record. You will be contributing towards queer Irish culture by ensuring that queer experiences, particularly those which have not previously been captured, are included in the historical record. You will contribute your voice and story towards this pivotal moment in queer history. You will also be contributing towards inter-generational dialogue, ensuring that future generations will have access to the breadth and diversity of queer experiences in Dublin, be that through the outputs or the archive with the Digital Repository of Ireland.

What are the risks of taking part in this research study?

While the questions are not designed to be in any way distressing, the interviews might veer into territory where you discuss something distressing, such as your recollections of the AIDS crisis or living through the criminalisation of gay sex. All efforts will be made by the researchers to avoid such distress, including letting you see the questions beforehand if you so wish.

If you feel uncomfortable or distressed for any reason during or after interviews for this project, the following resources can offer assistance:

- LGBT Ireland <https://lgbt.ie/our-services/1800-929-539>
- National LGBT Helpline 1 800 929 539
- [HSE Resources](#)
- Samaritans 116 123
- Dublin Lesbian Line 018 729 911
- London Friend Helpline: 020 7837 3337; office@londonfriend.org.uk
- Northern Ireland: <https://cara-friend.org.uk/lgbt-switchboard-ni/>
- New York: LGBT Switchboard of NY 212-989-0999; help@LGBThotline.org

How will you find out what happens with the project?

We will contact you with updates for the duration of the project with updates as to the use of your interviews. You may also contact us at any time at heritage@dublincity.ie for an update on the research and research findings.

You will not be remunerated for your participation.

Limits to Informed Consent

In some circumstances, the confidentiality of research data and records may be overridden by courts in the event of litigation or in the course of investigation by lawful authority. In such circumstances, Dublin City Council will take all reasonable steps within law to ensure that confidentiality is maintained to the greatest possible extent. In the event that your name requires disclosure this will only be done with your permission or as required by law.

Contact Details

You may contact us at heritage@dublincity.ie if you have any questions or concerns about the project.

Research Ethics

This project outline has gone through a rigorous Ethics approval process with University College Dublin, and a Data Protection Impact Assessment within Dublin City Council.

If during your participation in this study you feel the information and guidelines that you were given have been neglected or disregarded in any way, or if you are unhappy about the process, please contact the Secretary of the University College Dublin's Research Ethics and Integrity Committee at research.ethics@ucd.ie or +353 (0)1 716 8767.

You have the right to ask for a copy of any of your personal data held by Dublin City Council.

You also have a right to have your personal data amended or removed in certain circumstances. To access your data or make a complaint please contact the Data Protection Office, Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Dublin 8, email dataprotection@dublincity.ie or Tel: 01 2223775. More detail is contained on our website address <http://www.dublincity.ie/privacy-statement>.

Finally, if you are not satisfied with how Dublin City Council responds to your request you can make a complaint to the Data Protection Commissioner by email info@dataprotection.ie, refer to their website for more information

Please be assured that your concerns will be dealt with in a sensitive manner.