



UCD School of Geography  
Newman Building  
University College Dublin  
Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland

Scoil na Tíreolaíochta  
Áras Newman  
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha  
Cliath  
Belfield, Baile Átha Cliath 4,  
Éire  
T +353 1 716 8489  
<http://www.ucd.ie/geography/>

## Beyond Opposition

You are being invited, together with around 210 other people across Ireland, the UK and Canada, to be interviewed as part of a research project. You will be asked about how you have been affected by social, legal and political changes such as changes to sex and relationships education, same sex marriage, transgender people's inclusion policies and/or abortion. You can find out more about this research by visiting [www.beyondopposition.org](http://www.beyondopposition.org).

This information sheet explains the study, and what we will ask you to do during the interview. It also explains how your interview will be used. The person interviewing you will also verbally explain the research prior to the interview. Please ask them any questions that you may have.

### What is this research about?

This research project is called **Beyond Opposition**. It looks at the experiences of those who have concerns about, or who object to, some areas of contemporary life like same-sex marriage, gay couples having children, abortion and other recent social or legal changes. Researchers are interested in what everyday life is like for you, including how your views affect your experiences of certain places such as home, work, and public spaces.

### Why are we doing this research?

The interviews will contribute towards a better understanding of how changes to sex, gender and sexualities affect different people. They will become part of a very important database available to researchers interested in how society has transformed and how different groups experience social transformations.

The project is based in the Department of Geography at University College Dublin, Ireland. The principal investigator is Professor Kath Browne (University College Dublin) and Catherine Jean Nash, Professor Emerita (Brock University) supports the research in Canada.

### Why have you been invited to take part?

For this research, we are focusing on people living in Canada, the UK, and Ireland. This is because we are interested in countries where same sex marriage, rights for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans people, and

women's rights have been legalised, and also where, generally, there is an accepting attitude towards, for example, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, and/or abortion.

We have asked you to take part because you have indicated in some way that you have concerns about one of more of these changes. You also live in Canada, the UK or Ireland.

### **What are the benefits of taking part?**

Most people find interviews an enjoyable experience and like to think and talk about their lives. For this research you will also help us, and broader society, to understand how social and legal changes are affecting you.

### **What are the risks?**

Sometimes discussions like this can be upsetting. If the researcher sees that you are upset or you indicate that you are upset, or the researcher feels that the conversation might be negatively affecting you, the researcher will stop recording. You can decide if you would like to proceed with the interview. We will offer you some avenues to discuss how you are feeling, including support services available in your country. If you want us to, we will keep your contact details and get in touch after the interview to see how you are.

### **What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?**

You and a researcher will arrange a time to speak. You will be asked to review the information sheet and sign and return the consent form in advance of the interview taking place. The discussion will take place by phone or by Zoom or Skype, and you have the choice whether you would like to appear on video or remain an audio conversation. The interview will last for about an hour, but it can be longer or shorter depending on how much you want to say. The researcher will explain the interview process, explain the information sheet and consent form again to confirm you are happy with the process. The researcher will then ask to turn on the audio recorder (we will not record video). The consent form will not be kept with your data, it will be scanned where it is in paper form and stored on the Beyond Opposition folder returned via email. Where a paper form is completed it will be kept in a locked filing cabinet. Your responses to the questions about if and how you wish to be identified will be noted on the transcript.

During the interview, the researcher will ask questions about your everyday life; asking about things like work, home, families and relationships, and going out.

During the interview, you can expect to be treated with respect. The aim of the research is to understand your experiences.

Talking about your experiences might be difficult and upsetting. If you want to stop at any time, just let the researcher know. If you are visibly upset the researcher will also ask if you want to stop and the recorder will be turned off. After the interview, the interviewer will give you details of people who can support you if you are upset, such as counsellors, and other mental health services. You can also ask the researcher to check in with you after the interview.

After the interview, your interview will be transcribed using secure software that uses a public cloud, and is fully GDPR and HIPPA compliant. When the interview data is transcribed it is encrypted both in transit and at rest and is only accessible to the data owner (the researcher who conducted the interview and uploaded the interview). The audio file only remains on the cloud during the process of transcription and your personal details (name and contact information) will not be linked to this file at any point during the transcription process.

### **How will the data be used?**

Should you sign up to be interviewed, you are free to withdraw from the project at any point without giving a reason. The interviews will be audio recorded on a password protected voice recorder, transcribed (where your words are written up by a software programme which does not retain any information or data following transcription) and analysed. Once the audio recording has been uploaded onto the researcher's computer (into an encrypted, password protected file), the audio recording will be deleted from the recording device.

Sections of the interview may appear in academic or other publications, papers given at conferences, press releases, blog posts on the website and when the researchers talk or write about the project. Only the researchers will have access to both tape and transcription, which will be held securely.

If you do not want to be named, we will do everything possible to maintain your anonymity, in particular by not identifying you by name and removing specific references to your job or where you live. If you choose to be named, we will give you another sheet identifying what we see as the key risks of being named in this project.

Whether you choose to be named or not, your personal details will not be kept with your interview transcript (see below), and we will take out any details which might identify you in the transcript (de-identify the data). However, we cannot guarantee that your comments will be anonymous as people might recognise you from how you speak, or the stories that you tell which they already know.

You can request that a copy of your transcript be sent to you, but you will need to give us permission to keep your personal data in order to do this. We will also need to keep your personal data and link it using a key to the research transcript if you want to remove your data from the research.

The researchers on this project who will have access to the de-identified interview transcripts are: postdoctoral researchers in Ireland and Canada, PhD students, and the lead researchers (Prof. Kath Browne and Prof. Catherine Nash).

### **How will your privacy be respected (you can also see our privacy policy online)?**

Please see our privacy policy on our website: <https://beyondopposition.org/>

You can choose to be named in this project. This means that we will associate your real name with the data collected. There are risks to this, which the researcher will discuss with you if you take this option.

Even if you are named, your other personal data, such as contact details, will be treated in the same way as if you are not named.

The information from the interviews (audio recordings and notes) will be stored in encrypted files on a password protected computer and in file storage at University College Dublin. The data will be backed up weekly and stored on external encrypted, password protected hard drives in Ireland, and for Canadian data *only* in Canada also on encrypted password protected computers, in password protected files and on encrypted password protected hard drives. Storage of Beyond Opposition Research Data complies with the secure backup requirement. This means that if your data has been backed up on the Beyond Opposition secured data server then that copy of your data will only be accessible if it is necessary to retrieve a data set from the backup, at which point your data will once again be deleted.

Any hard copy material will be stored in a locked cabinet at University College Dublin/Brock University. PhD students will only receive a version of what you have said that removes names/places and anything that the researchers believe will identify you.

Any personal data that we have about you (for example your phone number or email), will only be kept if you give us permission to contact you after the interview, for example to hear about project findings. Otherwise, it will be destroyed, and the project will not have further means of contacting you.

All personal information (telephone numbers, emails and addresses) will be kept confidential, and away from your transcript which will be given a number and not associated with your name. Identifying information about you will not be linked to your data or used in any reports of the research or in any publications that draw on the research. Personal information will be destroyed immediately after the data collection, unless you tell us to keep it. If you want a copy of your transcript, we will keep your personal data until that point and then destroy it, unless you tell us to keep it to be informed of the outcome of the research (see below).

You will be asked if you would like us to archive your data after the project. This means that your data will be stored for others to use, in line with the aims of the project. The data stored will not include any identifying details or personal information. However, we will need to keep your name and contact details to contact you if you want a copy of the transcript or to remove your data from the research. If you choose to be named, the data stored in the archive will include your name (but no other details).

Your consent form which contains your name and signature will be scanned and uploaded onto UCD servers. Only the PI and project manager will have access to these files. They will be kept for a period of 10 years after the conclusion of the research. Hardcopies of the files will be secured in locked files cabinets in secure buildings in Canada and Ireland during the research. At the conclusion of the research all consent forms will be stored in a secure location in UCD and destroyed with the online files 10 years after the conclusion of the research.

If, during the interview, you reveal to the researcher that you or someone else is in imminent danger, the researcher will be obliged to contact the relevant authorities. They will inform authorities of the danger they perceive even if this reveals data from the interview.

It should be recognized that, in some circumstances, 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 the University will take all reasonable steps within law to ensure that confidentiality is maintained.

### **What happens to my data if I take part in an online interview?**

As a result of Irish, UK and Canadian lockdown and social distancing measures during the coronavirus pandemic, the project team have moved to online interviews using phone or video-call platforms such as Zoom and Skype. Our overall ethics and privacy policies outlined elsewhere in this document remain the same. However, we have also listed below the additional steps we are taking to ensure your data is protected.

1. We have access to various platforms for interviews, such as Skype, Zoom or via a telephone call. The choice of platform will be discussed with you to select the most suitable option. We will check GDPR compliance with any platform that is used. Only platforms who have GDPR policies can be used.
2. You can decide whether or not to have your video switched on for the duration of the interview.
3. We will only audio record the interview. We will never record video data.
4. Audio recordings will be saved and stored securely on the researcher's encrypted, password protected laptop and on password protected, encrypted hard drives, with individual files being additionally password protected. Audio recordings will not be saved to any online cloud.
5. Prior to the interview, we will ask you to email the researcher with a copy of the completed consent form. We ask you to include an electronic signature or a typed signature, so long as the form is returned to us with an accompanying email from you. At the beginning of the interview, we will reiterate the content of the consent form to check that you agree with its terms and ask you to verbally confirm your consent.

For more information about our most commonly used platforms' specific approaches to data protection and privacy, please see:

- Skype: <https://www.skype.com/en/legal/> and <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/trust-center/privacy/gdpr-overview>
- Zoom: <https://zoom.us/gdpr>

### **Archiving the data**

With your permission, the de-identified transcripts that does not include identifying details (unless you choose to be named) will be archived at the end of the research project for use by the PI. Audio files and original transcripts will be destroyed 10 years after the conclusion of the research.

If you do not agree to information being archived, all of your interview materials, including de-identified transcripts will be destroyed 10 years after the conclusion of the project.

### **Will I be named or associated with the study?**

This is your choice. You will not be named in anything that is written or said about the research, unless you ask to be. You can tell us on the consent form if you want to be named. If you choose to be named, further details regarding the risks of being named will be given to you.

Whether you are named or not, personal details (like the exact places you live or work, names of friends, and so on) that may identify you will be taken out of any transcripts that are archived. If you choose to tell us identifying information (for example, if you talk about your experience at a particular school, in a particular class, with a particular person), when we use the information that you give us, we will not identify that school/person etc. by name. We also would not name a specific town or city or locale, but we might say 'North of England city/town' 'in rural Ireland' or in the Ontario region of Canada. We may name large cities like London, Toronto or Dublin, but we will not name specific locales within these cities. However, we cannot guarantee that you will not be recognized by someone who knows you, perhaps by the stories you tell or a specific way that you speak.

### **Can you change your mind and withdraw from the study?**

Your participation in this research is voluntary. You are free to refuse to take part at any time. If you initially partake and give us permission to keep your details, you are free to withdraw your permission to use the audio-taped interview in the research, without giving a reason, up until the research is completed. You may refuse to answer any questions and may stop taking part in the study at any time. As your personal data will be kept separately to your interview transcript, if you have told us to destroy your personal information, we will not be able to destroy the transcript and the de-identified research data that you have given us remains part of the project. Storage of Beyond Opposition Research Data complies with the secure backup requirement. This means that if your data has been backed up on the Beyond Opposition secured data server then that copy of your data will only be accessible if it is necessary to retrieve a data set from the backup, at which point your data will once again be deleted.

### **How will you find out what happens to this project?**

The project has an email list where anyone can join to be kept informed about the research. The email list will be used to send regular updates, repost media coverage, inform subscribers about papers and books that are published. You can sign up to the email list via the website [www.beyondopposition.org](http://www.beyondopposition.org)

### **Contact details to find out more**

To find out more about the project you can look at our webpage: [www.beyondopposition.org](http://www.beyondopposition.org).

If you have any questions about the research, you can ask the person interviewing you, or you can contact Professor Kath Browne, School of Geography, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland. Her email address is [kath.browne@ucd.ie](mailto:kath.browne@ucd.ie).

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 Research Ethics Committee at [research.ethics@ucd.ie](mailto:research.ethics@ucd.ie).

*For your information the joint Data Controllers for this research project is University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland and Brock University, St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada. University College Dublin's [gdpr@ucd.ie](mailto:gdpr@ucd.ie). University College Dublin Data Privacy policies can be found at <http://www.ucd.ie/gdpr/policiesprocedures/>.*



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### Consent Form – Beyond Opposition

I [type name] agree to participate in the research study *Beyond Opposition*.

Please mark each box with a cross ☒ to confirm that you agree with the statements below:

I understand that this interview is part of a research study that explores the experiences of people who have concerns about social and legal changes to sex, gender, sexualities and/or abortion. I am willing to be involved in this interview on a voluntary basis.

I confirm that I am over 18 and that I live in Ireland, the UK or Canada.

The study has been explained to me verbally & in writing. I've been able to ask questions, which were answered satisfactorily.

I give permission for my interview to be audio recorded.

I understand that the data will be stored in password protected files, on University College Dublin servers and (for Canadian data only) in Canada on encrypted password protected computers, in password protected files and on encrypted password protected hard drives and that for all data identifying details will be removed before the transcript is used by the researchers.

It has been explained to me how my data will be managed and that I can ask for a transcript (a written version of what was said) if I want one.

I understand that if I want a transcript that the researchers will keep personal data until the transcript is given to me.

I understand the limits of confidentiality as described in the information sheet.

I understand that I can withdraw from the interview at any time.

I consent to my interview being transcribed using secure software that uses a public cloud, and is fully GDPR and HIPPA compliant.

If the researchers keep my personal information, I understand that I can withdraw my data until the point that it appears in an output from the project, for example a presentation/report/publication.

**Please select what you would like the researchers to do with your interview. Please remember all interviews will have identifying details such as places, occupational details etc. removed**

	Yes	No
I understand that my interview responses, in a format that does not include my name, may be used in further research projects and any subsequent publications/presentations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I <b>agree</b> to quotation/publication of extracts from my interview- <b>select Yes</b> .  If I <b>do not</b> agree to quotation/publication of extracts from my interview. Researchers can only use summaries in their own words of what I said during the interview - <b>select No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would <b>like to be named</b> in this research and all outputs that come from it- select yes  I <b>do not want to be named</b> in this research and all outputs that come from it- select No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I <b>would like</b> my interview without identifying details (except your name where you want to be named) to be archived at the end of this research- select Yes  I <b>do not want my data to be archived</b> at the end of this research- Select No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I <b>would like</b> the researchers to keep my personal information and use a coding system to identify my interview in case I want to withdraw my consent – Select Yes  I <b>do not</b> want the researchers to keep my personal information and use a coding system to identify my interview in case I want to withdraw my consent -Select No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**FOR ONLINE OR TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS: Please select what you would like the researchers to do with your interview. Please remember all interviews will have identifying details such as places, occupational details etc. removed.**

	Yes	No
I understand that the researchers have access to various platforms for interviews, such as Skype, Zoom or via a telephone call, and that online platforms with GDPR policies can be used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The choice of platform has been discussed with me and the most suitable option has been agreed upon.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that I can decide whether or not to have their video switched on for the duration of the interview.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that the interviewer will only record audio and will never record video.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I understand that I will inform the researchers prior to the interview starting if I also want to record the interview.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that audio recordings will not be saved to any cloud but will be saved and stored securely on the researcher's password protected computer and encrypted password protected hard drive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that prior to the interview, I must email the researcher with a copy of the completed consent form with an electronic signature or a typed signature with an accompanying email.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed [please insert electronic signature]:

Date:

Participant name in block capitals:

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**FOR THE RESEARCHER**

*I the undersigned have taken the time to fully explain to the above participant the nature and purpose of this study in a manner that they could understand. I have explained the risks involved as well as the possible benefits. I have invited them to ask questions on any aspect of the study that concerned them. I have rechecked that they consent to being involved at the end of the interview*

Signed [please insert electronic signature]:

Date:

Researcher name in block capitals:

*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 Ethics Committee at [research.ethics@ucd.ie](mailto:research.ethics@ucd.ie). or +353 (0)1 716 8767. Please be assured that your concerns will be dealt with in a sensitive manner.*

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