

Appendix D



Doctoral Research Student –
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Supervisor – Dr Andy Williams.
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Study Title: A Scold's Bridle – A contextual constructionist account of the silencing of activist feminist discourse on the proposed changes to the Gender Recognition Act 2004 and the potential impact on female only services for victims of male violence.

Dear ***,

I would like to invite you to participate in a research study. My name is Shonagh Dillon and I am a student researcher currently undertaking my Professional Doctorate in Criminal Justice at the University of Portsmouth.

I have identified you to be a suitable participant in my research into the silencing of feminist discourse on the proposed changes to the Gender Recognition Act 2004 and the impact on the Violence Against Women Sector, in particular female only services for victims of male violence.

I am a radical feminist and have worked in the violence against women sector for over two decades. My research aims to understand the discourse created on the proposed changes to the Gender Recognition Act 2004 and the change of a move towards self-ID of sex. My research focuses on the possible impact or consequences this may have on female only services for victims of male violence.

Please refer to my information sheet for further details, if you do decide to take part I will require your informed consent at the beginning of our interview.

If you could respond using my university email address Shonagh.dillon@myport.ac.uk stating whether you agree to take part in the research project or not.

There is no obligation to take part in this research project and I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this invitation letter irrespective of your decision of whether to agree to be interviewed or not.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shonagh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shonagh Dillon

**Participant Information Sheet –
10/01/19 v2**

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Tel no: 07919542644

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Study Title: A Scold's Bridle – A contextual constructionist account of the silencing of activist feminist discourse on the proposed changes to the Gender Recognition Act 2004 and the potential impact on female only services for victims of male violence.

I would like to invite you to take part in my research study. Before you decide I would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Talk to others about the study if you wish. Ask me if there is anything that is not clear

My study is aimed at assessing the silencing of radical feminist discourse on the proposed changes to the Gender Recognition Act 2004 and the impact on female only services for victims of male violence.

What is the purpose of the study?

As part of my Professional Doctorate I am required to undertake research project in my chosen field. This will enable me to achieve my goal of writing a thesis and gaining my doctoral qualification.

The researchers position

I am a radical feminist and have worked in the violence against women sector for over two decades. My research aims to understand the discourse created on the proposed changes to the Gender Recognition Act 2004 and the change of a move towards self-ID of sex. My research focuses on the possible impact or consequences this may have on female only services for victims of male violence.

Why have I been invited?

You have been invited to take part in this study as an activist or contributor who has been involved in campaigning and or supporting either side of the debate around the proposed changes to the GRA and your objection or support of sex Self-ID.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide to join the study. I will describe the study and go through this information sheet. If you agree to take part, I will then ask you to sign a consent form.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you agree to take part, we will organise a time for you to be interviewed by me in a semi-structured style. This basically means that I will have guidance questions for us which we can use to explore your views and discuss the research topic in more detail.

I would aim to keep our interview to around 45 minutes so as not to interrupt your time too much. The interview will involve the use of audio taping, so I can fully participate in our discussion without taking notes. I will not identify you in my research findings and will ensure your information is kept confidential.

My research phase will commence from February 5th, 2019, with the analyses and write up phase commencing on 30th November 2019. The submission date for my project is July 2020.

Expenses and payments

N/A

What will I have to do?

The only requirement I have of you as a participant is to agree to be interviewed for approximately forty-five minutes at an agreeable and convenient time for you. As part of my study requirements I will keep a reflective diary of my research but again I will ensure that you are not identifiable within any notes I may make.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

I fully respect that you are an incredibly busy person therefore the sheer inconvenience of taking part in the research may prove to be a disadvantage for you.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

I hope that the research I undertake will lead to a better understanding of the effect and impact the current discourse may have on services in the Violence Against Women Sector, in particular for female victims of male violence. Findings would be of benefit to policy makers, and those charged with the practical application, of any new law.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

In terms of the body of the research if I directly quote anything you say I will always use a participant number and never attribute any quotes to your name.

If you join the study, it is possible that some of the data collected will be looked at by authorised persons from University of Portsmouth. Data may also be looked at by authorised people to check that the study is being carried out correctly. I will have a duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant and we will do their best to meet this duty.

Your data will be kept securely

- it will be stored securely, with coded references attached to your personal details
- it will be used for the purposes of this study. If you agree for me to keep your details to contact, you for research in the future I will keep this separately from the research project on a secure computer.
- Only authorised persons such as myself and my supervisors will have access to the data
- I will securely retain the original consent forms for 10 years from completion of the study. The research data will be retained for 10 years in accordance with the UoP Retention Schedule for Research Data.
- All participant data will be kept anonymous. If offenders are discussed, information will be kept anonymous unless a crime has been committed that has the potential to endanger the lives of any member of the public. If such a disclosure takes place, the interview will be immediately terminated, and the police informed with the consent of the victim.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

You will be able to withdraw your consent to take part in the research up until completion of data analysis this should ensure adequate time prior to analysis of the research being written up.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to me or my supervisor, Dr Andy Williams, who will do their best to answer your questions [02392 843067]. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science Ethics (FHSS) committee via email, Ethics-fhss@port.ac.uk and if you are still not satisfied with the response you can go to the Chair of the FHSS committee, Richard Hitchcock via email richard.hitchcock@port.ac.uk.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The thesis will be shared with you as a participant. This research is primarily for the purposes of gaining a doctoral qualification. There is potential to write up my research project for potential publication and dissemination, if any or all of my project is accepted for publication I will not identify you unless you have agreed for this to happen.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is being funded by myself and supported by the University of Portsmouth as part of my Professional Doctorate study.

Who has reviewed the study?

Research in the University of Portsmouth is looked at by independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Ethics committee.

Further information and contact details

I appreciate that my research topic is sensitive and may have personally affected you in your life. Therefore, I have included some support services should you wish to contact them at any time.

Details of organisations include:

National Domestic Abuse helpline – 24hrs – 0808 2000 247

National Rape Crisis Helpline – 0808 802 9999

Respect helpline – support for perpetrators – 0808 802 4040

Galop – The LGBT Anti-Violence Charity – 0800 999 5428

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read the information sheet regardless of your decision to participate or not. If you do decide to participate you will be given a copy of the information sheet to keep and your consent will be sought.

Consent Form
V2
10/01/19

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CONSENT FORM

Title of Project: A Scold's Bridle – A contextual constructionist account of the silencing of activist feminist discourse on the proposed changes to the Gender Recognition Act 2004 and the potential impact on female only services for victims of male violence.

Name and Contact Details of Researcher(s): Shonagh Dillon – Shonagh.dillon@myport.ac.uk

Name and Contact Details of Supervisor: Dr Andy Williams Andy.williams@myport.ac.uk

Ethics Committee Reference Number:

Please
initial box

I confirm that I have read and understood the information sheet dated 10/01/19 (version 2) for the above study. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily.

I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw until up to two weeks after the interview and/or until the commencement of the data analysis, without giving any reason.

I understand that data collected during this study, *could* be requested and looked at by regulatory authorities. I give my permission for any authority, with a legal right of access, to view data which

identify me. Any promises of confidentiality provided by the researcher will be respected.

I understand that the results of this study may be published and / or presented at meetings or academic conferences and may be provided to research commissioners or funders. I give my

consent for my anonymous data, which does not identify me, to be disseminated in this way.

I agree to the data I contribute being retained for any future research that has been approved by a

Research Ethics Committee.

I consent for my interview to be audio recorded. The recording will be transcribed and analysed for the purposes of the research and will be retained securely for a ten-year period.

I consent to verbatim quotes being used in publications; I will not be named but I understand that there is a risk that I could be identified.

I understand that all participant data will be kept anonymous. If offences are discussed, information will be kept anonymous unless a crime has been committed that has the potential to endanger the lives of any member of the public. If such a disclosure takes place, the interview will be immediately terminated, and the police informed with the consent of the victim.

I agree to take part in the above study.

Dissemination of Results

I would like to receive further information about the results of the study.

Name of Participant:

Date:

Signature:

Name of Person taking consent:

Date:

Signature:

(When completed: 1 for participant; 1 for researchers file)