



Out There: A Study of LGBTQ Educators Working Overseas

Dear Potential Study Participant:

The overall purpose of this research project is to understand how Canadian LGBTQ educators working in non-Western countries (referred to as LGBTQ international educators) navigate their sexuality and gender difference as they cross borders into their new workplaces and communities. The project objectives are to: (1) identify how the geo- and socio-political landscapes of the destination context influence LGBTQ international educators; (2) analyze LGBTQ international educators' articulation of their sexuality and gender identity-difference in their workplaces and communities; and (3) determine the usefulness of qualitative and participatory research methods involving LGBTQ international educators. By means of a qualitative grounded theory framework, and placing safety as a core project value, we will use interviews, photovoice, and individual reflection sessions to compare and analyze the experiences of LGBTQ educators with each other as they cross borders from one country to the next.

We are recruiting 20-30 Canadian LGBTQ international educators who come from various sexuality and gender backgrounds. Study participants must hold a paid instructor position within an international organization or program and can come from primary, secondary, post-secondary, or adult education contexts. Selection criteria for this study are: (1) identification as being an LGBTQ Canadian, (2) confirmation to work in a non-Western country (e.g., in Asia, Africa, Middle East, South America) as an international educator (teaching English or a certain subject), and (3) an intention to work abroad for at least one year. LGBTQ educators with prior international experience will be accepted into the study in order to provide advanced insight.

Data will be collected in three phases:

1. Study participants will experience an in-depth, recorded 1-hour interview via teleconference prior to departure that will focus on their current negotiation of identity in Canada and how the destination country and workplace will influence their knowledge, aims, practices, perceptions, and assumptions.
2. Study participants will take photographs one month before, as they cross international borders, and up to one month after arrival. Known as "photovoice", this research method invites participants to identify and narrate issues of significance in their lives through pictures you may take while crossing borders to teach internationally. This means that you can take photos of public monuments, spaces, and texts that resonate with you as an LGBTQ person. Digital cameras will be provided to each participant for this purpose and as the funding agency deems such materials property of the university, the cameras will be returned via pre-paid postage at the conclusion of the study. Study participants will use photographs to investigate their interactions within various spaces and with certain people and organizations.
3. Study participants will complete an in-depth individual reflection session (1 hour) that

has them select key photos, explain concepts, and participate with researchers in a critical dialogue via teleconference within two months after relocation. In this phase, we will ask why certain photographs were meaningful, what the underlying tensions were, how the images relate to gender or sexuality, compare the varied situations each participant experienced, and how situations were ameliorated. Interviews and reflection sessions will be recorded and transcribed for accuracy.

Participants will be given the opportunity to review, clarify, and edit all transcripts (2 transcripts) within a month before all digital data is destroyed (i.e., 05/2018). Participants will have 3 weeks to review the transcriptions.

Please note that you are under no obligation to participate in this research. If you decide not to participate, you may withdraw at any time without penalty. Consent may be withdrawn verbally or in writing and your data will be destroyed and not included in any reports generated by the study. There are minimal risks to participating in this study. We will mitigate any potential risk by (1) allowing for participants to use personal, non-institutional emails to send photographs, (2) uploading photographs to a University of Manitoba secure web portal, and (3) following participant choices in what they decide to share with the research team given their legal and social context.

If you decide to participate, please sign the consent form that will be sent to you. If so desired, you will be provided with a summary of the research findings within two months of the completion of the project (i.e., by December 2019).

This research has been approved by the Education/Nursing Research Ethics Board. If you have any concerns or complaints about this project, you may contact Dr. Robert Mizzi at 1-204-474-9042 or robert.mizzi@umanitoba.ca or Dr. Clea Schmidt at 1-204-474-9314 or clea.schmidt@umanitoba.ca or the Human Ethics Coordinator (HEC) at 1-204-474-7122 or email: humanethics@umanitoba.ca.

Sincerely,



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