

Liberating Histories:

Women's Movement Magazines, Media Activism and Periodical Pedagogies

Reader Testimonies Information Sheet



Overview: aims and intentions

Liberating Histories is the first comprehensive study of feminist print activism in the UK from the beginnings of the Women's Liberation Movement in 1968 to the present day. The project develops new methodologies for interpreting print and digital media and adapts these methodologies for teaching media literacy skills in the classroom. Distinctively, this project not only draws on existing periodical archives, but also works in collaboration with the creators and consumers of feminist periodicals to generate a new archive of resources that will be made publicly accessible via the project website. These resources include filmed public events, podcasts, digitised content from feminist periodicals, first-person testimonies from activists past and present, and an innovative 'Periodical Pedagogies' toolkit to facilitate the study of periodicals by scholars and students. Liberating Histories will define the role that feminist periodicals have played in debates about gender-based violence, reproductive rights and intersectionality, while connecting these issues to contemporary campaigns such as #MeToo, #WhyIStayed and #EverydaySexism.

With its focus on post-1968 periodicals, Liberating Histories is uniquely poised to capitalise on the existence of a living readership. By putting out calls through mailing lists, feminist organisations, and media outlets, the project will invite a range of readers to create written, audio or video testimonies to share their views about feminist periodicals. Contributors will deposit their testimonies on the project website, creating a rich, expandable and freely accessible archive of readers' voices that will be of substantial use and interest to scholars, practitioners and the public alike. The Women's Library will host some elements of this archive of original testimony and pedagogic resources, ensuring they remain publicly accessible beyond the duration of the project.

Who

The Liberating Histories Project team are:

Name	Role
Dr Victoria Bazin	Principal Investigator
Dr Melanie Waters	Co-Investigator
Professor Kaitlynn Mendes	Co-Investigator
Dr Eleanor Careless	Research Fellow

The Recording

Participants will be provided with a participant information sheet in advance which will outline the purpose of collecting reader testimonials, how we intend to use the recordings in future, personal data and confidentiality. They will be given the opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns with the project team (see contact details below) and informed of their right to withdraw from participation in the project at any point, without giving a reason, up until the project completes in 2024.

After recording a reader testimonial, the team will carry out work to store and preserve the recordings and accompanying material. Members of the project team will review material to ensure compliance with GDPR requirements.

Personal data and confidentiality

'Personal data' is any information which can identify you and can include information such as your name, gender, date of birth, address/postcode or other information such as your opinions or thoughts. This data will most likely relate to you, the interviewee, but your interview may also potentially contain data that will identify other living individuals.

We will collect and store any personal data in accordance with the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 which legislate to protect your personal information. The legal basis upon which we are processing your personal information is "public interest task" (Article 6 of the UK GDPR) and "for research purposes" (Article 9 of the UK GDPR) if sensitive information is collected. Sensitive or 'special category' information can include your ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious or political beliefs, trade union membership, or physical or mental health.

All data collected will be stored securely and be accessible only to members of the project team.

Questions and complaints

If you have any questions or concerns in the first instance you should contact Victoria Bazin, the project lead (victoria.bazin@northumbria.ac.uk).

