



Research invitation: Take part in research on LGBTIAQ+ break-ups

You are invited to take part in a study titled 'Where the rainbow ends: The becoming of LGBTIAQ+ separations'. Relationship break-ups among lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, intersex, asexual and queer (LGBTIAQ+) people are a largely unresearched topic. This study seeks to gain a deeper understanding of how LGBTIAQ+ people experience separations, what their life situations are after a separation and what kind of support they receive and/or wish they received during a separation. To highlight the importance of the cultural context, the study explores LGBTIAQ+ break-ups in two locations: Finland and the UK.

I am interested to hear about your separation experiences—whether your break-up was easy, difficult or relieving (or something else). You can take part in the study if you have experienced a separation from, for example, an intimate relationship, a couple relationship, a non-monogamous/polyamorous relationship, an affair, a fling or family. What is important is that the separation mattered to you, not whether it was regarded as significant or insignificant by others. You can also participate if your relationship looked like a heterosexual relationship but included themes related to LGBTIAQ+ in one way or another—for example, you or your partner/s were figuring out/processing your sexualities or genders during the relationship, or your current partner's gender is different from that of your previous partner.

If you agree to participate in this research, you will be invited to take part in an interview with me, Annukka Lahti (principal researcher), over Zoom/telephone or in person. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the in-person interviews will be conducted in places which offer privacy and where it is possible to keep a safe distance of about 2 metres—for example, in University of Sussex meeting rooms or in a peaceful café or a park. In the interview, you will be asked about the separation process and your experience of it, as well as the kind of social support you received during the break-up. You will also be asked about your social networks before and after the separation. The interview will last approximately 2 hours and will be audio- or video-recorded.

I am committed to the ethical principles of research involving human participants. All the information shared in the interviews will remain confidential. Participation in the study is entirely voluntary, and you can withdraw from the study at any time. The interview recordings will be transcribed, and pseudonyms will be used for all personal data (names, places, workplaces, etc.). Other details that might lead to the identification of participants will also be changed.

I am conducting this research as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Eastern Finland, but I am also a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Sussex (1.4.2022–31.5.2022). I have previously successfully interviewed 30 separated LGBTIAQ+ people in Finland and will now be conducting interviews in the UK as well.

Because not all separated LGBTIAQ+ people can be reached through LGBTIAQ+ organisations' websites or mailing lists, you can share this invitation on social media or forward it to your friends.

Best regards,

Annukka Lahti

Postdoctoral researcher, University of Eastern Finland

Visiting Research Fellow, University of Sussex

Email: annukka.lahti@uef.fi

Home page: <https://uefconnect.uef.fi/en/person/annukka.lahti/>



Illustration: 'Break-up Island', Sirpa Varis