

Chief Investigator: **Dr Thomas Baudinette, Senior Lecturer in Japanese and International Studies**

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM

Name of Project: **Exploring K-pop Fandom as a Space for LGBT Support in the Asia-Pacific During Pandemic Times**

You are invited to participate in a study of Philippine K-pop fans from the sexual minority community (hereafter, LGBT community). The purpose of the study is to explore how K-pop fandom provides consumers from sexual minority groups with resources to both make sense of their gendered and sexual identities and fight their discrimination by mainstream, heteronormative society (that is, a homophobic society which is grounded in the idea that only heterosexuality is “natural”). Further, the project considers these questions in light of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic to provide insights into the role Korean popular culture has played in improving the mental health of consumers around the globe.

The study is being conducted by Dr Thomas Baudinette, Senior Lecturer in Japanese and International Studies in the Department of Media, Communication, Creative Arts, Language, and Literature, Macquarie University. He may be contacted via phone (during office hours) at **+61 2 9850 8813** or via email (at any time) at tom.baudinette@mq.edu.au. The project has been generously funded by the 2022 Korean Studies Grant Program of the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS-2022-R-033).

If you decide to join this research project, you will be invited to participate in an interview of approximately one-hour duration with the chief investigator or a local research assistant concerning your consumption and understanding of K-pop in light of your experiences as a member of the LGBT community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The interview will be conducted online utilising the Zoom conference management system (audio only). The interviews will consist of a series of open-ended questions relating to your fandom and its impact on how you understand your development as a member of the LGBT community within the Philippines context during the COVID-19 pandemic. Interviews will be conducted in English. If required, you may be invited to conduct a second, follow-up interview that will be conducted similarly to the first. This follow-up interview is optional, and you will only be contacted if you consent to be contacted in advance.

The interviews will be audio-recorded with your verbal consent and will be subsequently transcribed by an external transcription firm after having identifying information wiped. At the commencement of the recording, you will be asked to re-consent to provide a record of your consent to be interviewed. If you do not wish to be audio-recorded, the interviewer will instead take written notes of the interview in a research journal. You may ask to view the interview transcripts at any time. You may delete anything from the transcript that you wish and may withdraw from the project without penalty. You can also add to the transcript and clarify your statements. Both the audio data and transcripts will be securely stored within a secure Microsoft Sharepoint Drive with high level of encryption to which only the chief investigator has access.

It is expected that very little risk or discomfort will arise during the interview, although there is a potential to reflect upon sensitive issues. If you are uncomfortable at any time before, during, or after the interview, you may withdraw from the project with no stated reason or consequences to you. In cases of withdrawal, any data gathered will be confidentially destroyed. In recognition of your generous participation in this project, you will be offered a 750-peso voucher from National Bookstore at the end of the first interview.

Any information or personal details gathered in the course of the study are confidential, as required by Australian federal and state law. No individual will be identified in any publication of the results, with data being anonymised to the best of the chief investigator’s ability via pseudonyms. The audio data will not be published. Only anonymised transcripts will be utilised in any publications deriving from this research.

A summary of the results of the data can be made available to you on request via email or via a face-to-face discussion, as appropriate.

The chief investigator may wish to speak to you again for future projects relating to Korean popular culture in the Philippines. If you consent to be contacted for future projects, please let the interviewer know at the conclusion of the interview.

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary: you are not obliged to participate and if you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without having to give a reason and without consequence. If you withdraw from the project, the data collected from you will be destroyed.

If, for any reason and at any time, participating in this project has caused you any discomfort or distress, you may wish to contact a counsellor. You may choose to contact the Counseling Service at the Centre for Women and Gender Studies at University of the Philippines on +63917.7953274. This service is a free mental health counselling service specialising in supporting women and LGBT individuals. Furthermore, Dr Kristine Michelle Santos of Ateneo de Manila University has also offered to act as a liaison for other counselling services as required, and is available to support you in Filipino/Tagalog if required. Dr Santos can be reached via email: kmsantos@ateneo.edu. Finally, if you are concerned about a face-to-face counselling experience you may wish to contact one of the many mental health counselling hotlines or online services attached over the page.

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Macquarie University Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any complaints or reservations about any ethical aspect of your participation in this research, you may contact the Committee through the Director, Research Ethics & Integrity (telephone (02) 9850 7854; email ethics@mq.edu.au). Any complaint you make will be treated in confidence and investigated, and you will be informed of the outcome.

If any of the contents of this form is unclear to you, you may contact Dr Kristine Michell Santos via email to arrange Filipino language support and translation.

(INVESTIGATOR'S [OR PARTICIPANT'S] COPY)

Anonymous Mental Health Support Services

The following general mental health support services have been provided and recommended by the [Ateneo Bulatao Center for Psychological Services](#). Each of the services listed below is accredited by the [Philippines Psychiatric Association](#) (PPA) and provides free crisis counselling and other mental health support services. Each service provides anonymous support over the phone (and sometimes online) as well as formal counselling. Counselling services can be provided in both English and Filipino/Tagalog.

Please note: Unlike the [Counseling Service of the Centre for Women and Gender Studies, University of the Philippines](#), the services listed below do not specifically specialise in counselling related to issues concerning sexuality and/or gender identity. They are, however, competent at dealing with such issues as a requirement for their accreditation with the PPA.

Services:

SERVICE	CONTACT DETAIL(S)
Manila Lifeline Centre (Crisis Line)	(02) 8969191
	(0917) 8549191
HOPELINE Project (Counselling)	(02) 894-4673
	(0917) 558-4673
	www.ngf-hope.org
Dial-a-Friend (Counselling)	(02) 5251743
	(02) 5251881
Anxiety and Depression Support Philippines	http://facebook.com/ADSP.page
(Counselling and Support)	http://facebook.com/adsp.requests
In-touch Community Services	https://www.in-touch.org/
(Crisis Line)	(02) 8937603
	(02) 5067314
	(02) 3468776
	(0917) 8001123
	(0922) 8938944
Philippine Psychiatric Association (PPA)	www.philpsych.ph
(Counselling)	(02)6359858