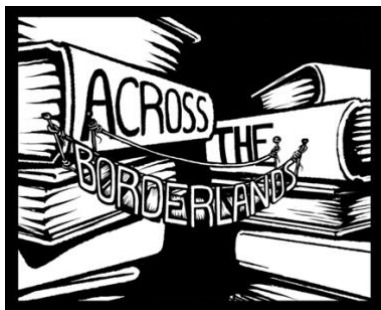




Participant Information Sheet



**Study title: Across the borderlands:
Scholars' experiences of
interdisciplinary collaborations**

Principal Investigators: Dr. Julie Spray and Dr. Laura McLauchlan

Dear potential participant,

We are two anthropologists: Julie Spray from the University of Galway in Ireland and Laura McLauchlan from Macquarie University in Australia. We are seeking participants for our study of scholars' experiences of interdisciplinary collaborations.

We would like to interview scholars representing diverse disciplines and countries about your experiences and observations of working in interdisciplinary spaces.

This Participant Information Sheet will help you decide if you would like to take part in this study. It sets out we are doing the study, what your participation would involve, what the benefits and risks might be, and what will happen after the study ends. I will go through this information with you and answer any questions you may have.

Whether or not you take part is your choice. If you don't want to take part, you don't have to give a reason, and declining to participate will not affect any relationship you may have with the researchers. You also do not have to decide today whether or not you will participate in this study.

If you agree to take part in this study, we will ask you to sign the Consent Form on the last page of this document and return it to us by email. You will be given a copy of both the Participant Information Sheet and the Consent Form to keep.

WHAT IS THE STUDY ABOUT?

Interdisciplinary collaborations are increasingly encouraged by institutions and funding bodies. However, interdisciplinary teamwork also comes with unique challenges that can influence the way knowledge is produced and translated. We aim to understand what happens to disciplinary knowledge—how it is activated, translated, or marginalised—through various social and structural processes. This is important because understanding the processes of interdisciplinary knowledge production can inform how we train future scholars for interdisciplinary teamwork.

For this study, we wish to hear the experiences of scholars from across disciplines.

HOW IS THE STUDY DESIGNED?



We will be focusing on anthropology as a case study, however we seek to interview scholars from diverse disciplines regardless of whether your colleagues have included anthropologists.

We hope to interview:

1. Up to 30 PhD-holding scholars who identify as anthropologists and have experience working in interdisciplinary spaces (teams, projects, departments)
2. Up to 30 PhD-holding scholars who do not identify as anthropologists and who have experience working in interdisciplinary spaces.

The study will take place over 36 months, finishing in November 2026.

WHO CAN TAKE PART IN THE STUDY?

You are invited to participate if you are a PhD-holding scholar from any country or discipline who has experience working in interdisciplinary spaces.

WHAT WILL MY PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY INVOLVE?

If you agree to participate in the study, we will arrange an interview over Zoom at a convenient time for you. Depending on your time zone and any personal or professional relationships, we will arrange the interview with either Julie or Laura.

In the interview, we will ask you to tell us about your discipline and your experiences and perceptions of interdisciplinarity, and what is particularly challenging about interdisciplinary work for scholars of your discipline. If you are not an anthropologist, we will also ask about your perceptions of anthropologists (you don't have to have worked with an anthropologist before – we are interested to know how anthropologists *might* be able to contribute to different kinds of interdisciplinary work). We will provide the questions ahead of time in case you would like to reflect on them first, but you do not have to. You can skip any question you do not wish to answer.

We expect the interview will take around 1-2 hours, but you are welcome to stipulate any time constraints you have and you can end the interview at any time.

We will audio record our Zoom conversation. You may ask to stop the audio recorder at any time.

We or a professional transcriber will transcribe the conversation. If you wish, you can review the transcript and make any edits within a two week period.

You will also have the option to give us permission to contact you for a follow up interview within one year of your initial interview. You don't need to commit to this follow up interview now, and you can decide not to go ahead with the follow up interview when the time comes.



WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS OF THIS STUDY?

One risk of participating in this study is that confidential information about your experiences may be accidentally disclosed. As interdisciplinary scholars ourselves, we know that this work can be difficult but also involves valuable professional relationships that need to be protected. We hold a deep ethical commitment to protecting participant confidentiality and caring for the professional interests and relationships of our participants. We will not disclose your participation or use your real name or any identifying details in any published work. You will have an opportunity to review your interview transcript and add instructions about how you would like any of your experiences to be de-identified or guidance about how you would like us to use your stories. If we are concerned your participation may constitute a conflict of interest, for example, due to a prior relationship you may have with either researcher, we will discuss this with you to ensure the conflict of interest is manageable.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF THIS STUDY?

There are no direct benefits for participating in this study. Your contributions may help to improve training and professional development for scholars working in interdisciplinary spaces.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY INFORMATION?

Only Dr. Spray will have access to the interview recordings. If the recordings are transcribed by a professional transcriber they will sign a confidentiality agreement.

Any identifiable information we gather about you will be kept confidential, and will not be made public.

Identifiable information is any data that could identify you (e.g. your name, institution, or place of residence). Only the research team will have access to your identifiable information.

To make sure your personal information is kept confidential, identifiable information will not be included in any publications. Instead, you will be identified by a code and pseudonym. We will keep a list linking your code with your name, so that we can identify your data if you would like to withdraw some or all of your information. This list will be password protected. However, confidentiality of information provided cannot be absolutely guaranteed by researchers and can only be protected within the limitations of the law.

Information you have consented to share will be used to identify social and other challenges to interdisciplinary academic work. The results of the study may be published or presented, but not in a form that would reasonably be expected to identify you.

Security and Storage of Your Information.

Your identifiable information is held at the University of Galway during the study. Dr. Spray will store the original recordings on a password-protected, cloud-based secure server for seven years after the completion of the study, after which time they will be permanently deleted. Only Dr. Spray will have access to the recordings. Coded study information will also be stored on a password-protected, cloud-based secure server for seven years after the completion of the study, after which time they will be permanently deleted. Only the research team will have access to coded study information. All storage will comply with local and/or international data security guidelines.



WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END OF THE STUDY?

A summary of study findings will be made available to all participants within one year after the research has finished.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CHANGE MY MIND DURING THE STUDY?

You may withdraw your consent for your participation at any time without giving a reason, and withdraw any or all data pertaining to you up to six months after your interview date.

WHO HAS APPROVED THE STUDY?

This study has been approved by the University of Galway Research Ethics Committee (REC), reference number 2023.10.016.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CHANGE MY MIND DURING THE STUDY?

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about the study at any stage, you can contact:

Principal Investigator: Dr. Julie Spray, Lecturer, School of Education

Address: EDU-1010, Education Building, Nun's Island, Galway

Email: julie.spray@universityofgalway.ie

If you have a complaint, in the first instance, you should contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Julie Spray. If you do not feel that your complaint has been resolved, you may contact the Head of School, Michal Molcho, email michal.molcho@universityofgalway.ie

If you have any concerns about this study and wish to contact someone independent and in confidence, you may contact 'the Chairperson of the University of Galway Research Ethics Committee, c/o Office of the Vice President for Research, University of Galway, ethics@universityofgalway.ie

You can find more information about the University of Galway data protection policies at this webpage:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/data-protection/>

Contact Details for University of Galway Data Protection Officer:

The Data Protection Officer,
University of Galway, Room A129,
The Quadrangle,
University of Galway,
University Road,
Galway

Email: dataprotection@universityofgalway.ie

If you have concerns about your data protection you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner. Website: <https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/contact/how-contact-us>



Consent Form

Study title: Working across the borderlands: Scholars' experiences of interdisciplinary collaborations

Principal Investigator: Dr. Julie Spray

THIS FORM WILL BE HELD FOR A PERIOD OF 7 YEARS

Please sign to indicate you consent to the following:

I have read the Participant Information Sheet, have understood the nature of the research and why I have been selected. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have had them answered to my satisfaction. I have had at least 24 hours to consider my decision to participate in the study.

- I agree to take part in this study Yes ☐ No ☐
- I understand that I may withdraw myself or any of my data from the study at any time up to six months after my interview date
- I agree that my interview may be audio recorded. I understand that any audio recordings of my interview will be kept confidential and will not be published.
- I understand that my participation in this study is confidential and that my name, institution, or any identifying details will not be used in any reports on this study. I understand that confidentiality of information provided cannot be absolutely guaranteed by researchers and can only be protected within the limitations of the law.
- I wish to review a copy of my transcript. I understand that any edits to my transcript must be returned within 2 weeks Yes ☐ No ☐
- I give the researchers permission to contact me for a follow up interview within one year of my original interview. I understand that I am free to decline the follow up interview invitation. Yes ☐ No ☐
- I wish to receive a summary of the findings from the study. Yes ☐ No ☐

Declaration by participant:

I hereby consent to taking part in this study.

Participant name: _____

Participant signature: _____ Date: _____