

Participant Information Sheet

Research Title: *Out there, back then: narratives of time, space, and belonging in Outback Queensland, Australia.*

Principal Investigator: Dr Alana Breklemans, sessional academic, School of Social Science, University of Queensland

Chief Investigator: Dr Richard Martin, Director, UQCHU & Senior Lecturer, School of Social Science, University of Queensland

I am Alana Breklemans, a researcher in anthropology (the study of cultures) at the University of Queensland. I was born in Muluridji country at Mareeba, grew up in Gangulu country at Dululu, and now spend most of my time in Turrbal and Jagera country in Brisbane/Meanjin. But for a long time my family lived on Mitakoodi and Yulluna country. My grandfather was Owen Jefferis, who once lived at Elrose Station and ran the indoor cricket centre in Cloncurry. I am thankful to have the opportunity to visit Cloncurry and learn more about the people here, and I pay my respects to the traditional owners.

I am currently researching stories about life in Cloncurry and North West Queensland. I would like to invite you to read the following information about the project so that you can decide whether you would like to learn more about the research or take part in this research. Please feel free to ask me any questions you might have.

If you decide to participate in this research, please keep in mind that your participation is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to stop at any time, and you would not need to give any explanation for your decision to stop participating. If you choose to stop participating, what we discuss and any information collected about you will not be used in the research.

You will be given the Participant Information and Consent Form to sign and you will be given a copy to keep. Your decision whether you take part, or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the University of Queensland.

What is this research about?

This project looks at the ways groups of people narrate time, place, and belonging in Outback Australia. I ask questions about how people tell stories about histories and environments and what this means for ideas of belonging. I hope to better understand how different people tell stories about places and belonging in place, and how people might build a future together. This research builds on research that I conducted in North West Queensland in 2017, and is self-funded.

What will I need to do?

If you agree to participate, I will ask you what level of participation you would feel most comfortable with. This will generally involve me meeting you at a place of your choosing, where you feel most comfortable. You may bring friends or family if you like. I will ask you about the history of the region, your home or property, and your family. I will also ask you about places that are important to you, what belonging means to you, and what an Outback identity looks like. I will record the interview and take notes. If you do not wish the interview to be recorded, I will take notes.

I may also ask if you would like to engage in ‘participant observation’. In participant observation I will join or observe you as you undertake activities in your home, property, or community. This is so that she can gain a better understanding of what life in an Outback community looks like. For instance, I may ask if I can assist with work you are undertaking so that she can understand your work day, or attend a community event with you to learn more about how people in the region socialise. Throughout this time, I might take notes and photographs. If you do not wish me to take photographs or if there is anything you would not like me to include in the research, you can let me know and I will follow your wishes.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

This research contributes to academic debates about belonging and identity in settler-colonial states. Participants may receive a copy of the audio, transcripts, or notes of the interview or participant observation for their own records. I will also happily record and transcribe oral histories for participants to pass on to family members or work with you and your family on local projects.

What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?

There is some risk that through the course of the interview or participant observation we may discuss topics that you find distressing. If this is the case, you may tell me and we will stop the discussion. I will also assist you to access free mental health services. Prior to meeting for an interview, we will discuss how you will feel most supported. This may be by having a friend or family member present, or it might be by having an Indigenous health professional present. I can arrange for an Indigenous health worker to be present during our conversation, or to visit you after we talk.

There is some risk that contentious opinions or histories will be raised that others in the community may disagree with. If this is the case, I will discuss with you how others might see the issue, and whether you think there would be any issues with writing about your opinions or histories.

What will happen to the information about me?

All information collected about you will remain confidential. Given the small number of participants/rare identifying factors of your data, it might not be possible to guarantee complete anonymity. Unless you specifically tell me that you would like me to use your real name, I will use a pseudonym and may choose not to represent some things about you so others cannot tell who I am talking about.

Electronic data will be stored on a secure UQ storage site (UQRDM). Hard copies will be stored in a locked desk. Transcripts and notes will be coded in a way that removes your name and details. Data will be kept for future research projects that I conduct on similar topics. This means that in the future, I may draw on my conversations with you to write other papers or books (for instance, she may compare the opinions shared in Cloncurry in 2021 with those shared in another place in the future).

Only Alana Brekelmans and Richard Martin will have access to the data.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forms. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, except with your expressed permission.

Who will own the information gathered as part of this research?

As long as I still have your permission, I will have the rights to use the information I gather as part of this research in my writing and will look after the stories and observations I collect. It will not be owned by the university. But you own your own stories. If you participate in an interview with me, I will share the audio recording, transcript and/or notes of that interview with you, which you may use however you like. If you would like, we may publish research together, where you will be listed as researcher. If relevant, I will discuss this possibility with you.

What will happen if I decide to withdraw?

Your participation in this research is voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the research anytime without needing to provide any explanation, and you would not receive any penalty or bias as a result of your withdrawal. Should you decide to withdraw, all the information collected from/about you will be destroyed and will not be used in the research. Any recordings, notes, or transcripts you have will still be yours and you may use them as you like.

Can I hear about the results of this research?

I will send regular email updates on this research. If you are interested in hearing about the research process, please let me know and I will add you to the email list.

At the conclusion of analysis, I will run a series of community consultation session where I will present my findings and where you may offer any feedback. You are also welcome to contact me directly at any time to ask for updates or a summary of the research.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. Whilst you are free to discuss your participation in this study with the researcher contactable on a.brekelmans@uq.edu.au, if you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Coordinator on +617 3365 3924 / +617 3443 1656 or email humanethics@research.uq.edu.au

This research Ethics ID number: 2021/HE000413