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HDR Candidate Name: Leandro Wallace

HREC Project Number: 13102

Participant Information and Consent Form (Gaining Lives) – Survey First Page

Name of Project: **Gaining Lives: retrieving Queer Indigenous resistances in video games**

Thank you for your interest in this survey!

My name is Leandro Wallace. I am a PhD candidate, originally from Argentina in Abya Yala, in the Department of Critical Indigenous Studies at Macquarie University. My supervisory team is led by Prof. Sandy O'Sullivan with the support of Dr. Han Reardon-Smith.

This research project is being conducted on unceded Dharug Ngurra, and I acknowledge the care, knowledge and customs of the Dharug Peoples that nurtured and continue to nurture Country and Community since time immemorial. I pay my respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to you as a survey participant.

What is the purpose of this research?

You are invited to participate in a study focused on queer (LGBTIQA+) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander gamer participation in and interaction with games and gaming communities, to help shape our understanding of the complexities and specificities of queer Indigenous gamers and gaming.

This survey is anonymous, and your participation is voluntary. It has questions related to identities and to the different ways you play video games, create characters, and what representation you see, hope for, create, and engage with. With the exception of initial questions to situate your standpoint, all other questions are optional, and you may choose to leave blank any that you do not wish to answer.

All and any information collected through this survey will be anonymous and used to consider the different ways you engage in/with video games. It will also inform interviews that will be conducted after this survey is closed. If you are a streamer or have worked/work on game creation and would like to participate in the round of interviews, please leave your contact details in the corresponding box. This information will only be retained in order to coordinate a time for the interview. Results can be consulted once published and you can contact me with any questions or request at any point.

The project is part of a broader program specifically aimed at understanding queer Indigenous creativity and representation. The broader project, *Saving Lives*, maps the unique contribution, influence and impact of Indigenous LGBTIQ+ creative artists, to understand how modelling complex diversities enhances well-being in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities. Again, this survey seeks to understand the broader diversity of representation.

Black American education leader, Marian Wright Edelman says 'you can't be, what you can't see'. This fundamental idea that representation can help people understand more about who they are is explored in this research. The survey will help us understand this impact, and your contribution will help us to map that.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The study is being conducted by PhD Candidate Leandro Wallace (leandro.wallace@hdr.mq.edu.au), under the supervision of Professor Sandy O'Sullivan (0431 957 955, sandy.osullivan@mq.edu.au) and Dr Han Reardon-Smith (hannah.reardon-smith@mq.edu.au) from the Department of Indigenous Studies. It is funded by a research scholarship at Macquarie University, with support from Professor O'Sullivan's funding with the Australian Research Council as a part of a Future Fellowship. The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by an Ethics Committee at Macquarie University.

What does participation involve?

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey. Participation in this research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and do not wish to complete the survey, you are free to leave at any stage without providing a reason and without any consequences. We are seeking participants who are 18 years old or older.

You will have control over what information you choose to provide.

The survey should take you as little as 10 minutes to complete depending on the detail you choose to provide. All participants can choose to go in the draw to win one of 20 AUD\$50 gift cards. Participant emails will be collected in a separate survey, linked at the end of each survey, so they cannot be linked to survey responses. Emails collected will only be held until gift cards are issued. At this point, emails collected for this purpose will be deleted.

What are the benefits and possible risks?

We cannot guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this research. However, the project supports the development of research that hopes to be of use to queer Indigenous gaming communities, and possibly to support game development that better considers the needs and wishes of queer Indigenous gamers.

There is a small risk of experiencing discomfort due to the topic of the study; however, the survey will not directly ask about your personal experiences or difficulties, but we will be asking about your feelings about representation. If you do not wish to answer a question, you may skip it and go to the next question, or you may stop immediately. If you become upset or distressed as a result of your participation in the research project, please contact the research team or use the support information provided at the bottom of this page.

What will happen to the information I provide?

Any information or personal details gathered in the course of the study are confidential, except as required by law. Only the three investigators named above will have access to the information you provide. It is anticipated that analysed results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums, including scholarly articles and a report that will be made available to other researchers, organisations, and members of the public. No individual will be identified in any publication of the results. A summary of the results of the data can be made available to you on request; participants can elect to provide an email address at the end of each survey if you would like to receive a summary of findings.

Who can I contact for further information or to submit a complaint?

If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the project, you can contact investigators Sandy O'Sullivan (sandy.osullivan@mq.edu.au) or Leandro Wallace (leandro.wallace@hdr.mq.edu.au).

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 you experience distress through participating in this project, the following services are available to support you:

13 YARN — Call 13 92 76 and talk to another Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person about how you are feeling at any hour of the day (24/7).

Q Life – Call 1800 184 527 or utilise the webchat function via <https://qlife.org.au/> to talk to an LGBTI peer or get a referral between 3pm and midnight every day.

Yarning Safe n Strong – Call 1800 959 653 and talk to another Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person about how you are feeling at any hour of the day (24/7).

Crisis support lines:

Lifeline — Call 131 114

BeyondBlue — <https://www.beyondblue.org.au>

Please click through to begin.

Please click to leave the survey if you do not agree to participate.