

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET (Irish and Irish Americans in New York City)

Research Ethics Committee Reference Number: 24/LBS/005

Title of Study: A Path Well-Trodden: Narratives from Ireland's Mass Paths

You are being invited to take part in a research study. You do not have to take part if you do not want to. Please read this information, which will help you decide.

- **What is the purpose of the study?**

Known in Irish as *Slí an Aifrin* or *Cosán an Aifrinn*, Mass paths have their routes in Penal times (1695-1756) when the Catholic faith was proscribed in Ireland, but the majority have their origins in the nineteenth century when church building once again became a feature of Irish life. Once regarded as rights of way, Mass Paths no longer have any official recognition, definition, status or protection. A large number have been destroyed through agricultural change or infrastructural and building developments and many remain under threat today. Whilst the custom of walking Mass paths in Ireland has waned, some still remain in use today and they provide a tangible link to Irish history and heritage for countless generations (Bishop & Hurley 2022) both at home and abroad. There is a lot of living heritage (social habits, rituals, traditions, stories, expressions, specialised knowledge and skills) associated with these paths and this project aims to capture the living heritage associated with Mass paths amongst the Irish and Irish-American communities in the New York area.

In the 1960s over half a million people emigrated from Ireland to Britain and America. Of the Irish that emigrated 40% went to New York and half of them stayed there. These are the people that would have walked the Mass paths and passed their memories and experiences down to their children and grandchildren.

These narratives will be turned into a deep map which can be used as a tool to help support future policy making in the heritage sector. One of the problems that we have with heritage is that it is traditionally measured in numerical or financial terms such as visitor numbers, social media likes or financial contribution to the economy through tourism. This project instead offers a values-based approach to measuring and managing living heritage.

A deep map is a map of place rather than space. Deep mapping will enable me to capture information that will reflect the different meanings, experiences and feelings that are associated with Mass paths. The deep map will invite users to visually explore

the cultural history and heritage of Mass paths in Ireland and develop new ways of thinking about place. The deep map will be freely available on my website www.findamassrock.com, which attracts up to 4000 global visitors per annum.

The deep map will feature a layered visualisation incorporating images, text and sounds. These will include imagery of Mass paths, written text and narratives of associated rituals, traditions and social habits, timelines, soundbite clips from 'in-conversation' events and soundbites of stories and views told from a range of perspectives during interviews.

This study hopes to answer the following questions:

- What common heritage values are shared by Irish and Irish American communities in the New York area in reference to Mass paths?
- How can the different social habits, traditions, rituals, meanings, stories and experiences associated with living heritage among Irish and Irish American communities in the New York area be captured?
- How can experience, affect and sensation of living heritage translate into meaningful data that can help better inform public policy?
- **Why have I been invited to participate?**

Inclusion criteria: Adults who identify as Irish and Irish-Americans and live in the New York area

Exclusion criteria: Adults who do not identify as Irish and Irish-Americans and/or do not live in the New York area

You have been invited because you are an Irish or Irish-American living in the New York area. You must not participate if you are not an Irish or Irish-American living in the New York area because your knowledge and experience of living heritage will be different.

- **Do I have to take part?**

No. You can ask questions about the research before deciding whether to take part. If you do not want to take part that is OK. I will ask you to sign a consent form and will give you a copy for you to keep. Your consent will be audio recorded if you participate online only.

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have. You may withdraw from the study by contacting the Principal Investigator Dr Hilary Bishop at h.j.bishop@ljmu.ac.uk

- **What will happen to me if I take part?**

I will be holding a series of relaxed in-conversation events in New York City in June-July 2024. Each in-conversation event will consist of 4-5 participants. Each participant will be an Irish or Irish-American adult living in New York.

These in-conversation events will be audio recorded and photographed. The in-conversation events will take place in a private room at a public location within New

York City and should take approximately 1 hour. You will be offered regular breaks as necessary. You can also ask to pause or stop the event at any time. Please remember, you have the right to decline to answer any questions you do not want to.

You will be asked to discuss aspects of Irish living heritage in respect to Irish Mass Paths. Living heritage includes social habits, rituals, traditions, stories, expressions, specialised knowledge and skills that have been recognised and transferred from generation to generation within communities.

It is appreciated that not everyone who wishes to participate will be able to travel to New York City and so I will also hold interviews. Interviews will take place either online or face-to-face at a location that is mutually convenient within New York City and should take approximately 1 hour. Interviews will be audio recorded if face-to-face or visually recorded if online. You will be offered regular breaks as necessary. You can also ask to pause or stop the interview at any time. Please remember, you have the right to decline to answer any questions you do not want to.

- **Will I be recorded?**

As this is an oral history project, in-conversation events and interviews will be audio recorded. I will also take photographs of each participant and in-conversation event. Audio recording is essential to your participation, but you should be comfortable with the process, and you are free to stop the audio recording at anytime during the event or interview and, therefore, withdraw your participation.

With your consent, audio recordings made will be used in the outputs. The outputs will consist of a Deep Map that will be published on the researcher's website www.findamassrock.com. A deep map is a map of place rather than space. Space is detailed by locations and grid references whereas place is the meaning that we attach to that space. Deep mapping reveals the connectedness between different places and indicates personal, social and imaginary networks that affect how it is perceived and experienced. Rather than presenting a fixed view of a place, deep mapping allows for the ongoing development of place identity, and its capacity to reveal both historical and contemporary human experience. Your audio recording will appear as a soundbite on the deep map. Your photograph will appear as an image on the deep map.

Please notify the investigator if you require any restrictions on the use or availability of photographs or recordings at the time or in the future. Your name will not be attributed to the photographs and recordings. However, there is a chance that someone accessing the project outputs may recognise your image and/or voice. It is therefore important to take some time to think if there would be any implications for you if someone recognised your image or voice before you decide to consent to this.

The investigator will be unable to guarantee control of access to authorised listening of the audio-recordings because sound bites from the recordings will be used in the deep map which is an output of this project. The deep map will be published on the researcher's website www.findamassrock.com.

- **Are there any potential risks in taking part?**

Participating in the research is not anticipated to cause you any disadvantages or discomfort. The potential physical and/or psychological harm or distress will be the same as any experienced in everyday life

- **Are there any benefits in taking part?**

The benefits of taking part in an in-conversation event is the opportunity for mutual knowledge exchange and to record your (your parents or grandparents) personal living heritage associated in respect to Irish Mass paths. This will help you to better understand the relationship between your living heritage and your shared transnational Irish identity.

- **Payments, reimbursements of expenses or any other benefit or incentive for taking part**

There will be no payment or any benefit or incentive for taking part in this study. Unfortunately, we cannot reimburse any expenses you may have incurred. Refreshments will be provided prior to each of the in-conversation events.

- **What will happen to information/data provided?**

The information you provide as part of the study is the **study data**. Any study data from which you can be identified (e.g. from identifiers such as your name, date of birth, audio recording etc.), is known as **personal data**. Your participation in this study will involve the collection/use of personal data.

I will keep personal data safe and secure. People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your contact details The personal data collected will include:

- Contact details. With your agreement, we would like to store your contact details so that you may be contacted about future opportunities to participate in research studies.
- A record of consent (which will include your name)
- Study data. Study data will include audio recording[s] (which include your voice and/or image).

Study data / records of consent / contact details will be kept for 5 years after the study has finished.

We will not tell anyone that you have taken part in the in-conversation event, although there is of course a possibility that another member of the group might recognise you. All members of the in-conversation event will be asked to respect the confidentiality of their fellow participants.

I would like your permission to use direct quotations [but without identifying you] in any research outputs.

- **Who is organising and who is funding/commissioning the study?**

This study is organised and funded by Liverpool John Moores University.

- **Whom do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact the Principal Investigator Dr Hilary Bishop, and I will do my best to answer your query. You should expect a reply within 10 working days. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at Liverpool John Moores University who will seek to resolve the matter as soon as possible:

Chair, Liverpool John Moores University Research Ethics Committee; Email: FullReviewUREC@ljmu.ac.uk; Tel: 0151 231 2121; Research Innovation Services, Liverpool John Moores University, Exchange Station, Liverpool L2 2QP

- **Data Protection**

Liverpool John Moores University is the data controller with respect to your personal data. Information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from:

- <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/legal/privacy-and-cookies/external-stakeholders-privacy-policy/research-participants-privacy-notice>
- by asking one of the study team or contacting us using the information below

- **Contact details**

Principal Investigator: Dr Hilary Bishop (Member of LJMU Staff)

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LJMU School/faculty: Liverpool Business School

LJMU Central telephone number: 0151 231 2121