

## Research Participant Information and Consent Form for Survey Participation

**Working Study Title:** Antiracist Practice in Rhet/Comp: A Cultural Rhetorics Inquiry

**Researcher and Title:** Everardo J. Cuevas, Doctoral Candidate

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**Sponsor:** Dr. Kristin Arola

### SUMMARY OF STUDY

You are being asked to participate in a research study. Researchers are required to provide a consent form to inform you about the research study, to convey that participation is voluntary, to explain risks and benefits of participation including why you might or might not want to participate, and to empower you to make an informed decision. You always have the right to stop participation in this study at any moment, even after you've agreed to the consent form. You should feel free to discuss and ask the researchers any questions you may have.

You are being asked to participate in a research study that will examine the contexts and experiences that shape how people of color in the field of Composition, Rhetoric and/or Writing Studies (also known as "rhet/comp") navigate, engage, and practice antiracism. To participate in this study you must identify as 1) a person of color who is 2) a member of the (very broad and interdisciplinary) field of rhet/comp and 3) engages in antiracist practice (also broadly construed). Participants are expected to self-identify as all three criteria to qualify for participation in this study.

Participation in this study involves completing a Qualtrics survey asking you to define antiracism and share stories about your experiences practicing antiracism. Identifying information from this survey will be kept confidential. At the end of the survey, you will also be invited to be part of group, collaborative interviews that will meet and interview together three times. Participants can elect to just complete the survey and not participate in the collaborative interview. Participation in only the survey is welcome because definitional work is an important aspect of this study. The rest of this description and consent form will only outline participation in the survey. Participation in the collaborative interview will require an additional consent form.

Besides your time, the only other risk identified here is the risk that comes with being people of color talking about and challenging white supremacy through our storytelling. While the researcher will do everything in their power to ensure confidentiality, in a small field, unintentional outing can happen since the nature of this work is politicized. While this shouldn't create insurmountable risk for the participants, it is an aspect of doing antiracist work in a white supremacist culture.

The potential benefits to you for taking part in this study are chances to engage in reflection that is foundational to antiracist practice. Sharing stories, definitions, and experiences will also hopefully create a greater understanding of antiracism for people of color as they work in redressing white supremacy. Further, this project will ultimately contribute to the continued development of thoughtful antiracist interventions, pedagogical materials, and strategies that center the thriving of people of color in the academy.

## **PURPOSE OF RESEARCH**

The purpose of this research study is to reflect and engage with minoritized racialized subjectivities engaging in antiracist practice to better understand the reasoning behind using and engaging antiracism and the kinds of opportunities it may or may not offer said people of color. This project is particularly interested in what antiracism may or may not offer people of color in efforts for structural change and creating spaces where they can thrive.

The initial research question that guides this project is, “How and why do people of color in rhet/comp practice antiracism?”

## **WHAT YOU WILL BE ASKED TO DO**

As a person of color who practices antiracism in rhet/comp, this Qualtrics survey will assess your qualification in the participant criteria and ask you to reflect on your understandings of antiracism. You will be asked to identify demographic information, answer some questions related to antiracist practice, define antiracism, and share a story relating an experience practicing antiracism. At the end of the survey you will be asked if you are interested in further participating in this study as a participant in a series of collaborative interviews. **To be clear, you can just complete the survey and not participate in the collaborative interview.**

The survey should take about 15 - 20 min to complete, especially if you already have a story in mind before starting.

As an incentive, the first, last, and every 5th person to complete the survey will receive an antiracism-related book if they leave a contact email so they can be reached regarding the best way to ship the book to them.

## **POTENTIAL BENEFITS**

The potential benefits to you for taking part in this study are chances to engage in reflection that is foundational to antiracist practice. Sharing stories, definitions, and experiences will also hopefully create a greater understanding of antiracism for people of color as they work in redressing white supremacy. Further, this project will ultimately contribute to the continued development of thoughtful antiracist interventions, pedagogical materials, and strategies that center the thriving of people of color in the academy.

## **POTENTIAL RISKS**

Besides your time, the only other risk identified here is the risk that comes with being people of color talking about and challenging white supremacy through our storytelling. While the researcher will do everything in their power to ensure confidentiality, in a small field, unintentional outing can happen since the nature of this work is politicized. While this shouldn't create insurmountable risk for the participants, it is an aspect of doing antiracist work in a white supremacist culture that the researcher thinks is important to highlight and that participants should be aware of.

## **PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

Confidentiality will be maintained through the use of pseudonyms and the removal of identifying information from all texts: notes, transcriptions, and finished reports. Survey data will be aggregated and shared with a created pseudonym when sharing specific stories.

The only way survey data will have an identifiable connection is if participants elect to receive an antiracism-related book and/or the collaborative interviews and leave their email contact information. If this happens, the research will not keep the email and survey data together and email information will not be included in any reports, notes, transcriptions, and write ups. Identifiable data will be restricted to the researcher and his faculty mentor sponsor.

Anonymized and pseudonym-identified data from this survey will be kept indefinitely.

## **YOUR RIGHTS TO PARTICIPATE, SAY NO, OR WITHDRAW**

You have the right to say no to participate in the research. You can stop at any time after it has already started. There will be no consequences if you stop and you will not be criticized. You will not lose any benefits that you normally receive.

## **COSTS AND COMPENSATION FOR BEING IN THE STUDY**

There are no associated costs to participate in the study, other than access to a computer with internet access for completion of the survey.

As an incentive, the first, last, and every 5th person to complete the survey will receive an antiracism-related book if they leave a contact email so they can be reached regarding the best way to ship the book to them.

## **RESEARCH RESULTS**

As this research is intended for a dissertation and for further publications, you might see your aggregated information and/or de-identified stories in future public-facing publications. Since the survey data is anonymous (aside from participation in the book incentive or collaborative interviews), the researcher cannot actively contact you so you can review drafts and materials from the study for publication. If you would like to see drafts of the materials to make sure your survey data is being shared in ways you are comfortable with, you are welcome to email the researchers at any time to request copies of working drafts. The researchers will do everything in their power to share materials within reason (for ex. considering publication timelines and own work timelines).

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have concerns or questions about this study, such as how to do any part of the project, or to report an injury, please contact the researchers:

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If you have questions or concerns about your role and rights as a research participant, would like to obtain information or offer input, or would like to register a complaint about this study, you may contact, anonymously if you wish, the Michigan State University's Human Research Protection Program at 517-355-2180, Fax 517-432-4503, or e-mail [irb@msu.edu](mailto:irb@msu.edu) or regular mail at 4000 Collins Rd, Suite 136, Lansing, MI 48910.

#### **DOCUMENTATION OF INFORMED CONSENT.**

By clicking "I consent to participate in this study" and completing your survey you are consenting to participate in this research project. If you would like a copy of this consent form, please click here [hyperlink] and download it or print out this page.