

Appendix 1

“IT” Study Research Participation Information Sheet

What is the purpose of this research?

This research study is entitled “IT” and asks for graduates of the Texas Tech online PhD in Technical Communication and Rhetoric to discuss where they got “it” in their degree. “It” is defined as that magical thing that face-to-face students got that online students didn’t get outside coursework: the hallway conversations, meeting for coffee, etc. We attempted to “capture” this type of professionalization with workshops, annual reviews, and ultimately, the May Seminar, but we want to know if you feel like you got “it.”

What will I do if I participate?

You’ll first fill out a short survey. Then, if you opt to participate in an interview, you will share stories and reflections about participating in Texas Tech University’s online PhD program in TCR. Each interview will be about 30-60 minutes via Zoom or some other agreed upon platform. We may ask for clarification if there is some issue. Your interview(s) will be recorded (audio only) and transcribed. Once the transcription is complete, and all possible identifying information removed, the audio recording will be erased. Prior to being erased, all audio recordings will be stored on a password-protected computer in a locked office that only the PI has access to.

Can I quit if I become uncomfortable?

Yes. You can stop at any time. Participating is your choice. You can skip any questions, or decide to opt out at any time in the process if you like.

How is my privacy being protected?

We will meet at a time and location of your choosing, one where you are comfortable talking. Your name will not be used in any transcripts or publications resulting from this research. All identifying information in the transcript will be removed, and all participants will be given pseudonyms for publication. Only the interviewer/PI will have access to your name and contact information. This information will be stored securely in a password-protected computer.

How will this research benefit me?

There are no direct benefits to participating in this research

Who is responsible for this research? Where can I go for questions?

Dr. Rebecca Rickly, Department of English at Texas Tech University, is the researcher/interviewer. Her email is Rebecca.rickly@ttu.edu and mobile is 806.438.1875. Dr. Rickly will answer any questions you have about the study.

TTU also has a Board that protects the rights of people who participate in research. You can ask them questions at (806) 742-2064. You can also mail your questions to the Human Research Protection Program, Office of the Vice President for Research, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409, or send your questions via email to hrpp@ttu.edu.