

CONSENT FORM – Online

My name is Chris Lezotte and I am currently a doctoral candidate in American Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University conducting research for my dissertation. The project focuses on women whose vehicle choices suggest they do not conform to prevailing assumptions regarding the “woman driver.” For this study, I am interviewing women who own and drive vehicles that fall into one of three nontraditional car categories: chick cars, classic muscle cars, and personal pickup trucks. My goal in this endeavor is not to disparage those who choose to drive vehicles traditionally associated with the woman driver, but to uncover the voices and automotive experiences of women who use and relate to automobiles in a variety of interesting ways. As you drive a ‘chick car,’ I am hoping that can contribute to this project by telling me your feelings about automobiles in general, your car in particular, and how (or not) you see yourself as a ‘woman driver.’

While participants in this project will not receive a monetary award, they will help to dispel old stereotypes while bringing attention to important and exciting new categories of the “woman driver.” Those who agree to participate will be asked to sign and return this consent form in the enclosed stamped, self-addressed envelope. Participants will be asked to indicate whether they prefer to be interviewed in person, by phone, or through email. All in person and phone interviews will be recorded with the participant’s permission. For those who prefer either an in person or phone interview, a time that is convenient for both parties will be arranged. The interview questions will focus on the individual’s car history, ownership, and experience as well as participation in car organizations. I may request a few follow-up questions for clarification at a later date. The time required for the interview – while dependent on the length of individual responses – should be about 30 minutes.

I may also request a photo of your car for inclusion in the research document. To lessen the possibility of recognition, I will obscure license plate numbers and/or other identifiers with imaging software. To protect your privacy, I will not use car photos that contain your image.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw at any time. You may decide to skip questions or discontinue participation at any time without penalty. Deciding to participate or not will not affect your relationship with Bowling Green State University, your job, or your affiliation with any car organization.

The data collected will be stored on my personal computer in password-protected files and hard copies will be kept in a locked file to maintain confidentiality. No one other than myself will have access to the data. Your identity will remain confidential, and I will never identify you by name in my work. In order to maintain this confidentiality, I will use a pseudonym or refer to you by age and car (i.e. ‘a 54-year-old owner of a blue Mini Cooper.’)

(MORE)

I do not perceive any potential risks to you as a participant in this study. The risk of participation is no greater than that experienced in daily life.

This project has been approved by the BGSU Human Subjects Review Board (HSRB). If you have any questions or concerns regarding the study or your participation in it, you are welcome to contact me via email at clezott@bgsu.edu or by phone at 734 516-5166.

My advisor, Dr. Susana Peña, can be reached at susanap@bgsu.edu or 419 372-7117. You may also contact the Human Rights Subjects Review Board Chair at 419 372-7716 or hsrb@bgsu.edu if you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this research. Thank you very much for your time, and for participation in this project. Through this study, I hope to bring more attention and recognition to individuals who enrich and expand the woman driver category while having a whole lot of fun with cars.

I have been informed of the purposes, procedures, risks and benefits of this study. I have had the opportunity to have all my questions answered and I have been informed that my participation is completely voluntary. I agree to participate in this research.

Participant Name/Signature _____

Date _____ Check for Consent

Please indicate interview preference:

In person _____ Telephone _____ Email _____

Contact email address or phone number _____