Invitation to take part in a research study on the impact of equal marriage for lesbian, gay & bisexual couples in Great Britain.

Hello, and thank you for taking the time to look at this webpage. My name is Mike Thomas and I am a researcher and lecturer at the University of Kent. One of my research interests is about the impact of same-sex marriage and I’m asking married lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) couples to take part in a research study so that I can find out what they think about their experience of getting married.

As a gay man, I think that the voices of same-sex couples have not been heard enough by policymakers and others. The focus of my research is to present same-sex marriage from LGB perspectives and I am inviting same-sex couples to talk to me about their experience of getting and being married. I’ve already done research on civil partnerships in the UK and about same-sex marriage in the US and Canada. Now that lesbian, gay and bisexual couples have started to get married in England, Scotland and Wales, I’d like to find out about that as well.

If you are interested in taking part in this research, I would like to interview you about your decision to get married, any ceremony you might have had, and to think about the impact that getting married has had for you. I would like to talk to you and your partner together about your experience, though if you would prefer to talk to me by yourself, I am still interested in hearing your views. If you decide to take part, the interview would take place at a time and location that was convenient for you and your partner. The interview should take between an hour and ninety minutes and I’m looking to interview couples right across England, Wales and Scotland.
The research will be written up as a report, as articles for academic journals, or as part of a book I’m planning to write about same-sex marriage. When the research is written up and published, nobody taking part will be identified by name and your identity would not be disclosed to anybody else.

The findings that come out of these interviews will help policymakers and LGBT organisations to understand the difference that marriage has made to the lives of same-sex couples. This project is funded by the University of Kent and has received ethical approval from the School Research Committee Ethics Panel at the University of Kent. This means that the University has approved the design of the study.

If you’ve got this far, thanks again for reading this webpage. If you and your partner are interested in being interviewed or would like more information about this research, then I would be very happy to hear from you.

You can email me at M.J.Thomas@kent.ac.uk

Or you can call and leave a voicemail at: 01634 888927, and I’ll get back to you as soon as possible.

Or you can contact me on Twitter: @drmikejthomas

You can find out more about me, and watch me on the BBC News Channel talking about my earlier research, via my university webpage: https://www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/t-v/thomas-mike.html

I’m looking for as many couples as possible to take part in this research, so please feel free to let other people know about this project.

Best wishes,

Mike