

From: Ethics.Committee@webhost02h.leeds.ac.uk <Ethics.Committee@webhost02h.leeds.ac.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 12:26 PM
To: Anna Madill
Subject: Ethics form decision

Anna Madill
Institute of Psychological Sciences
University of Leeds
Leeds LS2 9JT
06-Jan-2016

Dear Anna Madill,

Title of study: A comparison of Chinese and Anglophone Harry Potter yaoi fanfiction

Ethics reference: 15-0403

I am pleased to inform you that the above research application has been reviewed by the IPS Research Ethics Committee and has been approved.

Please note that this approval only relates to the particular version of documentation supplied in this specific application (ref no: 15-0403; date approved: 06-Jan-2016). If you wish to make any amendments to the approved documentation, please note that all changes require ethical approval prior to implementation.

Please note: You are expected to keep a record of all your approved documentation, as well as documents such as sample consent forms, and other documents relating to the study. This should be kept in your study file, which should be readily available for audit purposes.

You will be given a two week notice period if your project is to be audited. There is a checklist listing examples of documents to be kept which is available at <http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/EthicsAudits>

Yours sincerely,

IPS Research Ethics Committee
(Chair: Donna Lloyd)

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE APPLICATION FORM ¹



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Please read each question carefully, taking note of instructions and completing all parts. If a question is not applicable please indicate so. The superscripted numbers (eg⁸) refer to sections of the guidance notes, available at <http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/uolethicsapplication>. Where a question asks for information which you have previously provided in answer to another question, please just refer to your earlier answer rather than repeating information. Research ethics training courses: <http://www.sddu.leeds.ac.uk/research-innovation/research-ethics-training-and-guidance>

To help us process your application enter the following reference numbers, if known and if applicable:

Ethics reference number:	
Student number and/ or grant reference:	

PART A: Summary

A.1 Which [Faculty Research Ethics Committee](#) would you like to consider this application?²

- Arts and PVAC (PVAR)
- Biological Sciences (BIOSCI)
- ESSL/ Environment/ LUBS (AREA)
- MaPS and Engineering (MEEC)
- Medicine and Health (Please specify a subcommittee):
 - School of Dentistry (DREC)
 - School of Healthcare (SHREC)
 - School of Medicine (SoMREC)
 - Institute of Psychological Sciences (IPSREC)

A.2 Title of the research³

A comparison of Chinese and Anglophone Harry Potter yaoi fanfiction

A.3 Principal investigator's contact details⁴

Name (<i>Title, first name, surname</i>)	Anna Madill
Position	Chair
Department/ School/ Institute	Psychology
Faculty	Medicine & Health
Work address (<i>including postcode</i>)	Psychology, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT
Telephone number	0113 343 5750
University of Leeds email address	a.l.madill@leeds.ac.uk

A.4 Purpose of the research:⁵ (Tick as appropriate)

- Research
- Educational qualification: ***Please specify:*** This is not for an educational qualification
- Educational Research & Evaluation⁶
- Medical Audit or Health Service Evaluation⁷
- Other

A.5 Select from the list below to describe your research: (You may select more than one)

- Research on or with human participants
- Research with has potential significant environmental impact.⁸ **If yes, please give details:**

- Research working with data of human participants
 - New data collected by qualitative methods
 - New data collected by quantitative methods
 - New data collected from observing individuals or populations
 - Research working with aggregated or population data
 - Research using already published data or data in the public domain
- Research working with human tissue samples (*Please inform the relevant [Persons Designate](#) if the research will involve human tissue*)⁹

A.6 Will the research involve any of the following:¹⁰ (You may select more than one)

If your research involves any of the following an application must be made to the National Research Ethics Service (NRES) via IRAS www.myresearchproject.org.uk as NHS ethical approval will be required. There is no need to complete any more of this form. Contact governance-ethics@leeds.ac.uk for advice.

- Patients and users of the NHS (including NHS patients treated in the private sector)¹¹
- Individuals identified as potential participants because of their status as relatives or carers of patients and users of the NHS
- Research involving adults in Scotland, Wales or England who lack the capacity to consent for themselves¹²
- A prison or a young offender institution in England and Wales (and is health related)¹⁴
- Clinical trial of a medicinal product or medical device¹⁵
- Access to data, organs or other bodily material of past and present NHS patients⁹
- Use of human tissue (including non-NHS sources) where the collection is not covered by a Human Tissue Authority licence⁹
- Foetal material and IVF involving NHS patients
- The recently deceased under NHS care
- None of the above

You must inform the Research Ethics Administrator of your NRES number and approval date once approval has been obtained.

If the University of Leeds is not the Lead Institution, or approval has been granted elsewhere (e.g. NHS) then you should contact the local Research Ethics Committee for guidance. The UoL Ethics Committee needs to be assured that any relevant local ethical issues have been addressed.

A.7 Will the research involve NHS staff recruited as potential research participants (by virtue of their professional role) or NHS premises/ facilities?

- Yes No

If yes, ethical approval must be sought from the University of Leeds. Please note that NHS R&D approval is needed in addition: www.myresearchproject.org.uk. Contact governance-ethics@leeds.ac.uk for advice.

A.8 Will the participants be from any of the following groups? (Tick as appropriate)

- Children under 16¹⁶ **Specify age group:** _____
- Adults with learning disabilities¹²
- Adults with other forms of mental incapacity or mental illness
- Adults in emergency situations
- Prisoners or young offenders¹⁴
- Those who could be considered to have a particularly dependent relationship with the investigator, eg members of staff, students¹⁷
- Other vulnerable groups
- No participants from any of the above groups

Please justify the inclusion of the above groups, explaining why the research cannot be conducted on non-vulnerable groups.

The author of fanfiction posted to the internet is very often anonymous and, even when traceable to an online persona, available personal details may not be reliable. It is therefore possible that an author of fanfiction selected for analysis belongs to a vulnerable group and we would not know. Having taken advice from the Chair of the Ethics Committee, our obligation is to alert the webmaster, if at all possible, that we are selecting material for analysis for the site they host and to allow them to tell us to stop. It would be in many cases impossible, and in other cases overly intrusive, to attempt to find out more about individual authors.

It is the researcher's responsibility to check whether a DBS check (or equivalent) is required and to obtain one if it is needed. See also <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/agencies-public-bodies/dbs> and http://store.leeds.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?modid=1&prodid=2162&depid=34&compid=1&prodvarid=0&catid=243.

A.9 Give a short summary of the research¹⁸

*This section must be completed in **language comprehensible to the lay person**. Do not simply reproduce or refer to the protocol, although the protocol can also be submitted to provide any technical information that you think the ethics committee may require. This section should cover the main parts of the proposal.*

This research aims to compare a small number (roughly 3-6) Harry Potter yaoi fanfictions written in Chinese with an equivalent small number written originally in English and then already translated into Chinese (by fans themselves) and, hence, already available in Chinese on fanfiction websites. Yaoi fanfiction refers to the genre of amateur creative writing which take a source text (here, Harry Potter) and develops it in new directions which include a romantic and/or sexual relationship between two male characters which was not an aspect of the original story. Fanfiction litters the internet and is a huge pastime for 100s of thousands of people (most often young women) across the globe. Yaoi fanfiction is one of the biggest genres and Harry Potter yaoi fanfiction is one of the most popular sub-genres. Scholarship on fanfiction is developing into a specialist area of inquiry and was in many ways initiated by Henry Jenkins' work on Star Trek slash fiction in the 1970s. There is virtually no research on yaoi fanfiction in China and none which compares the Chinese and Anglophone yaoi fanfiction on the same canon text. We are in the unique position of being able to undertake this research given that Professor Liheng Fan is Visiting Scholar in the School this year and that Yao Zhao (PhD student with Anna Madill) is, in addition to her own PhD work, part of the team in an essential advisory role given her familiarity with yaoi fanfiction sites in China.

A.10 What are the main ethical issues with the research and how will these be addressed?¹⁹

Indicate any issues on which you would welcome advice from the ethics committee.

The author of fanfiction posted to the internet is very often anonymous and, even when traceable to an online persona, available personal details may not be reliable. It is therefore possible that an author of fanfiction selected for analysis belongs to a vulnerable group and we would not know. Having taken advice from the Chair of the Ethics Committee, our obligation is to alert the webmaster, if at all possible, that we are selecting material for analysis for the site they host and to allow them to tell us to stop. It would be in many cases impossible, and in other cases overly intrusive, to attempt to find out more about individual authors. Having identified a small number (about 3-6) Chinese and (about 3-6) original Anglophone fictions already translated into Chinese for analysis, if at all possible, we will contact the relevant webmasters to explain what we are doing and requesting that they let us know if they would like us to stop but to try to do so within 10 days of receipt of the e-mail so that we have a date at which we

can commence analysis. Our expectation is that webmasters will not be concerned about our interest in analysing fanfiction. It has been written and posted online to be read and our interest is in a cultural comparison. This is likely to be received as a benign research intension – as indeed is the case – and we are not evaluating the apparent quality of the writing or commenting on or assessing the writers themselves. See appendix for communication information.

This research is atypical in psychology given that the content of the internet material is not personal – the material analysed are more akin to that undertaken in English Literature in being creative writing designed to be read by other people and to publically available as far as possible to secure an audience. We feel that it is important to provide the link to the original English fanfiction analysed, to the translated fanfiction, and to the Chinese fanfiction analysed in publications and reports of the research. This is to allow readers of our research to engage with the fanfiction themselves as far as possible in order to assess our analysis. Given that these are public texts posted on the internet for public consumption and are creative writing as opposed to personal, possibly ‘confessional’ information more usual in psychology research, that the obligation to allow our research to be assessed comes to the fore. We also are of the opinion that writers will be happy to have their creative writing highlighted in this way and for their work, possibly through being selected for a cultural comparison, to be more widely read. We make all this clear in our communication to webmasters.

No personal details of authors will be noted in any reports and presentations of the research.

PART B: About the research team

B.2 Other members of the research team (eg co-investigators, co-supervisors) 21

Name (Title, first name, surname)	Professor Liheng Fan
Position	Visiting Scholar 2015-16
Department/ School/ Institute	Psychology
Faculty	M&H
Work address (including postcode)	Psychology LS2 9JT
Telephone number	/
Email address	fanliheng@163.com

Name (Title, first name, surname)	Yao Zhao
Position	PhD Student (this project is not part of her PhD)
Department/ School/ Institute	Psychology
Faculty	M&H
Work address (including postcode)	Psychology LS2 9JT
Telephone number	/
Email address	ps13yz@leeds.ac.uk

Part C: The research

C.1 What are the aims of the study?²² (Must be in language comprehensible to a lay person.)

The aim of the study is to undertake a cultural comparison of original Chinese and original Anglophone yaoi fanfiction. By selecting the same canon source text – Harry Potter – we are interested in understanding the impact of the two cultural settings have on the content and structure of the fanfiction. In order to increase the comparability and cultural significance of the material analysed, we are focusing on the popular yaoi theme of male-male marriage so are selecting also Harry Potter fanfiction in which the two main male protagonists are married.

C.2 Describe the design of the research. Qualitative methods as well as quantitative methods should be included. (Must be in language comprehensible to a lay person.)

This is a qualitative methods project. The design is comparative in that about 3-6 fanfictions in Chinese and the same number which are already translated into Chinese by fans, but originally in English, will be selected for comparison. They will be selected as being Harry Potter fanfiction in which the two main male protagonists are married. This narrowing of theme will aid the comparison. Focusing on male-male marriage will also be an interesting link to cultural understandings of this high profile, highly contemporary phenomenon. The material will be analysed using a variety of qualitative approaches, including thematic analysis.

C.3 What will participants be asked to do in the study?²³ (e.g. number of visits, time, travel required, interviews)

Participants will not be recruited for this research study; the source of data is publically available internet material.

C.4 Does the research involve an international collaborator or research conducted overseas?²⁴

(Tick as appropriate)

Yes No

If yes, describe any ethical review procedures that you will need to comply with in that country:

Describe the measures you have taken to comply with these:

Include copies of any ethical approval letters/ certificates with your application.

It is likely that this project will continue when Professor Fan returns to her academic post in China. For internet research there is no specific ethical review in China and, in China, website holders take responsibility for the information they present.

C.5 Proposed study dates and duration

Research start date (DD/MM/YY): 01/01/2016 Research end date (DD/MM/YY): 31/12/2018

Fieldwork start date (DD/MM/YY): 01/01/2016 Fieldwork end date (DD/MM/YY): 31/12/2018

C.6. Where will the research be undertaken? (i.e. in the street, on UoL premises, in schools)²⁵

The research will be undertaken in an academic context on internet material.

RECRUITMENT & CONSENT PROCESSES

How participants are recruited is important to ensure that they are not induced or coerced into participation. The way participants are identified may have a bearing on whether the results can be generalised. Explain each point and give details for subgroups separately if appropriate.

C.7 How will potential participants in the study be:

(i) identified?

There will be no recruitment of participants and relevant online sites will be identified through the expert advice of team member Yao Zhao who is well acquainted with yaoi in China. Any membership conditions of the site (access restrictions, rights and responsibilities) will be adhered to.

(ii) approached? N/A

(iii) recruited?²⁶ N/A

C.8 Will you be excluding any groups of people, and if so what is the rationale for that?²⁷

Excluding certain groups of people, intentionally or unintentionally may be unethical in some circumstances. It may be wholly appropriate to exclude groups of people in other cases

No groups of people will be excluded. However, if it is clear that the text has been posted by somebody below the age of 16 years then we will be prudent and not include this material in the research.

C.9 How many participants will be recruited and how was the number decided upon?²⁸

It is important to ensure that enough participants are recruited to be able to answer the aims of the research.

About 3-6 relevant fanfictions in Chinese and about 3-6 originally in English will be analysed. Given the length of the fictions (several thousand words each) this is as much material that can be carefully analysed in the one project.

If you have a formal power calculation please replicate it here. N/A

Remember to include all advertising material (posters, emails etc) as part of your application

C10 Will the research involve any element of deception?²⁹

If yes, please describe why this is necessary and whether participants will be informed at the end of the study.

No deception will be involved.

C.11 Will informed consent be obtained from the research participants?³⁰

Yes No

If yes, give details of how it will be done. Give details of any particular steps to provide information (in addition to a written information sheet) e.g. videos, interactive material. If you are not going to be obtaining informed consent you will need to justify this.

The data used is pre-existing and publically available.

If participants are to be recruited from any of potentially vulnerable groups, give details of extra steps taken to assure their protection. Describe any arrangements to be made for obtaining consent from a legal representative.

Copies of any written consent form, written information and all other explanatory material should accompany this application. The information sheet should make explicit that participants can withdraw from the research at any time, if the research design permits.

Sample information sheets and consent forms are available from the University ethical review webpage at <http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/InvolvingResearchParticipants>.

C.12 Describe whether participants will be able to withdraw from the study, and up to what point (eg if data is to be anonymised). If withdrawal is not possible, explain why not.

Webmasters of sites from which we would like to use fanfiction for analysis, if at all possible, will be contacted to alert them to our presence and aims and to give them a chance to tell us not to analyse material from their site. See appendix for the communication.

C.13 How long will the participant have to decide whether to take part in the research?³¹

It may be appropriate to recruit participants on the spot for low risk research; however consideration is usually necessary for riskier projects.

We will ask that they contact us within 10 days with any objections, but realistically if they object at any time it would be in no-one's interests to retain that material in the study.

C.14 What arrangements have been made for participants who might not adequately understand verbal explanations or written information, or who have special communication needs?³² (e.g. translation, use of interpreters etc. It is important that groups of people are not excluded due to language barriers or disabilities, where assistance can be given.)

The research team includes two Chinese scholars and so communicating effectively in Chinese is assured.

C.15 Will individual or group interviews/ questionnaires discuss any topics or issues that might be sensitive, embarrassing or upsetting, or is it possible that criminal or other disclosures requiring action could take place during the study (e.g. during interviews or group discussions)?³³ The [information sheet](#) should explain under what circumstances action may be taken.

Yes No *If yes, give details of procedures in place to deal with these issues.*

N/A

C.16 Will individual research participants receive any payments, fees, reimbursement of expenses or any other incentives or benefits for taking part in this research?³⁴

Yes No

If Yes, please describe the amount, number and size of incentives and on what basis this was decided.

RISKS OF THE STUDY

C.17 What are the potential benefits and/ or risks for research participants?³⁵

We foresee no risks associated with this study. If webmasters foresee any risks they can reply to our communication and object to our use of material on their site and we will withdraw that material from our study. We do not expect to be asked to desist and foresee benefits in a serious academic study of yaoi fanfiction focused on a cultural comparison and ensuing audience for this material possibly facilitated by our research.

C.18 Does the research involve any risks to the researchers themselves, or people not directly involved in the research? *Eg lone working*³⁶

Yes No

If yes, please describe:

Is a [risk assessment](#) necessary for this research?

Yes No *If yes, please include a copy of your risk assessment form with your application.*

NB: Risk assessments are a University requirement for all fieldwork taking place off campus. For guidance contact your Faculty Health and Safety Manager or visit <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/safety/fieldwork/index.htm>.

RESEARCH DATA

C.19 Will the research involve any of the following activities at any stage (including identification of potential research participants)? (Tick as appropriate)

- Examination of personal records by those who would not normally have access
- Access to research data on individuals by people from outside the research team
- Electronic transfer of data
- Sharing data with other organisations
- Exporting data outside the European Union
- Use of personal addresses, postcodes, faxes, e-mails or telephone numbers
- Publication of direct quotations from respondents
TO THE EXTENT THAT DIRECT QUOTES FROM PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE FANFICTION COULD BE CONSIDERED TO BE FROM A 'RESPONENT' ATTHOUGH IT IS NOT REALLY THIS KIND OF MATERIAL
- Publication of data that might allow identification of individuals to be identified
TO THE EXTENT THAT THE AUTHOR'S ONLINE PERSONA MAY BE TRACED BUT THIS WOULD ONLY BE POSSIBLE IF THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR HAD DELIBERATELY MADE IT POSSIBLE TO TRACE THIS WHEN THEY POSTED THEIR FANFICTION FOR PUBLIC READING
- Use of audio/visual recording devices

- FLASH memory or other portable storage devices
- Storage of personal data on or including any of the following:
- Manual files
 - Home or other personal computers
 - Private company computers
 - Laptop computers

C.20 How will the research team ensure confidentiality and security of personal data? E.g. anonymisation procedures, secure storage and coding of data.³⁷ Refer to <http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/ResearchDataManagement>

This study does not use personal data.

C.21 How will you make your research data available to others in line with: the University's, funding bodies' and publishers' policies on making the results of publically funded research publically available (while not compromising requirements around data protection legislation)? (max 200 words) Refer to <http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/ResearchDataManagement>

The data is already in the public domain. Analysis of the data will be available in reports and presentations as described in this ethics application.

C.22 How do you intend to share the research data? (Indicate with an 'X')

- Depositing in a specialist data centre or archive
- Submitting to a journal to support a publication
- Depositing in a self-archiving system or an institutional repository
- Dissemination via a project or institutional website
- Informal peer-to-peer exchange
- No plans to report or disseminate the data
- Other, please state: The data is already in the public domain.

C.23 How do you intend to report and disseminate the results of the study? (Indicate with an 'X')

- Peer reviewed journals
- Internal report
- Conference presentation
- Publication on website
- Other publication
- Submission to regulatory authorities
- No plans to report or disseminate the results
- Other, please state: Some information about the study will be posting on social internet forums (e.g. twitter) in the interests of public engagement

C.24 For how long will data from the study be stored? Please explain why this length of time has been chosen.³⁸ Refer to the [RCUK Common Principles on Data Policy](#)

Students: It would be reasonable to retain data for at least 2 years after publication or three years after the end of data collection, whichever is longer.

Data is already in the public domain. We will keep a copy of the fanfiction we analyse indefinitely given that it has been posted in the internet for public consumption, is retained for auditing purposes should it cease to be available and the internet, and in the future it will be of historic interest.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

C.25 Will any of the researchers or their institutions receive any other benefits or incentives for taking part in this research over and above normal salary or the costs of undertaking the research?³⁹

Yes No

If yes, indicate how much and on what basis this has been decided

C.26 Is there scope for any other conflict of interest?⁴⁰ For example will the research funder have control of publication of research findings?

Yes No *If yes, please explain* _____

C.27 Does the research involve external funding? (Tick as appropriate)

Yes No *If yes, what is the source of this funding?* _____

PART D: Declarations

Declaration by Chief Investigators

1. The information in this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and I take full responsibility for it.
2. I undertake to abide by the University's ethical and health & safety guidelines, and the ethical principles underlying good practice guidelines appropriate to my discipline.
3. If the research is approved I undertake to adhere to the study protocol, the terms of this application and any conditions set out by the Research Ethics Committee.
4. I undertake to seek an ethical opinion from the REC before implementing substantial amendments to the protocol.
5. I undertake to submit progress reports if required.
6. I am aware of my responsibility to be up to date and comply with the requirements of the law and relevant guidelines relating to security and confidentiality of patient or other personal data, including the need to register when necessary with the University's Data Protection Controller (further information available via <http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/ResearchDataManagement>).
7. I understand that research records/ data may be subject to inspection for audit purposes if required in future.
8. I understand that personal data about me as a researcher in this application will be held by the relevant RECs and that this will be managed according to the principles established in the Data Protection Act.
9. I understand that the Ethics Committee may choose to audit this project at any point after approval.

Sharing information for training purposes: Optional – please tick as appropriate:

- I would be content for members of other Research Ethics Committees to have access to the information in the application in confidence for training purposes. All personal identifiers and references to researchers, funders and research units would be removed.

Principal Investigator

Signature of Principal Investigator:

(This needs to be an actual signature rather than just typed. Electronic signatures are acceptable)

Print name: Anna Madill Date: (dd/mm/yyyy): 17/12/15

Please submit your form **by email** to researchethics@leeds.ac.uk or if you are in the Faculty of Medicine and Health FMHUniEthics@leeds.ac.uk. **Remember to include any supporting material** such as your participant information sheet, consent form, interview questions and recruitment material with your application.

Appendix 1

Indicative communication to webmasters (will be translated by the team into Chinese)

Dear Webmaster,

We are contacting you to let you know that we have selected some fanfiction (no more than about 6 fictions) hosted on your site to analyse as part of a research project being conducted at the University of Leeds in the UK. If you have any questions about our study or would like us to NOT use material from your site, we would be very grateful if you would let us know within 10 days. To be practical, and with full respect, we will take no response to mean that we can go ahead with analysing material from your site.

Our study is a cultural comparison of yaoi fanfiction in Chinese and fanfiction originally written in English that has been already been translated into Chinese. We are not evaluating the quality of the material, or analysing the individuals who create such material, and the team includes researchers who are yaoi fans themselves. Also, no personal information about the author (if provided) will be reported in the dissemination of our research. The team is:

Professor Anna Madill (a.l.madill@leeds.ac.uk)
Professor Liheng Fan (fanliheng@163.com)
Ms Yao Zhao (ps13yz@leeds.ac.uk)

The results of our research will be published in a variety of formats including academic journals, conference presentations, book chapters, and information to the public via social media. In order to allow people to assess the research, and if their interest has been sparked to read the original work, we intend to identify the fictions and the websites on which the material can be found. It is also necessary to include quotes from the material (with full acknowledgement) in reports of the research. If the reports are in English, quotes from the Chinese fictions will be translated into English by the research team.

We are very excited about this study and the opportunity to contribute to scholarly research on fanfiction and thank you for reading this communication.

Study title: A comparison of Chinese and Anglophone Harry Potter yaoi fanfiction
Ethics approval number: XXXXXXXXXXXX Date: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Chair of Ethics Committee, Dr Donna Lloyd, D.M.Lloyd@leeds.ac.uk

Kind regards,
Professor Madill, Professor Fan, and Ms Zhao