

Ethics Approval

-----Original Message-----

From: Ethics.Committee@webhost02h.leeds.ac.uk [<mailto:Ethics.Committee@webhost02h.leeds.ac.uk>]

Sent: 30 October 2014 13:30

To: Anna Madill

Subject: Ethics form decision

Anna Madill
Institute of Psychological Sciences
University of Leeds
Leeds LS2 9JT
30-Oct-2014

Dear Anna Madill,

Title of study: Understanding the Chinese and Anglophone Boys' Love fandom

Ethics reference: 14-0210

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: 14-0210; date approved: 30-Oct-2014). 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:	200822621

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)
 - School of Psychology (SoPREC)

A.2 Title of the research³

Understanding the Chinese *Boys' Love* fandom

A.3 Principal investigator's contact details⁴

Name (<i>Title, first name, surname</i>)	Yao Zhao
Position	Postgraduate research student
Department/ School/ Institute	School of Psychology
Faculty	Medicine and Health
Work address (<i>including postcode</i>)	Psychology, University of Leeds, LS2 9TJ
Telephone number	07711187265
University of Leeds email address	ps13yz@leeds.ac.uk

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

- Research
- Educational qualification: ***Please specify: Major Project for Research Postgraduate***
- 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 qualitative 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.

The HRA decision tool to help determine the type of approval required is available at <http://www.hra-decisiontools.org.uk/ethics>. 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 16 ¹⁶ **Specify age group:** any age
- 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 questionnaire will be open to all age groups but interviewees will be at least 16 years old. The demographic who are most interested in Boys' Love (manga, anime, novels, games) tend to be teenage girls and young women. To understanding the pattern of yaoi fanship, it is necessary to include any age participants who assess this survey that could better reflect the actual pattern of Chinese yaoi readers.

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&deptid=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 is on the Chinese Boys' Love (BL) fandom. BL is a genre of Japanese popular cultural manga/anime/novels/games which portray romantic and sometime sexual relationships between young men. The products are usually designed and created by women and consumed by young women and are hugely popular across East and South East Asia – and increasingly across the globe. There is very little research on the Chinese BL fandom and, as a Chinese national, the principle researcher is ideally-placed to undertake this research. Data will be generated in two ways. Recorded interviews will be conducted with Chinese nationals who are BL fans. Interviews may be conducted face-to-face, by telephone, or online. Around 25 interviews will be conducted. Data will also be collected via an online survey, developed in English and translated by the primary researcher into Chinese. A paper copy of the survey will be used at relevant yaoi events, completed and returned immediately to the researcher. The survey will collect both quantitative (likert-scale) and qualitative (open-ended questions) responses. Quantitative data will be analysed statistically and the qualitative data with an appropriate qualitative methodology.

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.

Boys' Love products (manga, novels, anime, games) can include erotic content – although many are merely romances and, where there is sexual content, this is usually narratively coherent (i.e., not gratuitous) and embedded within a romantic storyline. Survey responses are anonymous. The survey does ask respondees about their preferences vis-a-vis the sexual content of BL. However, questions are in likert-scale format so that respondees do not need to write about sexual matters. Most likert-scale questions are followed by an open-ended question allowing for further explanation/description but participants are under no obligation to complete all the likert-scale questions and can choose to provide no additional information in written, free-form format. At the end of survey respondees are asked if they are interested in taking part in an interview to contact the principal researcher via her research e-mail (that can be accessed from anywhere in the world), QQ, weibo and Wechat address. This means that a participant's survey response is not traceable to any individual contacting the researcher with regard to interviews. Because interviews will explore the sexual content of BL and the interviewee's preferences and feelings about this in a more conversational way, interviewees will be at least 16 years old. Individuals responding to the survey and who relevant for interview, will be aware that the erotic nature of BL will make this appropriate topic for questions and the introduction to the survey and the information sheet for the interviews will make this clear and summarize their general content and purpose. Survey respondees and interviewees will also be notified they are under no obligation to provide answer to any particular question and can skip questions if they wish. It is the norm for fans of manga/anime etc. to use a pseudonym when communicating about their interests and for mangaka (author-artists) to use pen-names so our research obligation and commitment to the anonymity of all participants will be well understood. Consent to take part in the survey will, as normal, be deemed to have been given by its completion and submission. For interviews, audio-recorded or written consent (if an on-line written communication interview is undertaken) will be taken before the research interview due to practicalities of getting SIGNED consent and for added anonymity where a participant is present but does not wish to provide their name. Hence, all items on the consent form will be gone through with the participant indicating consent verbally or in writing before the research interview is started but an actual signature will only be collected when this is possible and is the wish of the participant. This procedure has been given ethical approval for the supervisor's research on the UK BL fandom.

PART B: About the research team**B.1 To be completed by students only²⁰**

Qualification working towards (eg Masters, PhD)	PhD
Supervisor's name (Title, first name, surname)	Professor Anna Madill
Department/ School/ Institute	Psychology
Faculty	Medicine and Health
Work address (including postcode)	Psychology
Supervisor's telephone number	0113 343 5750
Supervisor's email address	a.l.madill@leeds.ac.uk
Module name and number (if applicable)	

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 this research is to understand the Chinese Boys' Love fandom. Japanese popular culture has a huge impact on youth world-wide but very little is known about the Chinese fans.

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.)

It is important that the study can provide information about the aims that it intends to address. If a study cannot answer the questions/ add to the knowledge base that it intends to, due to the way that it is designed, then wasting participants' time could be an ethical issue.

Data will be generated in two ways. First, recorded interviews will be conducted with Chinese nationals who are BL fans. Around 25 interviews will be conducted. This number is appropriate for a PhD project which will also include survey material. The interview schedule is slightly adapted from one that the supervisor has ethical approval for and has used to good effect. Second, an online survey, developed in English and translated by the primary researcher into Chinese, will be used to collect data. A paper copy of the survey will be used also at relevant yaoi events, completed and returned immediately to the researcher. The survey will request both quantitative (likert-scale) and qualitative (open-ended questions) responses. Quantitative data will be analysed statistically. Qualitative data will be analysed using an appropriate qualitative methodology.

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

Interviews will be on-line (e.g., e-mail), face-to-face, or telephone. Interviews are expected to last about an hour. There will be usually be just one interview per participant. If they are face-to-face, the venue will be negotiated within the limits required to ensure that the researcher is taking no more risks than would be reasonable in everyday life. The venue mutual convenience, with the researcher willing to travel if need be. The survey will take around 10-20 minutes to complete

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:

For online survey, there is no specific ethical review in China. However, in China, website holders take responsibility for the information they present and they will undertake a sensitive information/word check before accepting the survey. We will be using the online Chinese survey tool (<http://www.sojump.com/>) for individuals who prefer all context (instructions, tabs, etc.) to be in Chinese and Bristol Online Surveys (<https://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/?op=mysurveys>) for individuals who are comfortable with context in English. Regarding Chinese internet regulation, the authority blocks some foreign websites periodically. Therefore, the survey is released also on the Chinese survey tool in order to make sure participants can access the survey any time. I will make both versions of the survey available to the Western Chinese fandom. It is important, however, that Chinese people have access to the version that has all context and instructions in Chinese because Chinese is the mother-tongue of many Chinese people living in the West and it is this Chinese national population that is my main demographic of interest. Downloading the Chinese survey data to the N drive on a weekly basis will be the strategy for securing this Chinese national data, wherever they may be living currently.

Describe the measures you have taken to comply with these:

The survey will conform to UK ethical stipulations as required by this ethics submission. Where required, permission will be gained from websites on which we post about the survey before doing

SO.

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

C.5 Proposed study dates and duration

Research start date (DD/MM/YY): 01/12/2015 Research end date (DD/MM/YY): 31/09/2019

Fieldwork start date (DD/MM/YY): 01/12/2015 Fieldwork end date (DD/MM/YY): 31/09/2019

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

Online and telephone interviews will be conducted in such a way that they are not viewed or overheard by other people. Where possible, telephone interviews will be conducted in a private room in the School of Psychology with out-of-hours procedures adhered to if interviews need to be conducted outside normal opening hours. As to the time difference, researcher conducts the online interview possibly out of the official time in UK but reasonable time in China, so that researcher might process the online interview at her own accommodation. Face to face interviews will be held at mutually convenient and negotiated venue following safety procedures for the researcher. Where possible interviews will be held in a private room in the Psychology building. Preference will be given to interviewing in a public, but quiet, place such a cafe or community centre. The researcher will only agree to an interview at the interviewee's house if the interviewee has been identified within or by her own social network and so has been recommended to her by people she knows. A research interview safety protocol has been attached to this submission. Where face-to-face interviews are conducted in the UK outside the university campus the lead supervisor will be the safety contact and where face-to-face interviews are conducted in China, the researcher's mother (a Chinese academic) will be the safety contact.

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?

Participants relevant to complete the online survey and to offer themselves for interview will self-identify through finding the survey link via Chinese fan-website, Chinese social network websites such as Weibo, Xiaonei, and Wechat, and via online groups, such as University Chinese Societies. Participants will also be identified through their attendance at relevant public events and through the researcher's social networks.

(ii) approached?

Potential participants will be approached in the following ways: (1) with relevant permissions, the on-line survey link will be made available on Chinese social network websites and yaoi fan forums; (2) leaflets (see appendices) with short summary of the study and QR code for the online survey and short invitation for interview will be distributed at universities in China with the permission of academics whose students are approached (e.g. at the beginning of lectures); (3) the researcher will contact relevant university societies and request help to forward the survey link and to advertise the study to members (see appendices for e-mail); (4) the researcher will attend relevant public events (mainly in China) to give out the leaflets, have the paper version of the survey completed, and to conduct interviews; (5) the researcher will contact persons who run yaoi-themed accounts in social media or authors of yaoi and yaoi-related materials and ask if they will be willing to make available the link to the online survey; (6) the researcher will contact relevant yaoi online sellers to ask if they are willing to include the leaflet in their sales packages.

(iii) recruited?²⁶

Having been approached as described above, the survey provides the researcher's research e-

mail, QQ, weibo and wechat addresses to contact her if the respondee is interested in taking part in an interview or has any questions about the study. It also provides a link the supervisor's academia.edu account on which is available the information sheet and consent form. Recruitment may also be promoted by word-of-mouth and through snow-balling as yaoi fans let each other know about the study. If appropriate, the researcher will also give a verbal explanation of the research to meetings (e.g., of relevant university societies).

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

Individuals under the age of 16 years will be excluded from interview since the material studied often has sexual content and it is not viable to seek parental consent for participation. This age requirement is specified on the consent form. It may be impossible to know the age of an individual interviewed (e.g., wrt an e-mail interview) so the researcher will use her judgment and err on the side of caution.

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.

On the advice of the supervisor, around 25 interviews will be sufficient to meet the aims of the research alongside the survey data. The survey attempts to explore the broad views, hence the more responses the better. A similar survey in English targeted at the Anglophone BL fandom lead by the supervisor has received almost 2000 completed over 12 months hence we expect enough completes for descriptive as well as more detailed statistical analysis.

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

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.

For interviews, an information sheet and written conditions of consent will be provided in hard copy where possible and participants directed to a webpage containing this material (supervisor's academia.edu page) when there is no face-to-face contact or possibility of sending these electronically. Where it is difficult or impossible to obtain a wet ink signature, or if the participant does not want to give their name, an audio-recorded verbal acceptance of the conditions of consent will be taken before the interview commences (e.g., over the telephone) or a written statement secured accepting the conditions of consent (e.g., via e-mail). The survey introduction presents the general content and purposes of the survey. The researcher and supervisor contact details will be provided on the information sheet and survey introduction and advertising material to allow questions to be directed to us about the research. As normal, submission of the survey online or in person will be taken as giving informed consent to participation in the research.

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.

N/a

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. Remember to use meaningful file names and version control to make it easier to [keep track of your documents](#).

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.

We will do our utmost to comply with any request to withdraw interview material from the study. This may prove very difficult if this involves quotes in research accepted for publication or submitted for examination (approximate date provided on the information sheet/ The thesis on which based on this information will be submitted by 30/09/2019 but publications and other communication of results will continue after this date.), but it is normally possible to find alternative quotes that make similar points. The damage to the researchers' reputation and on-going trust vis-à-vis the study population – as well as the fundamental ethics of complying as fully as possible with requests to withdraw relatively personal material – make it crucial that we respect any wish to withdraw interview material as far as is possible. This risk of such a request is very low and the supervisor has never experienced such a request in over 20 years of undertaking qualitative research. It will not be possible to withdraw surveys from the study. Surveys are submitted as entirely anonymous and are not traceable to individuals. This is normal procedure in survey research and the inability to withdraw material is linked to the ethical principle of anonymity. Survey results will be analysed in terms of groups, trends, and themes, and not at the level of individual, hence making individual responses in and of themselves obscure.

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.

In most circumstances interview participants will be given at least 24 hours after receiving the information sheet, or website details containing this information, before deciding whether or not to take part in this research. On-the-spot interviews may be conducted when the researcher is approaching potential participants at relevant events, in which circumstances it would be very difficult to arrange a delayed interview. Interview participants will be given a copy of the information sheet, have its content explained also verbally, and given every opportunity to ask questions about the study. As normal, interview participants will be able to contact the researcher to withdraw their data as described above. The researcher will also approach potential participants with paper copies of the survey at relevant events for on-the-spot completion and submission to the researcher. Given the full anonymity of the survey data and analysis at a group level (as described in C12) the risks for participants of almost immediate completion and submission are minimal. The survey will remain open for around 3 years but we request leaving this indeterminate to give us the opportunity of continuing to collect a larger sample post-PhD completion. Potential participants have many months to consider completing the on-line survey and whether to contact the researcher about taking part in an interview.

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.)

Materials will all be translated by the researcher into Chinese and all will be piloted with Chinese nationals in the researcher's social network for understandability.

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.*

The topic forming the basis of the interview is the interviewee's interest in, and/or production of Boys' Love which can include stylised drawings of erotic content. This may be an embarrassing subject and may involve the participant discussing intimate and personal aspects of their lives. This is made clear in the information sheet and, where possible, verbally prior to participants consenting to interview. It will also be made clear that the participant is under no obligation to answer any particular line of questioning and is free to leave/end the interview at any time without giving a reason. In essence, the context of the research will facilitate participation only when this feels comfortable for the participant and when the interview is underway participants will have personal control over the level of disclosure with which they are happy. There will also be plenty of time to withdraw an individual contribution if, on reflection, the participant feels uncomfortable with their material being used for research purposes.

Interview participants will be warned in the information sheet, and verbally where possible, that the researcher may be obliged to alert relevant authorities should the participant reveal involvement in any serious criminal activity, intention to harm themselves or others, or if the researcher has good reason to suspect that the participant, themselves, is at serious risk of harm from others. If this is the case, the researcher may tell the participant that she intends to seek advice and will, at the earliest opportunity contact her supervisor to discuss what action to take. However, the interview does not actively seek such information and the researcher may reiterate this warning during the interview.

The survey introduction also summarises its content and draw attention to the fact that it covers the erotic aspects of Boys' Love. It is made clear in this summary that the final section of the survey on engagement with other sexually explicit material is optional.

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.

n/a

RISKS OF THE STUDY

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

There should be no significant risks for research participants in taking part in either interview or survey. Some of the topics that will be engaged may be embarrassing, sensitive, or intimate but, as explained in the section above, the research is designed to facilitate participant disclosure only at the level at which individual participants feel comfortable. Although it is not the purpose of the research, participants taking part in an interview may benefit from discussing their experiences and interests with an informed and empathic listener and knowing that their contribution may help further understanding into this youth subculture.

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: _____

Where possible face-to-face interviews will take place in the Psychology building on the Leeds University campus. It is likely that some interviews are conducted at relevant events in the UK and China. The researcher may also travel to meet with a participant at a mutually agreed, safe location, although a telephone, e-mail or online interview will be preferred if at all possible. The place at which an interview is conducted off-campus will be agreed first with the supervisor and will tend to be quite, public spaces (such as a café) or private room in a public building by appointment. The researcher will not agree to a location that she does not feel comfortable with. Interviews may take place in participants' homes but the researcher will only agree to this if she is already familiar with the participant and is comfortable with them. A research interview safety protocol designed at the University of Leeds for use with DClinPsychol postgraduates has been appended to this ethics submission and will be used in relation to the current research. If data collection is in the UK the supervisor will act as the safety contact and if the data collection is in China the researcher's mother (a Chinese academic) will act as the safety contact

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://ris.leeds.ac.uk/HealthAndSafetyAdvice>.

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

The consent form requests consent to share anonymised data with other researchers.

Survey data is fully anonymous on submission. Access to this data by other researchers is essential in order to obtain expert advice on how to analysis the data statistically.

- Electronic transfer of data
- Sharing data with other organisations
- Exporting data outside the European Union

The direction of data transfer is predominantly from China to the UK but the researcher will need to access material stored on the University N drive from her PhD when she has completed her degree in order to continue to analysis and publish this ground breaking data. She will access the N drive remotely for this purpose at that time. For the purpose of her PhD data will be transfer from China to the UK. We have made all reasonable enquiries and can find no particular policies in this regard specific to China with which we need to comply. The researcher's mother is a high experienced academic and we has also checked with her and her network on this matter. We understand that there are some restrictions to taking encrypted laptops in and out of China and will comply with these - http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/info/71/good_research_practice/106/research_data_guidance/2 and http://it.leeds.ac.uk/info/127/information_security_your_role/263/travelling_abroad_with_a_n_encrypted_laptop_and_data.

Use of personal addresses, postcodes, faxes, e-mails or telephone numbers
Researcher provides an email which is not the university e-mail, since the university email cannot be stably accessed in China and when participants send e-mail to the university e-mail in China it also possibly gets stuck. Hence, researcher uses another e-mail which could be easily accessed in anywhere.

Publication of direct quotations from respondents

Publication of data that might allow identification of individuals to be identified

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

Audio-recorded data may be held on the researcher's personal computer until transfer to safe storage on the University of Leeds secure N drive for a period of time while collecting data off site. The researcher may also conduct online interviews via her home computer in order to maintain participant confidentiality given that PGRS have no private space in the department. Due to time difference, the online interview possible run at nonworking time in the UK but reasonable time in China, hence, researcher might conduct the interview within her own accommodation.

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>

Because PGRS have no private space in the department, the researcher will conduct online interviews that might be overheard in the PGRS space in her own accommodation, making sure that the environment maintains the participant's confidentiality. Non-anonymous data will be uploaded to the researcher's private folder on the university N drive (which is user name and password protected) as soon as possible and deleted from other devices. Audio-data will be anonymised at point of transcription and, given that interviews are likely to be conducted in Chinese, these will be transcribed by the researcher - and in conditions that maintain the confidentiality of participants. Interviews in written format (e.g., via e-mail) will be held on a password protected device and will be anonymised prior to analysis through the use of pseudonyms and with other potentially identifying material omitted or changed. The researcher will

keep a note of interview participants' contact details and their research pseudonym/code in order to be able to remove material from the study if requested. This will be kept in a secure location separately from the research data. Direct quotes from interviews may be used in reports of the research but every effort will be made so that participants are not identifiable. Consent to use quotes in this way will be obtained from interview participants as a condition of taking part in the research. Signed informed consent forms will be given to the supervisor for safe and confidential storage. These will be original copies if obtained in the UK. If obtained during data collection in China these will be scanned and e-mailed to the supervisor for printing and then for safe and confidential storage and, when receipt is confirmed, the originals will be destroyed. Data from paper copy surveys will be entered into the online version of the survey by the researcher. Where the paper copies of the survey have been completed within the UK, the original paper copies will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the School of Psychology. Where the paper copies of the survey have been completed in China, the original paper copies will be stored in a locked cabinet in the researcher's home. Continuing to store this data has no risk for participants because all paper copies are completed anonymously. However, there is always the possibility that we need to double-check original paper copies of the survey for correct data entry to the online survey by the researcher and there is a strong principle of maintaining original data for audit purposes. The online survey responses will download weekly from the Chinese online survey tool, in order to make sure the result will not be lost by the authority internet regulation or any other accident. The result will be uploaded for storage to the researcher's private folder on the university N drive.

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>

This research is not publically-funded, but is self-funded by the PhD researcher.

C.22 How do you intend to share the research data? (Indicate with an 'X') Refer to <http://library.leeds.ac.uk/research-data-deposit> for guidance.

- 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: _____.

C.23 How do you intend to report and disseminate the results of the study? (Indicate with an 'X') Refer to <http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/ResearchDissemination> and <http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/Publication> for guidance.

- 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: _____.

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](http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/info/71/good_research_practice/106/research_data_guidance/5) and http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/info/71/good_research_practice/106/research_data_guidance/5.

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.*

___20+___ years, _____ months

The data will be historically interesting as a record of an evolving youth sub-culture, particularly since it relates to the novel development of young women's erotic culture. It is difficult to anticipate what else might be gleaned from the re-analysis of this material in the years to come.

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, could the research findings affect the any ongoing relationship between any of the individuals or organisations involved and the researcher(s)? Will the research funder have control of publication of research findings? Refer to <http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/ConflictsOfInterest>.*

Yes No

If so, please describe this potential conflict of interest, and outline what measures will be taken to address any ethical issues that might arise from the research.

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

Yes No **If yes, what is the source of this funding?** The PhD researcher is self-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: Yao Zhao..... Date: (dd/mm/yyyy):30/10/2015.....

Supervisor of student research: I have read, edited and agree with the form above.

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

Print name:Anna Madill..... Date: (dd/mm/yyyy):20/11/15.....

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 A
Study: Understanding the Chinese Boys' Love Fandom
Draft Interview schedule

How would you describe Boys' Love/YAOI to someone who had never heard of it?

Can you let me how you came to be interested in BL/YAOI?

How old were you when you first found BL/ YAOI?

What BL did you find first, can you remember?

How did you find it (through friends, online)?

Where do you get your BL/YAOI (bought, borrowed, online)?

Do you share this interest with your friends?

Do you also read slash fiction?

Do you create BL/YAOI manga yourself?

Do you consider yourself to be fujoshi?

What does this mean to you?

Who is your favourite BL/YAOI mangaka?

What are some of her titles that you like?

What is it that you like about her work?

What is your favourite BL/YAOI title?

Can you tell me a bit about this story?

Do you find yourself identifying with a particular character in the story?

What is it that you like about this story?

What kind of BL/YAOI do you like best?

Particular kind of relationship?

Particular kind of seme or uke?

Level of explicitness?

Do you engage with other kinds of erotica?

Who do you think is the audience for BL/YAOI manga in China?

How do you feel about male/female readers of BL/YAOI?

How do you feel about straight/gay/lesbian readers of BL/YAOI?

How do you feel about younger/older readers of BL/YAOI?

What aspects of BL/YAOI do you find shocking, if any?

Sometimes the relationships are incestuous – what do you make of this?

What do you feel about the way that female characters are portrayed?

Sometimes some of the characters look very young – what do you make of this?

What is your opinion of Shotacon?

Some BL/YAOI may be illegal in the China. How do you feel about this?

To what extent are you concerned about copyright of BL/YAOI manga in China?

How important is BL/YAOI to you?

What does it mean to you?

Appendix B

Understanding the Chinese Boys' Love Fandom Information Sheet

Researcher: Yao Zhao, School of Psychology, University of Leeds, UK

Email: academic_yaoi@sina.com Weibo: Academic_Yaoi QQ: 3136104550

Supervisor: Professor Anna Madill

Email: a.l.madill@leeds.ac.uk

Information sheet: Version 2

Ethics approval: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX **Date:** xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hello! I'm a Chinese postgraduate at the University of Leeds conducting research into Chinese fans of Boys' Love/YAOI/shonen-ai. This information sheet explains why the research is being carried out and what it involves.

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this research is to further understanding of the Chinese fandom of Boys' Love. Boys' Love manga, anime, novels, and games are increasingly popular across the world but there is little or no research on Chinese fans.

Why have I been invited to take part?

If you are at least 16 years old, are a Chinese national, and consider yourself to be a keen fan of Boys' Love, I would like to invite you to take part in this research.

Do I have to take part?

No – it is entirely up to you whether or not you take part. If you are interested in taking part in the study, I will go through this information sheet with you to make sure that you fully understand what is involved, including the conditions of consent. You can ask me any questions you want about the study before you decide. If you would like to take part, you can decide if you would like to sign a consent form or just record your consent at the beginning without having to give a signature (e.g., verbally at the beginning of an audio-recorded interview). Giving consent does not mean that you have to do anything that you do not want to do. You can end the interview at any time, do not have to answer anything that I ask, and can contact me to take your interview out of the research at any time up to the point at which it has been submitted for examination or publication, without having to give a reason. The thesis on which based on this information will be submitted by 30/09/2019 but publications and other communication of results will continue after this date. It may be difficult for me to remove your contribution from a report that has been submitted for examination or accepted for publication so, if you do change your mind about contributing to this research, please try to let me know sooner rather than later – thanks!

What does the study involve?

The study will involve taking part in a recorded discussion – a research interview - with me about your Boys' Love interest and activities. I anticipate conducting the interview in Chinese, but just let me know if you prefer it to be conducted in English. I have a list of questions but I am happy for you to tell me about your experiences and opinions in your own way. The interview may be an audio-recorded face-to-face interview, but some interviews may be done over the telephone or over the internet (e.g., by e-mail). The interview may be very short or may last an hour or more depending on how much time you have and where it is conducted. Usually our contact will be just the one interview, but if you would like to contribute further I am happy to discuss this with you. I anticipate asking about how you got interested in Boys' Love and how you pursue this interest, to tell me about your favourite BL mangakas and favourite BL publications, and your thoughts about the content of BL (including its sexual content), and your opinion about how BL is received in China.

Where will the research be done?

If our discussion is conducted on-line or by telephone there is a lot of flexibility when this can be done and we will come to an agreement about this together. If I am approaching you at an event, we can find a quiet place to sit and do the interview. If you would like a face-to-face interview, and this is a possibility for me in terms of my location in the UK or in China, we can discuss a possible venue. For privacy and for a clear audio-recording, it is helpful if we do the interview somewhere that is reasonably quiet but, given that we probably won't know each other very well, it is probably also appropriate that the location is a public one.

We will agree a time and location together. If you are in or near Leeds, UK we could do the interview in a private room at the University of Leeds.

What about confidentiality?

Audio-recording of the interviews will be kept on a private and secure university computer, locked with a username and password. Audio-recordings will be typed up into a transcript. This may be done by a person other than me. If this is the case, the transcriber will keep the content of the interview confidential and will not hold onto any of the material after completing the transcription. Effort will be made so that you will not be identifiable in the transcripts or other material, such as e-mails, used for analysis. For example, potentially identifying details will be omitted and pseudonyms (false names) will be used. I will ask your consent to be able to use quotes from our recorded discussions in reports of the research but you should not be identifiable from these quotes. If you chose to sign a consent form, I will give these to my supervisor for safe and confidential storage. If you give me consent to share your data for analysis with other researchers, they will only have access to the anonymised version of our discussion and, if required, know only very general demographic information about you (e.g., approximate age). I will make every effort to maintain the confidentiality of the material you provide for this research. However, I must make it clear that there always remains the risk that digital material, such as e-mail, is vulnerable to illegal intrusions such as hacking. The systems I use to communicate and to store material at the University of Leeds have very strong protection so , although this risk is present, it is minimal.

There are some limits to confidentiality in all research activity. I may be obliged to alert relevant authorities if a participant reveals involvement in any serious criminal activity, intention to harm themselves or others, or if I have good reason to suspect that the participant is at serious risk of harm from others. If this is the case, I may tell you that I intend to seek advice and will, at the earliest opportunity contact my supervisor. However, I can reassure you that my research does not actively seek such information and, if I think you may be about to disclose something along these lines during the interview, I will remind you of my obligations.

Are there any risks in taking part?

I do not expect there to be any significant risks in taking part. However, some topics related to this research may be sensitive. For example, some Boys' Love has explicit sexual content and some Boys' Love on the internet may contravene copyright and other laws depending on the jurisdiction in which they are accessed. I would like to ask your opinion on these kinds of topics but you can decline this line of questioning without having to give a reason and I will, of course, respect your wishes.

Are there any benefits in taking part?

Although it is not the purpose of the research, taking part may be interesting and it might be good to know that you are promoting the understanding of a phenomenon that has the potential to be misrepresented or misunderstood in mainstream culture. You will be able to find a copy of the information sheet, consent form, and (in due course) a summary of the research findings on-line at <https://leeds.academia.edu/AnnaMadill/BL-Chinese-Fandom-Research>.

Ethics

The ethical guidelines for this research have been set out by the British Psychological Society code of ethics. These guidelines include ethical principles such as making sure you know what will happen and are happy to take part, explaining that you can stop the interview at any time, and protecting your identity. If you have any complaints about my contacting you, or anything that happens in the interview, please contact my supervisor Professor Anna Madill who will be happy to discuss what action to take.

Thank you for considering taking part in this study. Yao

Appendix C
CONSENT FORM

Study title: Understanding the Chinese Boys' Love Fandom

The purpose of this form is to make sure that you are happy to take part in the research and that you know what is involved. If you are happy to sign this sheet, please also confirm each statement by putting your initials in the associated box. If you would rather give consent without signature, the researcher will ask you to confirm each of the following in the format in which the interview is being recorded (e.g., audio-recording) before starting.

I am 16 years or older	
I have read the participant information sheet (version 2) or had the content explained to me by the researcher	
I have had the opportunity to ask questions and to discuss the study	
I have received satisfactory answers to all of my questions	
I have received enough information about the study	
I understand that I am free to withdraw from the study at any time without having to give a reason but also that my contribution may be impossible to remove if it is in a report that has already been accepted for examination or publication (The thesis on which based on this information will be submitted by 30/09/2019 but publications and other communication of results will continue after this date)	
I understand that I am free to end the research interview at any time without having to give a reason	
I understand that I am free to choose not to answer a question without having to give a reason	
I agree to the interview being recorded (e.g., audio-recorded)	
I grant permission for my data to be shared with other researchers on the condition that my anonymity will be maintained	
I grant permission for extracts from the interview to be used in reports of the research (such as journal publications, conference presentations, and educational meetings) on the understanding that my anonymity will be maintained	
I agree to take part in this study	

Participant signature
Date
Name of participant
Researcher signature
Date
Name of researcher: Yao Zhao, University of Leeds

Appendix E
Safety Protocol for Risk Assessment

Research Interview Safety Protocol (Home Visit) Researcher Trainee and Research Tutor or Research Supervisor

- Researcher to pre-arrange call-in/call-out system with relevant safety contact a few days before each off-campus interview/fieldtrip to ensure safety contact is available.
- Should there be a time when relevant safety contact is unable to be the contact person then the researcher will arrange call-in/out system with a colleague/friend, who will also have access to the following protocol. The Researcher will subsequently inform relevant safety contact of the name of the person 'standing in'.
- Researcher will send a confidential email/provide a confidential written note of the location being attended to the relevant safety contact the day before the visit with details of the address she is to visit, the name of the person/event she is visiting, a contact phone no for that person/event, and the time the interview is to commence/dates of fieldwork and travel and accommodation arrangements.
- Relevant safety contact will confirm receipt of this information.
- On arriving at the address of the interview/event, Researcher will phone/text relevant safety contact to say she is about to start the visit, and (if relevant) agree a time when the interview should be finished and she will call to say she has left the interview or, if at an event, check in to confirm safety at the end of every day.
- Researcher will explain to the interviewee before the start of the interview that the University insists on this call-in /call-out system and that if the interview over-runs she will need to make a quick phone call.
- Researcher will then phone relevant safety contact when the interview is finished, and she has left the house, at the pre-arranged time or, if at an event, make contact to confirm her safety at the end of every day.
- If the interview over-runs for any reason, the researcher will take a break from the interview and phone relevant safety contact to let her know this, and a second finish time will be agreed.
- If, on arrival at the address/event, the researcher has any concerns for her safety (location, environment, other persons at address, or interviewee), she will not proceed with the interview, informing the interviewee and relevant safety contact, return to base, and attempt to re-schedule the interview at an alternative location.
- Researcher will endeavour to do interviews during daylight hours.
- If the Researcher is having trouble with her phone, or does not/cannot make the interview for some reason, or the interviewee cancels the interview, the Researcher has responsibility to let the relevant safety contact know this asap, and will continue to attempt to make contact with Tutor/Supervisor until Tutor/Supervisor confirms the message by phoning Researcher's mobile, or another contact number.
- In the very, very unlikely situation that the Researcher is being held against her will, but is allowed to make/receive phone calls because the call-in and out system has been explained, the researcher will say in her phone call with relevant safety contact "Ok, I will see you tomorrow at 6 PM" (a time never arranged for meetings). In this unlikely event relevant safety contact will immediately phone the police.
- In the event that the researcher does not phone at the agreed time:
 1. Relevant safety contact is to phone the Researcher on their mobile phone (details found at the bottom of the protocol)
 2. If no response, relevant safety contact will phone the interviewee/event contact number
 3. If no response, Tutor/Supervisor is to phone the police to report the researcher missing, giving details of address, person interviewed, and Researcher's personal mobile number.
 4. If appropriate, Tutor/Supervisor/police is to contact relative (emergency contact person)

Researcher's Mobile xxxx

<p>Safety contact in UK (Supervisor) Mobile: xxxx University Phone: +44 (0)113 343 5750 Email: a.l.madill@leeds.ac.uk</p>	<p>Safety contact in China (Researcher's mother) Name: xxx Address: xxx Email: xxx Mobile: xxx</p>
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Agreed by Researcher and Tutor – Date 22/10/15

Appendix F

Confidentiality Statement for Transcribers

Ethics Committee, School of Psychology, University of Leeds

The British Psychological Society has published a set of guidelines on ethical principles for conducting research. One of these principles concerns maintaining the confidentiality of information obtained from participants during an investigation.

As a transcriber you have access to material obtained from research participants. In concordance with the BPS ethical guidelines, the Ethics Committee of the School of Psychology, University of Leeds requires that you sign this Confidentiality Statement for every project in which you act as transcriber.

General

- I understand that the material I am transcribing is confidential
- The material transcribed will be discussed with no-one
- The identity of research participants will not be divulged

Transcription Procedure

- Transcription will be conducted in such a way that the confidentiality of the material is maintained
- I will ensure that audio-recordings cannot be overheard and that transcripts, or parts of transcripts, are not read by people without official right of access
- All materials relating to transcription will be returned to the researcher

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Researcher Yao Zhao

Project Title Understanding the Chinese Boys' Love Fandom

Appendix G BL Fandom Survey

Hello! My name is Yao Zhao. I am a Chinese national and postgraduate student at the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. This survey is for Chinese Boys' Love (BL) fans. BL, also known as YAOI, originated in Japan and consists of female-oriented products such as manga, anime, and novels that focus on homoerotic relationships. BL is popular in China but there is very little research about the Chinese fans. By completing this survey you will be helping promote understanding of this fandom. The survey does not ask your name and I will not know who has completed it. The data will be available to a small team of researchers, including my supervisor, so that I get the best advice about analysis. I have ethical approval to conduct this research from the School of Psychology at the University of Leeds: Ethics approval number xxxxxx, date xxxxxx. My research supervisor is Professor Anna Madill.

This survey will take about 10 minutes to complete. Most questions just ask you to select an answer from a few options. However, there is usually space for you to explain your answer in your own words – but you can choose to complete as many or as few as these as you want. The survey has five sections: (A) demographics, (B) feelings about BL, (C) social relationships, and (D) engagement with other erotic material. You can skip any question you don't want to answer and can skip the whole of section E if you want. I will just be very grateful for any information you are willing to share with me about your interest in BL.

When this research is completed, you will find summary results at <https://leeds.academia.edu/AnnaMadill/BL-Chinese-Fandom-Research> to find further information. If you might be interested to take part in an interview (e.g., via e-mail) to explore your opinions about BL in China please contact me. Thank you for your help with this research!
Yao

E-mail: academic_yaoi@sina.com

Weibo: Academic_Yaoi

QQ: 3136104550

Section A Demographics

1. Are you a Chinese national? Yes No
If no, what is your nationality?.....
2. In which Chinese province do you live?.....
If you do not live in mainland China, in which country do you live?.....
3. What is your age:
4. What is your gender: Female Male Other (please describe)?.....
5. What is your highest current educational level (including any program under taking)?
Middle school High school Bachelor Master PhD or Higher
6. What is your occupation? (Please select your occupation)
Student
white collar (typically work in an office environment and paid a monthly salary)
Pink collar (typically services work involving customer interaction)

blue collar (typically manual work building or maintaining something and paid a wage)

other (please describe).....

7. What is your sexual orientation?

Heterosexual Homosexual/lesbian/gay Bisexual Not sure

Other (please describe)?.....

8. At what age did you start to engage with BL?

9. How did you first discover BL?.

Introduced to BL by someone

Found it by myself

Other (please specify).....

10. How intensity you describe yourself as a BL fan?

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Always
1	2	3	4	5

11. Do you create any BL works yourself? No Yes

If yes please select the all the formats of BL works you have created.

Original Manga	Original drawing	Original novels
Dojinshi manga	Dojinshi drawing	Dojinshi novels

Others (please specify)

12. Do you BL cosplay? No Yes

If yes please select which character you have cosed?

Seme	
Uke	
Other	

Please identify which BL character(s) you have cosplayed ?

13. How acceptable are the Male-Male sexual relationships to you in real life?

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Always

14. How acceptable are the Female-Female sexual relationships to you in real life?

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Always
1	2	3	4	5

Section B BL materials to be engaged

15. What percentage of your spare time to you spending in BL material?

1-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100%

Please select all formats of BL materials you have engaged.

Online materials	① BL manga	② BL novels	③ Anime	④ Audio Drama	⑤ Games
	⑥ Dojinshi Manag	⑦ Dojinshi novels	None	Others (please specify)	
Real materials	⑧ BL Manga	⑨ BL novels	⑩ Anime DVD	⑪ Audio CD Drama	⑫ Game CD
	⑬ Dojinshi Manga	⑭ Dojinshi novels	None	Other (please specify)	

Please rank in order the top three formats you have engaged most.

Section C Feelings about BL

16. I like BL stories are mostly romance and no sex.

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

17. I like BL stories with implicit relationship (implicit relationship means the seme and uke do not identify their lover relationship, in that they could be friends or sexual partners.).

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

18. I like BL stories with explicit sex.

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

19. Which 'taboo' sexual content to you enjoy in BL? Please select all applied options.

	Type of incestual sexual relationship			
	Blood	Adoptive	Step	In-law
Father/son(Seme/uke)				
Son/father(Seme/uke)				
Bothers				
Uncle/nephew(Seme/uke)				
Nephew/uncle(Seme/uke)				

20. Which 'risque' sexual content do you particularly enjoy in BL?

Animal-animal sexual (including humanoid beings with animal features)	
BDSM	
Binding	
Group sex	
Human-animal sex (including humanoid beings with animal features)	
Human-mechanoid sex (e.g., robot and android)	
Mechanoid-mechanoid sex	

Rape	
Role play sex	
Sex toys	
Tentacle sex	
Underage sex (both partners underage)	
Underage sex (one underage and one older partner)	
None of the above	
Other (please specify)	

21. Which specific element to your enjoy in BL story? Please select all applied options.

Animal ears	Animal tails	Gender change	Gender change
Pregnancy	Androgyny	Cross dressing	Wedding
Animal-human transformation	Personification of non-animate object	None of the above	

Others (please specify).....

22. I engage with BL as an outsider 'looking in' on the protagonists.

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

23. I put myself in the place of the BL protagonists.

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

Please explain.....

Who do you identify with most? Seme ('top') Uke ('bottom')

Other (please specify).....

24. Please select the types of seme which are you liked.

- 1) Halaguloi 腹黒い (はらぐろい) (black heart) [seme is calculating, sophisticated, intelligent, while has outstanding capacity but might be double-dealer.]
- 2) Hetare 懦弱攻 (cowardice) [Wimpy, meek or undemanding, he may not have the nerve to make the first move, and once things get underway he's probably under the uke's control.]
- 3) Mujaki 天然/無邪氣攻 (むじゃき) (natural) [Innocent, usually inexperienced, maybe shy. Often looks like he ought to be uke.]
- 4) Teiou 帝王 (ていおう) (king) /Kichiku 鬼畜 (きちく) [generally from good family and high social status, achieve success and win recognition, pursue success and stick to principles]
- 5) Tsundere 傲娇 [uke initially cold and even hostile towards another person before gradually show the warm inside over time, and sometime say yes mean no that the attitudes change usually but no any evil intentions.]
- 6) Wanko 忠犬 (ちゅうけん) (loyal dog) [Devoted and determined, he will fawn on his uke like a puppy and doggedly pursue the uke until he gets him, despite constant rejection.]
- 7) Other (please specify).....

25. Please select the types of uke which are you liked

- 1) Hime 公主 (姫) (princess) [Beautiful, elegant, and strong-willed. May be arrogant, demanding, or expect to be treated like royalty. Likely to be from a wealthy and/or traditional family.]
- 2) Hitozuma 人妻 (おくさま) (wife) [uke seem to be a wife, focusing on family, good at house work; and relatively mature, could be either positive/aggressive or submissive.]
- 3) Izanai (いざない) / Sasoi 誘受 (tempter) [uke like to initiatively entice and tempt the seme to develop their relationship in either physically and mentally aspects. Puts the moves on his seme, might be an aggressive submissive.]
- 4) Jyoo 女王 (じょおう) (queen) [uke could be supercilious, gorgeous, also mighty dominance, and taking charge as chief at the relationship with seme also at daily life.]
- 5) Tennen 天然 (てんねん) (natural) [naïve, innocent, cheerful, kind-hearted]
- 6) Tsundere 傲娇 (ツンデレ) [uke initially cold and even hostile towards another person before gradually show the warm inside over time, and sometime say yes mean no that the attitudes change usually but no any evil intentions.]
- 7) Other (please specify).....

26. I use BL terminology (e.g., 'seme') in general conversation.

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

27. I like to classify people and things as different types of seme ('top') and uke ('bottom').

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

28. To what extent does it worry you that BL scanlations (fan translations) and fan-subbed BL anime are breaches of copyright?

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

29. To what extent do you worry about the possible illegality of some BL in China?

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

Section D Social Relationship

30. I am willing to discuss and share my interest in BL with people online.

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

31. I am willing to discuss and share my interest in BL with my real life friends.

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

32. I am willing to discuss and share my interest in BL with my family members.

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

Section E Other erotic materials

33. How frequent do you engage the male-male slash fiction?

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

34. How frequent do you engage the female-female slash fiction?

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

35. How frequent do you engage the heterosexual orientation erotic materials (fictions, videos, photograph)?

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

36. How frequent do you engage the lesbian orientation erotic materials (fictions, videos, photograph)?

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

37. How frequent do you engage the male-male orientation erotic materials (fictions, videos, photograph)?

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

38. How frequent do you engage BDSM materials (fictions, videos, photograph)?

Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Extensively
1	2	3	4	5

39. What other types of pornographic materials have you engaged, please specify.

Final Page

Thank you for sharing your interest in BL with me. I am very grateful to you.

If you might be interested to take part in an interview (e.g., via e-mail) to explore your opinions about BL please contact me. Thank you again for your help with this research! YAO When this research is completed you can find a summary of results at <https://leeds.academia.edu/AnnaMadill/Boys'-Love-Fandom-Research>.

Contact Information

Email academic_yaoi@sina.com

Weibo: Academic_Yaoi

QQ : 3136104550

Appendix H

E-mail (may be adapted slightly to be relevant to contactee and will be in Chinese)

Subject: Request re yaoi/BL

Hello

I'm a postgraduate research student at the University of Leeds doing research on the Chinese Boys' Love/yaoi manga and anime. I'm also Chinese and a yaoi fan myself.

I'm wondering if you might let the members of the Chinese Society know that I have an online survey open and would be incredibly grateful if BL/yaoi fans could spare 10-20 minutes to complete it.

The URL for the survey in Chinese is: <http://www.sojump.com/>

The URL for the survey in English is:

<https://leeds.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/blfandomsurvey>

Thank you for your help! All the best, Yao

My supervisor is Professor Anna Madill (A.L.Madill@leeds.ac.uk) and my ethical approval number is XXXXXXXXXXXX, dated XXXXXXXXXXXX.

Appendix I
Postcard front



Appendix J
Postcard back



YAOI RESEARCH中西耽美受众群调查

做中国最全面最深入的耽美受众群调查!

如果你也喜欢耽美, 请扫描二维码参与问卷。

欢迎通过以下联系方式参加采访认识同好分享观点。

联系方式:

Email: academic_yaoi@sina.com

微博: Academic-Yaoi

QQ: 3136104550

研究导师: Professor Anna Madill,
A.L.Madill@leeds.ac.uk) Ethics xxxxxxxx date xxxxxx



绘图 正- 404 背- TOMATO

If you are interesting in YAOi, please scan the QR code to take the survey and share your options.

Also you can take part in our interview via the following contact information.

Supervisor: Professor Anna Madill (A.L.Madill@leeds.ac.uk) Ethics xxxxxxxxxx date xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Contact information:

Email academic_yaoi@sina.com

Weibo: Academic_Yaoi

QQ : 3136104550

Front drawn by 404; Back drawn by tomato

中西耽美受众调查



请扫描二维码参与答题

此调查针对中国的耽美文化受众。耽美文化源于日本，主要是女性向描述同性关系的漫画，动画，小说等作品，常常涉及同性性关系及性描写。耽美传入中国后受众广泛，跨越各个年龄层，社会影响巨大。针对这一群体的学术研究甚少，该研究希望通过完成以下调查加深对耽美受众的了解。该调查完全匿名，不会泄露任何个人信息，此外，该调查已通过英国利兹大学心理学学会审核(批准号：xxxxxx 日期：xxxxxx)。研究导师：Professor. Anna Madill (A.L.Madill@leeds.ac.uk)。完成此问卷大概需要十分钟左右，大部分问题是选择题，同时您可以加入您对答案的解释以及您的想法。

如果您有兴趣参加关于此话题的采访进一步分享您的观点，您可通过邮件，QQ，电话，或见面的方式参与。关于本项研究的具体信息以及问卷结果，您可以通过以下链接查阅：<http://leeds.academia.edu/AnnaMadill/Boys'-Love-Fandom-Research>

联系方式

电话： 15388846150 微博： Academic_Yaoi
邮箱： academic_yaoi@sina.com 微信/QQ： 3136104550

绘图： TOMATO

This survey is for Chinese Boys' Love (BL) fans. BL, also known as YAOI, originated in Japan and consists of female-oriented products such a manga, anime, and novels that focus on homoerotic relationships. BL is popular in China but there is very little research about the Chinese fans. By completing this survey you will be helping promote understanding of this fandom. The survey does not ask your name and I will not know who has completed it. And I have ethical approval to conduct this research from the School of Psychology at the University of Leeds: Ethics approval number xxxxxx, date xxxxxx. My research supervisor is Professor Anna Madill (A.L.Madill@leeds.ac.uk).

If you might be interested to take part in an interview (e.g., via e-mail) to explore your opinions about BL in China please contact me.

Contact information:

E-mail: academicyaoi@sina.com

Weibo: Academic_Yaoi

QQ: 3136104550

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立约日期： 2015/08/03

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乙公司名称 (个人)： 陈轩 (笔名：404) (以下简称乙方)

身份证号码： 310113199210124820

通讯地址： 上海市宝山区宝城一村 13 门 501 室

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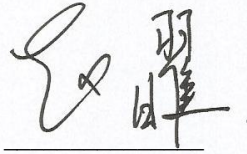
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陈轩

乙方：_____

日期：_____2015.08.03_____



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Appendix M

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日期： 2015/08/01

乙方： 胡蓝月 (Tomato)

身份证号：

地址： 云南省昆明市建设路 54 号 2101 信箱

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