

# Consent Form for Researchers in the Humanities

## Title of Project:

**Baby, You Are My Religion: Theology, Theory and Praxis of  
Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Butch Femme Culture and Community**

You are invited to participate in a **SURVEY** for a research project on the butch femme community, and what it meant to those who participated in it during the time from 1939-1969 specifically, and what it means to lesbians today.

**Please read this form and ask any questions that you may have before agreeing to be in this study.**

### **Background Information:**

The study is being conducted by Marie Cartier, a doctoral candidate in the School of Religion at Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California.

### **Procedures:**

If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to answer questions about what the butch femme community means to you.

To be more specific, I may ask you about:

*Do you identify as butch? Femme?*

*What does that identity mean to you?*

*Does the historical period from 1939-1969 in terms of butch femme culture, have specific meaning to you?*

You will be asked about your feelings in regard to butch - femme culture, and your possible place in that community. You will also be asked other kinds of related questions.

You are not obligated to answer my questions. If you are unwilling to answer any question, simply leave them blank. You may stop or withdraw from the survey at any time.

### **Risks and Benefits of Being in the Study:**

The study has some risks. While survey responses will be kept confidential, I will be asking you to reveal a great deal about yourself.

While every effort will be made to keep all survey participants' identities confidential, you should be aware that the information you provide about the subject most likely will be made public and may be published.

The benefits to participation are that you can help to fill in a poorly understood period of history. Through your participation in this study, aspects of your role and ideas about this important issue can be included in the historical narrative.

### **Confidentiality:**

The records of this study will be kept private. Research records will be kept in a locked file; only myself, Marie Cartier, and my academic advisors will have access to the original records. The only other researchers who will look at the original surveys are those researchers who I am working with in terms of this project. They will be available to them only for the purposes of scoring and tabulating the information contained within the surveys themselves, and available to the researchers who expressly help with that specific effort.

**Voluntary Nature of the Study**

If you decide to participate in this study, you are free to withdraw at any time. If you decide not to participate, your decision will be kept confidential.

**Contacts and Questions:**

If you have any questions or would like additional information about this research, please contact me, Marie Cartier, off of the link on my website:

www.mariecartier.com

OR

ezmerelda@earthlink.net.

You can also contact my advisors at:

Zayn Kassam: ZK004747@pomona.edu

Karen Torjesen: Karen.Torjesen@cgu.edu

The CGU Institutional Review Board, which is administered through the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP), has approved this project. You may also contact ORSP at (909) 607-9406 with any questions.

**You will be given a copy of this form to keep for your records.**

**Statement of Consent:**

I have read the above information; I have asked questions and have received answers. I consent to participate in this study.

**Signature**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Researcher**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:**

I'm also happy for you to write me any additional thoughts you have on butch femme and the butch femme community particularly the period 1939-1969.

If you have any recollections you have that stand out, and you wish to share for the purposes of this study, feel free to contact me. *(My e-mail in on the consent form.)*

If you'd like to pass on my information to someone you feel could be helpful - feel free to do so.

Thank you very much for taking time to respond to this.

Marie Cartier

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## Butch Femme Survey

Please Note:

**Some questions are starred. \***

\* Starred questions are specifically for women who went to the bar and participated in bar culture and or butch femme or lesbian culture in the time period 1939-1969.

Women who did not participate in the culture during this time period, please skip these questions.

**If you will be answering these questions, please check this box \_\_\_\_\_**

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**1. How often did you/do you go to the bar (a lesbian bar, a mixed bar, or a specific bar that you identified as lesbian friendly) on average per month?**

**a. Currently**

4-5 times a week or more  
 2-3 times per week  
 once a week  
 once every two weeks  
 once a month  
 less than once a month  
 less than once every few months  
 once a year  
 not at all

**b. 1980-2000**

4-5 times a week or more  
 2-3 times per week  
 once a week  
 once every two weeks  
 once a month  
 less than once a month  
 less than once every few months  
 once a year  
 not at all

**c. 1970-1980**

4-5 times a week or more  
 2-3 times per week  
 once a week  
 once every two weeks  
 once a month  
 less than once a month  
 less than once every few months  
 once a year  
 not at all

**d. 1960-1970**

4-5 times a week or more  
 2-3 times per week  
 once a week  
 once every two weeks  
 once a month  
 less than once a month  
 less than once every few months  
 once a year  
 not at all

**e. \*1939-1960**

4-5 times a week or more  
 2-3 times per week  
 once a week  
 once every two weeks  
 once a month  
 less than once a month  
 less than once every few months  
 once a year  
 not at all

**2. Where did you go, when you went the most? (check all that apply)**

Rural bar  
 Urban bar  
 The same bar all the time  
 Several different bars within walking distance in the same night  
 Different bars in different places in the same city  
 Different bars in different cities

**3. Did the above change for you during different decades?**

Yes  
 No

**3.A What was the most significant reason why your bar attendance changed, if it did so?**

Got older  
 Bar closed  
 Friends no longer going  
 Broke up with lover  
 Other (please be specific)

**4. What were your feelings about the bar culture in general?**

Very positive 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very negative

**a. How did you feel about the women who you met there as friends?**

Very positive 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very negative

**b. As lovers?**

Very positive 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very negative

**c. As acquaintances?**

Very positive 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very negative

**5. Do you consider yourself religious?**

Yes  
 No  
 Sort of  
 Not at all

**\*6. What was your religion in the period 1939-1969?**

Christian- Protestant  
 Catholic  
 Jewish  
 Buddhist  
 Muslim  
 Native American  
 Spiritual- but not necessarily traditionally religious  
 Atheist  
 Agnostic  
 Other

**6.A \*Did it change during that period?**

Yes  
 No  
 Sort of

**6.B \*If you became another religion – what was it?**

Christian- Protestant  
 Catholic  
 Jewish  
 Buddhist  
 Muslim  
 Native American  
 Spiritual- but not necessarily traditionally religious  
 Atheist  
 Agnostic  
 Other

**\*7. Did you consider yourself a spiritual person - in the period 1939-1969?**

yes  
 no  
 sort of

**7. A \*How about today- do you consider yourself spiritual?**

Yes  
 No  
 Sort of

**8. If you considered/ consider yourself a spiritual person- how do you define that?**

Life has deep meaning  
 I have strong community I care about  
 Meditation practice  
 Spiritual practice such as honoring the earth that isn't in traditional religion  
 Goddess worship  
 Tantric practice  
 Other (please fill in):

**9. Did you consider yourself butch or femme, at any time in your life?**

**a. Butch- (check all that apply)**

In 2000's  
 1990's  
 1980's  
 1970's  
 1960's  
 1950's  
 earlier

**b. Femme (check all that apply)**

In 2000's  
 1990's  
 1980's  
 1970's  
 1960's  
 1950's  
 earlier

**10. What does it mean to you to consider yourself that way today?**

Source of pride  
 Source of shame  
 Romantic community practice  
 Sexual practice  
 Dangerous  
 Outlaw  
 Dating ritual  
 Bar community  
 Other (please explain)

**10. A. What did it mean to you to consider yourself that way at another time, if the meaning has changed?**

Source of pride  
 Source of shame  
 Romantic community practice  
 Sexual practice  
 Dangerous  
 Outlaw  
 Dating ritual  
 Bar community  
 Other (please explain)

**\*11 If you went to the bar during the period 1939-1969 - did you feel protected by the owners?**

Very much so 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Not at all  
 Not applicable

**a. \*If you went to the bar during the period 1939-1969 - did you feel protected by the other patrons?**

Very much so 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Not at all

Not applicable

**b. \*If you went to the bar during the period 1939-1969 - did you feel protected by the community itself?**

Very much so 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Not at all

Not applicable

**\*12. If you went to the bar during the period 1939-1969, how would you describe your experiences with the following groups:**

**a. With the law?**

Always positive 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Always negative

**b. With straight men?**

Always positive 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Always negative

**c. With gay men?**

Always positive 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Always negative

**d. With other lesbians?**

Always positive 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Always negative

**e. With butch femme culture?**

Always positive 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Always negative

**f. With butches?**

Always positive 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Always negative

**g. With femmes?**

Always positive 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Always negative

**h. With butch femme couples?**

Always positive 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Always negative

**13. How would you mostly describe yourself, today?**

butch?

femme?

Androgynous?

Kiki?

Stud?

An Aggressive?

Gay?

Lesbian?

Bisexual?

Other?

**\*14. If you described yourself differently, during 1939-1969, what did you describe yourself as?**

butch?

femme?

Androgynous?

Kiki?

Stud?  
 An Aggressive?  
 Gay?  
 Lesbian?  
 Bisexual?  
 Other?

**15. If applicable, have you always considered yourself butch? Or femme ?**

Yes  
 No

**15. A. Have your recently (within last 5-10 years) felt comfortable being butch or femme?**

Yes  
 No

**16. Are you connected to a community?**

yes  
 no  
 sometimes

**a. that includes butch femme?**

Yes  
 No

**b. Have you ever been connected to a lesbian community, that includes butch femme?**

Yes  
 No

**c. If the community is different now than before, what changed?(check all that apply)**

Not in a bar  
 No defined couples  
 I'm single  
 I'm older  
 Not as many butches  
 Not as many femmes

**c. (continued) If the community is different now than before, what changed?(check all that apply)**

No bar to go to that feels comfortable  
 No meeting place  
 No sense of community  
 It's better  
 It's bigger  
 It's sexier  
 I'm in a couple  
 Meant more then to those of us in it  
 Means more now

**17. Where do you feel *most* comfortable displaying identity?**

I always display it  
 I almost always display it  
 At lesbian events, other than bars  
 In a lesbian bar  
 At home  
 At work

Rarely do I feel comfortable  
I never display my identity

**a. How do you display your identity so that it is visible to other lesbians?**

Choice of partner  
Being "out" in public  
Clothing choice  
"role playing"  
cross dress in some way  
dress in male drag  
dress in femme drag  
dressing masculine  
dressing feminine  
tattoos  
specific jewelry  
other:

**b. If different, how do you display your identity so that it is visible as either butch or femme? (check all that apply)**

Choice of partner  
Being "out" in public  
Clothing choice  
"role playing"  
dressing masculine  
dressing feminine  
tattoos

***b. (continued) If different, how do you display your identity so that it is visible as either butch or femme? (check all that apply)***

specific jewelry  
other:

**c. If you self identify as butch, femme, queer or lesbian are there things that you do to help yourself claim that identity?**

Have a female lover  
Be "out" in public  
The way I have sex  
What I wear  
Where I go  
Other (please explain)

**18. Are there any practices and/ or rituals that you do as a result of being butch or femme?**

Wear make-up  
dressing style  
Knowing bar locations  
Going to bars  
Knowing other members of the community  
Protecting other members of the community  
Participating in community functions  
"role-playing"  
specific sex practice  
other:

**\*18. A. Are there any practices and/ or rituals that you did in the period 1939-1969 as a result of being butch or femme?**

Wear make-up  
dressing style

Knowing bar locations  
 Going to bars  
 Knowing how to fight  
 Knowing other members of the community  
 Protecting other members of the community  
 Participating in community functions  
 Knowing how to handle police raid  
 Being in police raid  
 Being arrested in bar raid  
 Bailing someone out of jail due to police raid  
 "role-playing"  
 specific sex practice  
 other:

**19. Did you learn these practices and / or rituals from an older mentor?**

Yes  
 No

**a. older butch?**

Yes  
 No

**b. Older femme?**

Yes  
 No

**c. Other (please describe):**

**e. If you did learn practices and or rituals from someone else, a mentor, please note which you learned specifically**

Wear make-up  
 dressing style  
 Knowing bar locations  
 Going to bars  
 How to fight  
 Knowing other members of the community  
 Protecting other members of the community  
 Participating in community functions  
 Knowing how to handle police raid  
 Being in police raid  
 Being arrested in bar raid  
 Bailing someone out of jail due to police raid  
 "role-playing"  
 specific sex practice  
 other:

**20. What is your sex life - like, in general?**

Fantastic  
 Great  
 Good  
 ok  
 Not good  
 Don't have one

**a. do you define your sex life now as butch- femme?**

Yes  
No  
sometimes

**\*b. Do you define your sex life in the period 1939-1969 as butch femme?**

Yes  
No  
sometimes

**c. As lesbian?**

Yes  
no

**21. if you do or did define as butch femme in your sex life, why? Check all that apply**

Use of dildo  
Use of dildo and strap on  
One masculine partner, one feminine partner  
Am or date stone butch  
Am or date stone femme  
High romance level  
One of us butch and one femme  
Long foreplay  
one wears lingerie, high heels and /or is very feminine  
One dresses more masculine

**22. If your sex life has changed because you changed your identity to butch femme...what has changed? Check all that apply**

better sex  
more connection with partner  
more orgasms  
became orgasmic  
stopped worrying about "taking too long"  
developed pride in your "technique"  
became stone butch – are not penetrated  
became stone femme – will not penetrate  
became no longer stone  
use of toys  
more aggressive, as in "being an aggressive" and taking on that identity  
having more sex  
other

**23. if you identify as being lesbian do you feel there is something meaningful in your life specifically as result of that identity?**

Yes  
No  
In a few words – what is that?

**23. A. If you identify as being butch femme, do you feel there is something meaningful in your life specifically as a result of being butch / femme?**

Yes  
No  
In a few words – what is that?

**\*24. What is important to you, that you value, if you were part of the community in the period 1939-1969 ? (check all that apply)**

My girlfriend  
 My relationships in general  
 The women I cared for  
 my community  
 my sex life  
 my sense of connection during sex  
 my butch femme friends  
 the bar culture itself  
 has no meaning to me of any significance this period

**\*a. has that sense of importance changed in your lesbian history?**

Yes  
 Now

**Please explain how:**

**25. Did you learn that sense of importance from someone?**

another butch  
 another femme  
 from the community in general  
 from the culture in general  
 didn't learn it from anyone  
 just grew into it  
 other

**26. What was your first night in a gay bar like? (check all that apply)**

Wonderful  
 Sexy  
 Scary  
 Dangerous  
 Felt like coming home  
 Found my community  
 Like finding family  
 Alienated  
 Other:

**27. When was that? (check one)**

2000  
 1990's  
 1980's  
 1970's  
 1960's  
 1950's  
 earlier

**28. Do you remember how you felt? (check all that apply)**

Scared  
 Optimistic  
 "At home"  
 With family  
 Other:

**29. What stands out about that night? (check all that apply)**

The women  
 The space  
 The feeling of danger  
 The bartender (s)  
 The physical space  
 Other:

**\*\*\*The following specifically for women who identify as butch femme during the period 1939-1969 :****\*30. Did you feel "mentored" as a butch or femme?**

Yes  
 No  
 A little bit

**\*31. Was there a more experienced woman who "taught you the ropes?"**

Yes  
 No

**\*32. Did you ever mentor anyone?**

Yes  
 No

**\*33. Have you ever talked about these experiences of being mentored?**

Yes  
 no  
 Infrequently

**a. Are there experiences from that period you have not talked about?**

**Yes**  
**No**

**b. If you have experiences from that period you have not talked about is it because you are afraid?**

**Yes**  
**No**  
**Sometimes**

**\*34. Are you proud of the period 1939-1969, and of being part of it?**

Yes  
 No  
 A little bit

a. If so, why? Please explain, briefly.

**The following are for everyone, specifically for women who were not part of the bar culture during 1939-1969,, but still consider themselves butch-femme oriented.**

**34.A. Are you proud of the period 1939-1969, and of being part of it?**

Yes  
 No  
 A little bit

**35. What changed when (and if) you began identifying publicly (as in being in a bar) as a butch and or Femme? (check all that apply)**

friends?  
 Where you hung out?  
 Your sex life?  
 Your partners?  
 Your status in the community?  
 Higher status?  
 Lower status?

**36. If your status went higher was it because of (check all that apply)**

My own pride  
 My sexual identity  
 My girlfriend  
 My lover  
 Strong public image  
 Felt very at home finally

**36. (continued) If your status went higher was it because of (check all that apply)**

My sense of community  
 My circle of friends  
 other

**37. If you felt your status went lower was it because of:**

Loss of pride  
 Felt I was too role playing  
 Felt I had denigrating public image  
 other

**38. If you were: kiki" how did you feel in to relation to butch/ femme?**

Ok  
 In community  
 alienated

**39. Do you believe mid- 20<sup>th</sup> century butch / femme bar culture had anything to do with the emergence of gay and lesbian civil rights ?**

Yes  
 no  
 Maybe

**40. If so, what? Please explain briefly.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**In the following ten questions, please answer in reference to the period when you participated the most in lesbian and /or butch femme bar culture and/ or community (see your answer to question 1.)**

**41. I found strength and comfort in lesbian/ butch femme bar culture and/ or community when I participated in it.**

Many times a day  
 Every day

Most days  
 Some days  
 Once in a while  
 Never or almost never

**42. When I participated in lesbian / butch femme bar culture and or community, I found my life to be part of larger spiritual force.**

1- a great deal  
 2- quite a bit  
 3- somewhat  
 4- not at all

**43.To what extent was lesbian/ butch-femme bar culture and / or community involved in understanding or dealing with stressful situations in any way?**

1- very involved  
 2- somewhat involved  
 3- not very involved  
 4- not involved at all

**44.If you were ill, how much would people in the lesbian /butch femme bar culture and / or community help you out?**

1- a great deal  
 2- some  
 3- a little  
 4- none

**45.I f you had a problem or were faced with a difficult situation, how much comfort would the people in your lesbian / butch femme bar culture and /or community be willing to give you?**

1- a great deal  
 2- some  
 3- a little  
 4- none

**46.Did you ever have a religious or spiritual experience, that changed your life?**

no  
 yes

**a. IF YES, was this experience connected to your involvement with the lesbian /butch femme community and /or bar culture?**

No  
 Yes

**47. During the time I was in the lesbian/ butch femme bar culture and /or community, I was spiritually touched by the beauty of creation.**

Many times a day  
 Every day  
 Most days  
 Some days  
 Once in a while  
 Never or almost never

**48.To what extent did you, or do you do you consider yourself a religious person when you were involved in the lesbian/ butch femme bar culture and /or community?**

1-very religious

- 2-moderately religious
- 3-slightly religious
- 4-not religious at all

**49. To what extent did you, or do you do you consider yourself a spiritual person when you were involved in the lesbian /butch femme bar culture and/ or community?**

- 1-very spiritual
- 2-moderately spiritual
- 3-slightly spiritual
- 4-not spiritual at all

**50. During the time you were part of the lesbian /butch femme bar culture and /or community, how did you feel about the following statements:**

**The events in my life unfold according to a divine or greater plan.**

- 1- strongly agree
- 2- agree
- 3- disagree
- 4- strongly disagree

**a. I have a sense of mission or calling in my own life.**

- 1-strongly agree
- 2-agree
- 3-disagree
- 4-strongly disagree

**Open questions: (use back if necessary)**

**51. If possible, please describe in your own words what being lesbian means to you?**

**52. If possible, please describe in your own words what being butch or femme means to you? How is it, if it is, different from being lesbian to you?**

**53. What do you think about the period from 1930 to 1969- in lesbian history? Was it significant? Why or why not?**

**54. What do you feel about lesbianism during that period? Was it different from how it is now? If so, how so?**

**55. Any experiences you want to tell me about being butch or femme, or kiki/ androgynous that seem particularly important?**

**56. if the general culture could be made aware of something about the historical period 1939-1969 in lesbian history, what do you think that should be?**

**Demographics, and a few last Questions...**

57..Age:

**58.Gender (check all that apply):**

Female

Butch

Femme

Transgender

Female to Male, FTM:

Male to Female, MTF:

**59. Where did you grow up?**

rural

urban

**60. How old were you when you came out?**

**61. Where do you live now?**

Rural

urban

**62. What was/ is your longest lesbian relationship?**

Number of years:

Number of months:

Number of days:

Number of hours:

**62.a. Was/ is it your best lesbian relationship?**

Yes

No

**62.b. Would you/ do you identify it as butch femme?**

Yes

No

Not really

**62.c. Have you had/ are you in a relationship that you identify as a butch femme relationship?**

Yes

No

Sort of

Not really

**62.d. Was it/ is it your worst, best or somewhere in between type of relationship?**

Worst

Best

Somewhere in between

**63. Are you currently in a relationship?**

Yes

No

Sort of

Not really

**64. What religion were you raised as?**

Christian- Protestant

Catholic

Jewish

Buddhist

Muslim

Native American

Raised to be Spiritual- but not necessarily in traditional religion

Atheist

Agnostic

Other

**65. Are you still practicing it?**

Yes

No

sometimes

**66. Highest level of education?**

Post Graduate School

Graduate School

Vocational Training

College

High School

Grade School

Other (specify):

**67. What do you do for a living?**

White collar

Blue collar

Pink collar

Other (specify):

**68. Race and or ethnicity**

Caucasian

Black

Chicano/a

Pacific islander

Asian

Native American

Mixed race

Other

**69. Do you feel accurate information about butch – femme is important information to get into the general homosexual public?**

**Yes**

**No**

**Not Really**

**Sort of**

**a. Do you feel there is already *too much* information about butch – femme in the general homosexual public?**

**Yes**

**No**

**Not Really**

**Sort of**

**b. Do you feel accurate information about butch – femme is important information to get into the general public?**

**Yes**

**No**

**Not Really**

**Sort of**

**c. Do you feel there is already *too much* information about butch – femme in the general public?**

**Yes**

**No**

**Not Really**

**Sort of**

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**Thank you so very much!!!**