

Did Anglians Dream of Electric Screens?

Information Sheet

Background

The *Did Anglians Dream of Electric Screens?* project is an attempt to uncover and analyse the history of television in Norfolk, with a particular focus on the 1950s and 1960s. One of the main aims of the study is to assess the social and cultural impact that television might have had on individuals and families within the county. In order to achieve this a series of oral history interviews are being undertaken with those who were present at the time.

Who am I?

My name is Samuel Cross and I am a postgraduate researcher at the University of East Anglia, working within the School of History but I have a background in the study and research of Communication and Media theory at both Loughborough University and the University of East Anglia. *Did Anglians Dream of Electric Screens?* is my PhD research project.

What is an oral history interview?

An oral history interview is a recorded, largely unstructured interview that is designed to replicate, as far as possible, a natural conversation between an interviewee and the researcher. The focus of discussion for this project is your experiences of TV during the 1950s-1960s, and I may guide the conversation in certain directions, but the aim is to allow you to speak freely about what you remember about television and your life at the time.

How long will it take?

The project is designed around a one-off interview with each participant. The interviews can go on for as long as the interviewee feels they have something to say, but as a guideline previous experience suggests that most interviews last between 35-65 minutes. (Not including the time taken to read this information sheet and complete the consent form).

Where do the interviews take place?

I am able to travel within Norfolk, so the interview could take place anywhere that you feel comfortable i.e. your home or another place that you spend a lot of time, although for practical reasons I request that any location is relatively quiet. If you are struggling to find a location then I may be able to use a space at the University of East Anglia.

Who will be there?

I will be undertaking each interview personally. If you would like to be accompanied by someone, or would prefer to be interviewed with a partner or friend, then just let me know and I will try to accommodate you.

Are my responses anonymous?

They can be. Before the interview begins you will be asked to sign a consent form where you can indicate whether or not you would like your responses to be anonymised. Regardless of your answer to this question please be assured that any personal information you supply will be kept in an encrypted format, will be kept for only as long as is strictly necessary and will not be passed on to anyone except as indicated on the consent form or required by law.

Do I have to answer all your questions? Can I withdraw from the interview?

None of the questions or topics that will be discussed should be controversial or distressing, in fact I hope you will thoroughly enjoy the interview experience and the opportunity to talk about the past. However if at any time we approach a topic you are not comfortable with, then you just have to tell me and we can move onto another subject.

If you wish to terminate the interview early then please feel free to let me know and I will stop the recording process.

I am extremely grateful to all those who agree to take and making sure you are comfortable with the process is of paramount importance to me.

What are you going to do with my responses?

Sections of the interviews may be published in audio form, or in the form of transcripts, as part of the final PhD thesis, on webpages, within academic reports and as part of other research outputs. Together the interviews, and the work that results from them, will be part of the first attempt to create a narrative of television in Norfolk.

What happens after the interview?

I may wish to contact you after the interview to ask whether you would like to take part in any further research or attend any output activities as the project reaches its conclusion.

What if I have other questions?

You can contact me either via email: samuel.cross@uea.ac.uk or via www.didangliansdream.co.uk. I will endeavour to answer any questions that you have as promptly as possible.

Samuel Cross

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