

Stories From Hell's Kitchen: The Oral History Of An Iconic New York Neighbourhood

An invitation to participate

Overview

We are inviting your organisation to participate in an important research study about Hell's Kitchen in Mid West Manhattan, New York City. The study is being led by Dr Angela Maye-Banbury, Senior Lecturer in Housing and Neighborhoods at Sheffield Hallam University. The study will invite people to share their eye witness accounts of life in Hell's Kitchen in living memory to explore neighborhood change. Before you decide whether or not to participate, you need to understand why the research is being done, what it would involve for you and what it would mean for research participants. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Please take time to decide whether or not to facilitate this research. Ask questions if anything you read is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the study about?

This research is being undertaken to explore neighbourhood change in Hell's Kitchen, Manhattan in New York City as recounted by present and past non-vulnerable residents and/or people who have close connections with the neighbourhood. This research has been assessed as being low risk to research participants. The oral history method (sometimes referred to as life history or eyewitness method) will be used to help generate new insights on Hell's Kitchen as a neighbourhood drawing on people's recollections of the locality in living memory. Oral history enables people to share their perceptions of change spanning several years, often from childhood to the present day.

As a collection, the oral history will help us understand the impact of neighbourhood change in Mid West Manhattan and specifically, the way in which these changes have altered Hell's Kitchen as place in recent decades. The study will be conducted from June 2021 – June 2025.

Why has my organisation been invited to participate?

Participation in 'Stories From Hell's Kitchen' is entirely voluntary. Your organisation has been approached because you are either based in Hell's Kitchen or have other close connections with the neighborhood. Your local knowledge will help enhance our understanding of the themes which define Hell's Kitchen as a neighbourhood and how these have changed over time. As a staff member, we may therefore invite you to participate in the study. We would also ask that you help us identify **non vulnerable** research participants who may be willing to share their memories of Hell's Kitchen with us in a recorded interview lasting about one hour. By non-vulnerable research participants, we mean individuals who do not require special protection measures because of individual or situational circumstances and/or are able to protect their own interests. We are committed to ensuring all research participants in this study are treated with dignity and respect. Ethical approval to undertake this research was granted by UREC on (insert date) Converis number ER32704937. Once an interviewee has been identified, we will use guidance published by Sheffield Hallam University to confirm an interviewee is non-vulnerable. Please refer to Appendix A.

Before the interviews takes place, the prospective interviewee will be initially contacted by the Principal Investigator, Dr Angela Maye-Banbury, by phone, Zoom, Skype or other method so that the research may be discussed and any questions answered. An interview will only take place after the contact has been made and the participant has read the information sheet and asked any questions s/he may have. In addition, the PI will read through the informed consent form at the beginning of each

interview and ensure consent is documented in writing (via email) and on the interview recording itself. If you would prefer your organisation not to be involved, you do not have to give any reason.

What boundaries of Hell's Kitchen will be used in the study?

It is commonly known that Hell's Kitchen is also known as Clinton. This research will use the name Hell's Kitchen throughout. As with the majority of neighborhoods, the boundaries which define Hell's Kitchen are subjective. Most would agree that Hell's Kitchen's southern boundary begins at 8th avenue near Times Square and ends at the Hudson River. The east and western parameters of Hell's Kitchen are more fluid some people conceptualising the neighbourhood as beginning anywhere between 24th - 34th street and ending between 50th to 57th street. One source suggests its eastern parameter stretches as far as 59th street. Four maps illustrating the different boundaries commonly associated with Hell's Kitchen are contained in Appendix B.

What will my participation involve?

We will invite you or someone else you feel may be suitable for interview to take part in a recorded interview lasting around one hour. You will be interviewed by Dr Angela Maye-Banbury from Sheffield Hallam University Angela is a highly experienced researcher and oral historian with over thirty years of experience conducting fieldwork. As a housing and neighbourhood specialist, Angela has conducted research in many different countries during her career. During 2017-2019, she worked with the New York Irish Center and the Emerland Isle Immigration Center in documenting the oral histories of the Irish community in NYC. During the interview, Angela will invite you to talk about your memories of Hell's Kitchen. Some of the questions are likely to be: What were your first memories of Hell's Kitchen? Where did you live in the neighborhood? Describe everyday life in the neighbourhood at that time. What is it that makes Hell's Kitchen special? What are your favourite parts of the neighbourhood and why? How important is (was) a sense

of community to you in the neighbourhood? To what extent has Hell's Kitchen been able to reinvent itself given its history? What impact has gentrification and the rebranding as Clinton had on your relationship with Hell's Kitchen as a neighbourhood?

What are the benefits of taking part?

This research study has been expressly designed to capture the positives about living in Hell's Kitchen. In your interview, you will be asked to talk about the things that make Hell's Kitchen special to you. In this way, the interview will (re) connect you with the neighbourhood. You will also have the chance to talk about aspects of Hell's Kitchen which are particularly appealing to you. In addition, you will be offered a copy of your audio file and verbatim (word for word) of your recorded interview to keep for posterity.

Who will be responsible for the data when the project is over?

Dr Angela Maye-Banbury will be responsible for the data when the project is over. For the duration of the project, the audio files, transcripts and any photographic materials will be stored on Sheffield Hallam University's data servers at least until the end of the next Research Excellent Framework cycle in 2025, date to be confirmed.

Who will have access to the data?

Who will have access to it? The material will be accessed by Dr Angela Maye-Banbury primarily. On occasions, the data may also be accessed by two experienced researchers at Sheffield Hallam University Dr Richard White and Jane Petrie who, under Angela Maye-Banbury's supervision, may from time to time assist with the analysis.

Will anyone be able to connect me with what is recorded and reported?

Yes but only with your express consent. Each person interviewed will have their own dedicated page on the 'Stories From Hell's Kitchen.' web site. Your name (as you would

like it to be represented), a photograph chosen by yourself and an audio of your oral history recording will be made available on your individual page. Other research outputs may include your photograph, any other photographic materials you provide, your audio file and interview transcript. This material may also be included in other research outputs such as a book, book chapter, academic journal paper or podcast series. However, should you not wish to be identified or connected with what is recorded or reported, please let us know. We can, for example, anonymise your contribution or assign you a pseudonym when using extracts from your transcript only for selected outputs.

What will happen to the data after the research has been completed?

Interview data about life in Hell's Kitchen is likely to be of interest to a wider audience including researchers and members of the public. Selected materials such as an extract from your audio file, transcript and any photographic materials you have shared with us will remain on the dedicated project web site www.storiesfromhellskitchen.com (currently under construction). We will seek your consent in writing (generally email) before this information is made available to a wider audience.

How will you use what has been found out?

Interview data may be used for one or a combination of the following: academic journal papers; a book or book chapter; conference presentations; magazine or other media articles and a podcast series. Your interview may also form part of a collection of publicly available interviews held in a public repository such as a library or university collection.

How long will the study last?

The study will begin in July 2021 and end in June 2024.

How can I find out about the results of the study?

To find out about the results of the study or to find out how the research is progressing, you can contact Dr Angela Maye-Banbury, Senior Lecturer in Housing and Neighbourhoods Sheffield Hallam University Sheffield UK a.maye-banbury@shu.ac.uk

Who can I contact for further information about the research?

If you would like to know more about the study, or have queries about it, please contact Dr Angela Maye-Banbury a.maye-banbury@shu.ac.uk

What to do next

If you agree to take part then let us know by contacting Dr Angela Maye-Banbury a.maye-banbury@shu.ac.uk Angela will get back in touch with you to discuss the study.

Appendix A:

Research Ethics Committee: Code of Practice for Researchers Working with Vulnerable Populations

The suitability of each prospective research participant as being define as non-vulnerable will be assessed individually. However, anyone whose individual or situational circumstances does **not** appear on the list below is likely to be eligible for this study. This document needs to be read in relation to the University Policy on SafeguardingChildren and Other Vulnerable Individuals (pending) .The code applies to all University staff and students undertaking research with vulnerable populations

Vulnerable populations in research terms are defined as:

- Infants and children under the age of eighteen who are still in education or aged sixteen if they are not in education.
- People with learning or communication difficulties or serious mental health problems
- Patients in hospital
- Individuals under the care of social services
- People in custody or on probation
- Individuals engaged in illegal activities such as drug abuse
- Persons with a condition or illness which is directly being investigated in the study
- Refugees and social minority groups

It is also recognised that vulnerabilities also arise in relation to undertaking research in some social contexts or around particular issues that have affected communities or organisations and the guidelines should also apply in these situations.

Guidelines

- Researchers working with vulnerable groups should discuss the possibility of DBS screening with the University Secretariat [{hyperlink}](#).
- Keep physical contact to minimum and avoid all unnecessary contact
- When working one-to one with a member of a vulnerable group try to ensure a venue is chosen where you can be clearly observed by others or have another person present throughout.
- Researchers should avoid developing close personal relationships with members of vulnerable groups they are researching, and refrain from entering into any obligation (formal or otherwise) to provide practical or emotional support for their respondents
- If a research participant tells a researcher about abuse of himself/herself or abuse occurring within an organisation, the researcher is required to report

this following the guidelines in the policy document. This applies to reports of historic, and not just recent, abuse or inappropriate behaviour.

- If in the course of working with a vulnerable individual or group, the researcher has reason to suspect abuse, he/she should report his/her concerns to the designated individual identified in the University's Policy on Safeguarding. Researchers must not undertake any investigations themselves.

These guidelines are designed to protect researchers and research participants.

February 2015

