

## Interview Recruitment

### Critical Fan Toolkit

#### Recruitment Message to post on *Archive of Our Own Story*

Hi [*Archive of Our Own* username]:

I know this is a bit of an atypical comment.

I am a researcher at Northeastern University who studies fanfiction and fan genres. I am reaching out to you because I am interested in analyzing the fanfiction you published titled “**title**” as part of my digital dissertation project, the Critical Fan Toolkit.

#### **About the project:**

For this project, I am exploring the ways fan writers embrace social justice and explore issues around identity representation in their work. I will be including some excerpts from a few fanfics, and a quote from yours is one I would like to include: (**insert excerpt from person’s fanfiction**).

#### **About the researcher:**

My name is Cara Marta Messina; I am a PhD Candidate at Northeastern University in the English Department. Feel free to Google me! For my dissertation, I am researching fanfiction and fanfiction writers, particularly the ways in which identities are represented in fanfiction.

I am a former fanfiction writer myself. My *Archive of Our Own* username is AttackOnMonday; my more active account is on *Fanfiction.net*, but I would like to keep a lot of my stories published there private. I still actively participate in fan communities, particularly reading *Hunger Games* fics and going on fan subreddits (such as r/GameOfThrones and r/TheLastAirbender). Please feel free to look up my credentials through the Northeastern University English Department’s website, my AO3 account, my personal website (<http://www.caramartamessina.com>), or the dissertation project website (**link**).

#### **Why me?**

As I already mentioned, I am interested in using an excerpt from your fic in my dissertation. My project specifically focuses on *Game of Thrones* and *The Legend of Korra* fanfiction published on AO3.

#### **What do you need to do?**

I would like to obtain permission from all fanfiction authors before publishing any of their language; your username will receive all credit. You can provide permission by filling out this permission survey form: (**link to survey**).

#### **Where will the texts be published?**

There are a few places your texts may show up. It will most likely appear on my dissertation's website ([link](#)), The Critical Fan Toolkit, or in any articles, books, or conference papers published about this project. This may mean the title, your AO3 username, and/or short excerpts of your fanfiction may be used.

**Do I need to provide permission?**

In order for me to use any excerpts from your work, I want your consent first! It is completely up to you if you would like your work to be potentially analyzed and to have excerpts published. If you do not provide permission, I will not use any excerpts.

**What do I get if I give permission?**

There are no rewards for providing permission to allow me to analyze your work and potentially publish a few excerpts. All credit for your work will be given to your AO3 username.

**What should I do if I have questions about the project?**

If you have any questions about this study, feel free to contact Cara Marta Messina at [messina.c@husky.neu.edu](mailto:messina.c@husky.neu.edu).

If you would like to give the project permission to use your work to be analyzed, excerpted, and potentially have parts published, please fill out this online consent form: [link](#).

Thank you for your time, and I hope you keep writing!

Best,  
Cara Marta Messina  
PhD Candidate, Northeastern University

**Permission Survey to Provide Consent for Incorporating Fanfiction**

Please read this consent form carefully. You will be able to provide or deny permission for your fanfiction text to be used individually in this study.

This research is part of Cara Marta Messina's dissertation project exploring fans' choices when they write and publish fanfiction, specifically their choices regarding issues of identity representation.

*Why you?* You published *The Legend of Korra* or *Game of Thrones* fanfiction on *Archive of Our Own*, and I would like to get your permission to use an excerpt from your fic.

*Are there any risks?* The main risk of being interviewed and participating in this study is that your *Archive of Our Own* published content may get some publicity it would not otherwise have. While unlikely, your story may receive more attention and potentially be commented on by trolls. If you experience any type of unwanted attention, please let me

know as soon as possible and use *Archive of Our Own's* Abuse Report ([https://archiveofourown.org/abuse\\_reports/new](https://archiveofourown.org/abuse_reports/new)) to file a complaint.

*What happens if I want to withdraw?* Your writing is owned by you! If at any point you would like excerpts from your writing to be removed from the Critical Fan Toolkit or to not be analyzed or published before they are published, you have the right to revoke consent.

*Who should I contact if I have any questions?* If you have any questions about this study, please contact Cara Marta Messina; you can either call or text me at 718-316-1892 or email me at [messina.c@husky.neu.edu](mailto:messina.c@husky.neu.edu). You can also contact Mya Poe, Principal Investigator, at [m.poe@northeastern.edu](mailto:m.poe@northeastern.edu) or 617-373-3966

**What is your AO3 username?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**What alias would you like to be referred to in the analysis and publication of this project?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**What are your pronouns (she/her; they/them; he/his; etc):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please inform me when excerpts from my fanfiction are used or published:**

Yes, inform me

If yes: **Please provide your email address** \_\_\_\_\_

No, do not inform me

**Consent to having your fanfiction used**

By clicking on the “yes” button below you are indicating whether or not you consent to your fanfiction text to be analyzed and potentially be excerpted for this study. Please print out a copy of this consent form for your records.

Yes, I give you permission to use my fanfiction work

No, I do not give you permission to use my fanfiction work

**Interested in being interviewed?**

The second portion of this project will be interviewing select fan authors. These interviews will be approximately 30 minutes and they will be audio-recorded, analyzed, and published on the Critical Fan Toolkit. Are you interested in being interviewed?

No

Yes

If Yes, please fill out the below information:

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Are you 18 or older? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Are you currently incarcerated \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Do you have any cognitive disabilities? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

## **Recruitment Email for Potential Interview Participants**

Hi [name]:

Thank you again for providing consent to have an excerpt from your fanfiction potentially analyzed and published for my dissertation project.

I am reaching out to you because you selected that you were interested in being interviewed. I would like to invite you to participate in a 30 minute Skype interview about writing and publishing fanfiction. You must be **18 years or older** and not currently incarcerated to be interviewed.

### **About the project:**

For this project, I am exploring the ways fan writers embrace social justice and explore issues around identity representation in their work. Specifically, I am hoping to interview several writers and ask them about their choices when writing and publishing fanfiction. I am interested in interviewing you. As I mentioned above, I'm particularly interested in interviewing you because you wrote "**title of fanfic.**"

### **About the researcher:**

My name is Cara Marta Messina; I am a PhD Candidate at Northeastern University in the English Department. For my dissertation, I am researching fanfiction and fanfiction writers, particularly the ways in which identities are represented in fanfiction.

I am a former fanfiction writer myself. My *Archive of Our Own* username is AttackOnMonday; my more active account is on *Fanfiction.net*, but I would like to keep a lot of my stories published there private. I still actively participate in fan communities, particularly reading *Hunger Games* and going on fan subreddits (such as r/GameOfThrones and r/TheLastAirbender). Please feel free to look up my credentials through the Northeastern University English Department's website, my AO3 account, my personal website (<http://www.caramartamessina.com>), or the dissertation project website, titled The Critical Fan Toolkit ([link](#)).

### **What do you get:** (only include if receive funding)

If you choose to be interviewed, you will receive a \$25 gift card from Amazon that will be sent to your email.

### **What do you need to do:**

If you are interested in being interviewed, you will need to fill out this consent form ([link below](#)). In this consent form, you will provide your email address, which I will then use

to individually contact you and set up a telephone interview. The interview will take about 30 minutes and will be audio recorded.

**What will become of the interview?**

I will be interviewing several fanfiction writers for my dissertation project. I will be transcribing and analyzing these interviews. I will also be publishing both the audio recordings and the transcripts of the interviews on my dissertation website: **link**. All identifying information will be excluded from the published version of these interviews.

**What should I do if I have questions about participating?**

If you have any questions about this study, feel free to contact Cara Marta Messina at [messina.c@husky.neu.edu](mailto:messina.c@husky.neu.edu) or 718-316-1892. This study was approved by the Northeastern University Institutional Review Board (**19-11-05**).

Your participation will be greatly appreciated. The interviews will be taking place from August 1, 2019 to August 1, 2020. If you would like to be interviewed, please click the **link** to access the consent form.

Thank you for your time and I hope you keep writing!

Best,

Cara Marta Messina

PhD Candidate, Northeastern University