

Les Mis Fans of Colour pre-screener

Study Title:

Positive representations of racialised and transgender identities in Les Misérables, its adaptations and in fan works.

Details of the study:

My research will analyse positive representations of racial and transgender identity in Victor Hugo's Les Misérables, its adaptations, and in fan works. The adaptations I will be focusing on are the 2018 Japanese film Owarinaki Tabiji, the 2019 French film Les Misérables, and PBS/BBC's co-produced 2018/9 miniseries. The fan works that I will be analysing are fan art and fan fiction.

The aim of this study is to use the transgender concept of identity euphoria to counter the traditional theory that non-white racial and non-cisgender identity must centre self-hatred, disgust and shame as foundations, as seen in the common interpretation of Javert as a self-hating Rom. Before considering euphoria, I will consider how racism (most commonly anti-Blackness, antiziganism, orientalism) and transphobia have been vocalised from Hugo's novel through adaptations and into fan works.

What will your participation involve?

Within the fandom strand I will be conducting interviews with people who consider themselves racialised as non-white (i.e. a person of colour / mixed-race / BAMER / a person from the global majority) and/or within the transgender umbrella. In these interviews I will ask participants about their experiences in the fandom as a racialised/transgender person, about headcanons and reasonings, and about their views on race and gender in Hugo's text and in adaptations.

I will use interviews conducted via email as well as by audio recording with the intent for release in podcast form. The interviews may be conducted in English or in Japanese.

What will happen if you decide to take part?

I will ask all participants to provide a name (this can be a preferred name, a username/pseudonym, or anonymised) and some demographic details (race, gender), but these will not be used to reveal/speculate about your identity, and you will be given the option not to answer these questions. If you have given your consent, I may link this data with your responses where pertinent.

All participation in interviews is entirely voluntary. There will be the option to choose not to answer individual questions in the interview, and you are free to selectively answer the questions. The interviews should only last 60 minutes, though may happen over several sessions should you wish to talk more.

Your participation in any or all of the above will require you to confirm you have read and understood an information sheet and sign a consent form. If you are under the age of 18, your parent or guardian will also need to read this information sheet and sign a consent

form to allow you to participate in this research. All identifying data regarding anyone under 18 years of age will be anonymised. If you are under 16 years of age, you will be excluded from the study as I am not collecting data for children under this age.

Concerns

If you would like any further information you can contact me (Nemo Martin, they/them) through my university email address: nemo.martin.2013@rhul.ac.uk.

If you have any concerns about the way in which this study has been conducted, you should contact my primary supervisor (Professor Hannah Thompson, she/her) in the first instance: Hannah.thompson@rhul.ac.uk.

If you have concerns about how your personal data will be used after you have participated in the research, you may contact the Information Compliance team at DataProtection@rhul.ac.uk.

Approval for this study has been granted by the Royal Holloway Research Ethics Committee.

*Required

Age screener

1. What age bracket are you? *

Mark only one oval.

15 or younger *Skip to section 4 (Screened out)*

16-18 *Skip to question 2*

19+ *Skip to question 3*

16-18
age
bracket

For interviewees aged between 16-18, you will need to have a parent or guardian sign a permission form in order to participate. I am aware that this may prevent participation from those who are in the closet. If you have any concerns, you may email me at nemo.martin.2013@rhul.ac.uk

2. Are you willing / able to receive parental or guardian permission to take part in this interview? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes *Skip to question 3*
- No *Skip to section 4 (Screened out)*

Screened
out

Unfortunately this study will only be looking to interview participants who identify as majority ethnic / a person of colour, are 16 and older, and those aged between 16-8 who are able to gain parental permission to participate. Thank you very much for your interest!

Person
of
Colour

I will be conducting interviews with people who consider themselves racialised as non-white i.e. a person of colour / BIPOC / BAMER / mixed-race / biracial / a person from the global majority. I am not looking for people of any specific ethnicity, hence the non-specific groupings and terms.

3. Do you identify as being a person of colour? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No *Skip to section 4 (Screened out)*
- Other: _____

4. Do you identify as being transgender / gender non-conforming / nonbinary / non-cisgender in some way? (Feel free to answer with a yes/no, to input your gender identity or to leave this blank)

The audio interviews will be conducted online through the website Zencastr (which requires the making of a free account) or via Zoom (which does not). These interviews may be edited for release via the podcast Bread and Barricades: A Les Mis Podcast. These episodes are free, and are intended for educational use.

Interview style

If participating in an audio interview, you will be provided with the edited audio and may request edits, or withdraw your participation, for up to 10 working days before the scheduled release date of the episode. After the audio has been published, you may request to have the audio unlisted at any point. The audio will be taken down from all public areas, but will remain available to be listened to by those reading the thesis.

5. How would you prefer to be interviewed? (select all you would be comfortable with) *

Tick all that apply.

- via Email
- via zencastr (audio recorded)
- via zoom (audio recorded and with camera on)
- via zencastr (audio not recorded)
- via zoom (audio not recorded but with camera on)

6. What time zone are you in?

Contact Information

Please provide a name and some contact information. This will be the name that I use in email correspondence with you. It does not have to be your real or legal name, but it can be. There will be a chance before the interview proper to provide a pseudonym if that is how you would prefer to be referred to in the research. Your consent form will require a full name, but this form will be kept separate from your answers.

7. Name *
-

8. Pronouns (if any)

9. Email address *

10. Is there anything you would like to ask / do you have any concerns?

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