

# Collective Consent Form

for collective ethnography for an outside research project

We, the undersigned, members of the **Civic Laboratory for Environmental Action Research (CLEAR)** and **Christina Crespo**, agree to the following terms pertaining to the data collection, editing, and distribution of Christina Crespo's PhD dissertation research (see attached proposal). This document was modified from the following collective consent form crafted by consensus: CLEAR, Lauren Watwood. 2019. "Collective consent form." Civic Laboratory for Environmental Action Research (CLEAR). This document, if approved, will be CLEAR, Christina Crespo. 2022. "Collective consent form." Civic Laboratory for Environmental Action Research (CLEAR).

## Parameters of Research Roles

- While CLEAR stories and the method of conducting research are created collectively by CLEAR members and are the collective property of CLEAR, the dissertation is solely Christina Crespo's. This is in-line with university intellectual property policies as well as required for PhD work.
- Christina Crespo is understood as a CLEAR member throughout this process, and as such her actions will be guided by CLEAR's ethical guidelines and research protocols. At the same time, Christina is pursuing her own PhD, where CLEAR is a collaborative research site, but not a full collaborator on all aspects of the work. Christina will be the sole author of the introduction, literature review, and conclusion chapters of the dissertation, while others from the CLEAR community will be co-authors on the middle (content) chapters.
- During this research, the term "community" refers only to CLEAR lab members and not to those outside the lab that CLEAR works with.
- Christina Crespo will edit the results of research on her own timeline.

## Conflict Resolution

- This collective consent form provides the basis for resolving potential tensions associated with Christina Crespo's **dual role** as both lab member and researcher with CLEAR as a case study.
- Conflicts that arise during any of the processes described here (or otherwise) will be resolved by consensus, meaning that specific meeting(s) will be called and use round robins, and if necessary, anonymous feedback, to get all concerns on the table within the whole lab. Then, proposals will be made collectively until we come up with a

proposal(s) that address(es) the concerns and we agree to move forward on a proposal(s). If a proposal cannot be collectively reached, CLEAR will dedicate funds to getting a third party facilitator to help.

## Consent

Consent will be tiered. The relationship between collective and individual consent will be navigated as follows:

### Collective Consent

- Prior to starting research, Christina Crespo will obtain written consent from CLEAR collectively, indicated by CLEAR members' signatures at the end of **this document**.
- The project will be re-evaluated through the collective consent process via lab meetings twice a year (approximately every six months). Consent forms will be updated if consent shifts.

### Individual Consent

- Individual CLEAR members will control permissions and consent for their own participation in the project and how the products of their participation circulate, as outlined below and as indicated on individual consent forms.
- At the start of data collection that concerns a CLEAR member, Christina Crespo will obtain individual written consent from the participant.
  - This can include permission to record sound, photograph, film, conduct observation, conduct interviews, access existing data in the CLEAR drive for analysis, whether to use an individual's real name or not, and where these products should be stored (collectively or privately).
  - Consent to some but not all of these activities is possible and will be indicated on the consent form.
- During research, Christina Crespo will ask for and confirm ongoing verbal consent.
- Consent is understood to be set in that place and time, and may change in the future and in other places, to be confirmed both individually and at meetings outlined below.
- Participants have the right to end their individual consent to participate in any part of the project. See below on data collection for timelines for removing data.

- The privacy policies for Google Drive and for the transcription software that Christina will be using will be included in the individual consent forms.

### Consent for secondary use of data

- For existing data in the CLEAR Google Drive authored by or implicating an identifiable individual, that individual will be contacted to obtain written consent prior to data use. If consent is not obtained (including if the person cannot be reached), then the associated data will not be included in the project (i.e. a lack of a yes is a no).
- In cases where the identity is unclear, “identifiable” will be defined by Max Liboiron (i.e. if Max can tell who it is by reading it, then it is identifiable). Max’s personal knowledge is used here because they are the longest running lab member and they have the most knowledge of all CLEAR projects. They may reach out to others to fill in gaps if required.

## Data Collection and Storage

### Storage and Editing

- There are two tiers of data storage: a set of data that is available to all CLEAR members now and in the future via the CLEAR Drive, and a set of data that is only available to Christina, stored on her personal password-protected computer. Individual CLEAR members decide which location their data goes in (including Christina when the data/stories are specifically hers).
- All data (stories, photos, recordings, transcripts, etc.) collected from CLEAR members will be stored in CLEAR’s collective Google Drive **when the participant(s) that the data originated from has consented to store it there**. If requested on individual consent forms, pseudonyms will be used. Participants have the ability to choose that only Christina have access to their data as well, if they don’t want it in the shared Drive.
- Christina Crespo will retain the original hardcopies of her own auto-ethnographic reflections (her own stories) as a lab member. Like other lab members, she can choose to have some of these reflections in the CLEAR Google Drive, while others are private and not for other’s consumption.
- As per existing CLEAR protocol, CLEAR members can edit data that involves or originates from them (interview transcripts, stories, images, etc.), but cannot edit on behalf of other people. Any participant can withdraw their data from the Drive at any time.
- Any data in the Google Drive are changeable by CLEAR members, and these versions constitute *the master dataset for these documents, meaning that any changes in these documents affect Christina Crespo’s data*. Christina Crespo will not retain a duplicate set of data for these documents.

- Any participant can change or withdraw their data from study as a whole at any time, whether it is in the Drive or in Christina's private storage, **up to two months before dissertation submission and/or publication**. If a participant does so on the Drive, for the changes to be reflected in the dissertation they must inform Christina either (1) at the time data is withdrawn or edited or (2) during the peer review process.
- Any data analysis files that originate in the Drive that Christina needs to have on her own computer (such as needing a copy of an interview to run through analysis software) will be moved to the Drive after analysis is complete.
- Throughout the data collection process, Christina will transcribe all interview recordings. Participants will have the opportunity to edit and approve transcripts prior to storage in the Drive or wherever they designate storage. Participants will own a copy of their transcript and audio, but audio will not be stored in the drive due to size.
- If a CLEAR member's interview transcript or story is in the CLEAR Google Drive and it implicates a second member of CLEAR, the second member can ask that it be removed from the Drive or changed. In this case, the CLEAR member with whom the story originated can choose to edit the story so that the second member is willing to have it shared, or if not, Christina Crespo will be the only person with access to the story if agreed to by both parties. This maintains the ability to be a member of the lab while also being critical of the lab for all members, including but not limited to Christina Crespo.
- CLEAR expects that any criticisms or suggestions for improvement about CLEAR practices that Christina Crespo sees during her research are brought to the lab as any lab member would do, for discussion and improvement during CLEAR meetings or other appropriate avenues. Christina will document what happens in these discussions for the lab. If the criticisms are used in the dissertation, CLEAR expects that a note about how CLEAR deals with the criticisms are mentioned in the dissertation.

## Access and Secondary Use

- All CLEAR members, now and in the future, will have access to the repository in the CLEAR Drive. New data deposited will be paired with an individual consent form to help guide future use of the data.
- The data is available to CLEAR collectively to use internally at any time as they see fit (for example, in the lab manual).

# Publication and Dissemination

## Peer Review

- CLEAR protocols for peer-review will be used for all manuscript chapters.
- When Christina Crespo is ready to present a **rough draft** of a dissertation chapter, she will provide it to CLEAR for a “Rough Draft Check-In Meeting,” conducted round-robin style following CLEAR lab meeting protocols. To help structure feedback, Christina Crespo will provide guiding questions for the discussion. Other CLEAR members will likewise prepare guiding questions for Christina Crespo. Christina Crespo will make revisions based on the feedback.
- When Christina Crespo is ready to present a **final draft**, she will provide it to CLEAR for collective peer review, which will be conducted following CLEAR lab meeting protocols. During the meeting, Christina Crespo will address any outstanding notes, questions, and concerns. Afterwards, CLEAR will provide any continued feedback within a reasonable time frame (often a week or two). Christina Crespo will address this feedback in revisions and will subsequently deliver a revised draft. This will continue until collective consent on the draft is achieved.
- A draft will be considered ready for submission to Christina’s advisor at the University of Georgia when a collective peer review meeting deems it so by consensus, even if that consensus is uneven (a variety of yes’s but no no’s). Invitees to the meeting will include all present CLEAR members, Christina Crespo, and individuals who were part of the work who may have left the lab, taking efforts to meet the schedules of all involved. Those present will use their best judgment to ensure everyone is well represented, including anyone who is absent.
- When the dissertation is complete, Christina Crespo will provide a file of the draft for CLEAR. Any public exhibition or online upload of the dissertation must receive consent from Christina Crespo.

## Publication

- It can be assumed the resulting dissertation will be published in some form and it is up to the discretion of CLEAR lab members and Christina Crespo to reaffirm consent to how and where the results are published.
- A modified approach to CLEAR’s protocol will be used to determine author order for manuscripts. As per degree requirements, Christina Crespo will be the first author on manuscript chapters of the dissertation. The author order that follows will be determined using CLEAR’s standard protocol.

- Once the dissertation and other publications become public, CLEAR can promote it online via CLEAR website and associated social media accounts and so can Christina Crespo.

Date:

July 21, 2022

Signatures: (you can just type—doesn't have to be fancy!)

## Appendix I: Proposal

### CLEAR Collaborative Research Proposal

Christina Crespo

#### STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

More than simply technological innovation, science done differently—science otherwise—brings with it the possibility for reimagining what science is and could be. From the challenges of COVID-19 to developments in big data, science is undergoing another transformational moment in its history. Recent events have also underscored the role that science plays in perpetuating inequality and the persistent disparities that scientists throughout higher education and later career stages confront. These concerns are not new and numerous interventions have been implemented over the years to address them—from top-down initiatives and institutional policies to skill development workshops and mentoring networks. Yet, the recent proliferation of formal committees, academic conferences, and journal special issues that revolve around questions of equity and inclusion indicates that the problems are far from solved. However, the confluence of internal and external tensions placed on contemporary science has also opened a window for doing science differently—for science otherwise. **I ask the question: how do scientists imagine and enact science otherwise?**

To address this question, my research centers on the site and scale of the laboratory. Literature at the intersections of Science and Technology Studies (STS) and education indicates that laboratories, especially academic research laboratories, play a central role in the production and reproduction of dominant science (Kaiser 2005; Mody and Kaiser 2008; Myers 2015; Subramaniam and Wyer 1998; Hunter, Laursen, and Seymour 2007). However, studies also suggest that the laboratory—central to dominant science and ready made for collective

experimentation—is also well situated to act as a locus for change (Tornberg 2021; Liboiron 2021; Roy). By focusing on laboratory practices in relation to the process of moving from what science is to what science could be, this research contributes to existing understandings of the complex processes through which science changes. The project situates the laboratory within broader knowledge networks to explore how this process occurs within and between individual laboratory members and those outside of the laboratory engaging with their work. Through an ethnographic study centered on CLEAR, the research can interrogate this process with a level of detail that would not be possible through other approaches. Specifically, I will address the following sub-questions:

**Q1.** How do individual laboratory members come to understand ‘science’ and imagine it otherwise; how does this vary across disciplinary backgrounds and subject positions?

**Q2.** How are shared understandings of otherwise created within the laboratory; how do these inform and how are they informed by laboratory practices and relations?

**Q3.** How do scientists outside of the laboratory engage with CLEAR’s work and to what effect?

## **RESEARCH DESIGN**

Data will be collected via participant observation, interviews, focus groups, and document analysis. In addition to individual consent, the collective consent process will be completed with the lab as a whole prior to the start of data collection and repeated every six months. Continuing as a lab member of CLEAR, I would collect ethnographic data as an observing participant at meetings, collaborative writing sessions, and through engaging in working groups. I would continue to participate in regular laboratory meetings; however, data collection would focus on specific projects, starting with the citational politics project (this includes analyzing documents in the shared drive). With consent, key meetings during the process would be recorded and transcribed. In addition to participant observation, my plan is to conduct interviews with current and past laboratory members. Part of the project will also involve interviewing individuals who engage with CLEAR’s work but who are not affiliated with the laboratory.

## **RESEARCHER QUALIFICATIONS AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

I am a PhD candidate in Integrative Conservation and Anthropology with a graduate certificate in Women’s Studies at the University of Georgia (UGA). In addition to a background in cultural and environmental anthropology, I have completed a B.S. in Biology and an interdisciplinary M.S.Sc. in Environment and Heritage. Through my interdisciplinary training, I have become conversant in the languages of both the social and natural sciences as well as laboratory practices. I have completed graduate coursework in marine ecology and ichthyology and have practical experience acquired at the lab bench as a technician in laboratories specializing in population genetics, marine endocrinology, and estuarine ecology. I also have experience working on collaborative research projects from participating in multiple interdisciplinary fellowship programs at UGA including the Diversity and Inclusion Graduate Fellowship, the Future Faculty Fellowship, and the Lamar Dodd School of Art Interdisciplinary Fellowship; and

co-founding events such as the “Gender, the Body, and Fieldwork Across Disciplines Symposium.”

I am completing a manuscript style dissertation to satisfy the doctoral degree requirements. This means that most of my chapters will consist of submitted journal articles or articles to be submitted. In addition to the articles, the dissertation will include three chapters which I am required to author independently, including an introductory chapter explaining the overall structure of the dissertation, a literature review, and a concluding chapter. While I am required to be first author on the articles, these can include collaborators as co-authors (which is why I selected this format). As a member of CLEAR, I will follow the protocols for determining author order on those chapters.

### **POTENTIAL HARMS AND ANTICIPATED BENEFITS**

Given the scope of this project, the risks of participating in interviews, focus groups, and ethnographic research are minimal. However, all research carries with it risks including the potential for discomfort. Additionally, as in Lauren Watwood’s project, CLEAR will be identified as the collaborative research site which means anonymity cannot be guaranteed and confidentiality is limited given the uniqueness of the lab. Even if you choose not to identify yourself by name, it is possible that individuals inside or outside of the lab may be able to identify you.

There is little direct benefit to the individual for participating in this study. There is the potential for being a co-author on one or more articles. Publications can help share CLEAR’s work as well as serving as an important form of academic currency. This research could also benefit the lab on the collective level as the findings might provide useful insights for the lab.