



Queer Mycology Lab

Information Sheet

You are being invited to take part in a research project called the Queer Mycology Lab. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what taking part would involve. Please read this information carefully, ask us any questions you have, and take time to decide if you would like to take part.

What is the purpose of the project?

Queer Mycology Lab is a creative ecology project exploring the queerness of fungi and the ways we relate to the more-than-human world through creative practices. We will explore fungi through foraging, creative making, cultivation, and discussion. The project is part of a wider research collaboration called Roots and Spores, led by artist Lauren Saunders and researcher Elspeth Mitchell. The aim is to explore how creative practice can support ecological action, queer connection and collaborative learning. The project will run from [dates] and the research data will be stored for five years after the project ends.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been invited to participate because you are a young queer person aged 18–25 living in or near Hull. Up to eight participants will be involved.

Do I have to take part?

No. Taking part is completely your choice. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form. You can stop taking part at any time without giving a reason, and stopping will not affect you in any way. You can also choose not to take part in any activity during the workshops if you do not feel comfortable.

What will happen if I take part?

If you take part, you will join one introduction session and six practical workshops. Activities are decided upon between participants and project leads, but may include mushroom foraging, self-directed and group creative making, conversations, and hands-on cultivation. You can share your ideas, make artwork, and take part in group activities at your own pace. The workshops will take place at Thwaite Botanical Gardens, Cottingham HU16 4RQ. Materials, equipment, and some refreshments are provided. A travel bursary is available for those needing assistance with travel costs on public transport.

Will I be recorded, and how will photos or videos be used?

We may take photographs or short video clips during the workshops. These may include images of participants, but only if you give clear permission on the consent form. Photographs or videos may be used for research purposes, project documentation, websites, social media, exhibitions, a zine, or sharing project outcomes. We will only use images of you in the ways you have agreed to.

What are the possible disadvantages or risks?

There are no significant risks expected from taking part. Workshops involve outdoor movement on potentially uneven surfaces, creative making, and group conversation. You can opt out of any activity at any point. If any topic feels uncomfortable, you do not have to contribute. If you disclose that you or someone else is at risk of harm, we may need to pass this information on to ensure safety.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Many people enjoy:

- creative activities
- learning about fungi and ecology
- contributing to a collaborative project
- meeting others
- exploring queer community and connection

Compensation and expenses

Participation is free. A travel bursary is available for those who need support with public transport costs. This is not payment for participation.



Withdrawing from the project

You can stop taking part at any time. If you ask to withdraw, we will remove any identifiable data or artwork that belongs to you unless it has already been anonymised or is part of a group-made piece that cannot be separated. You do not need to give a reason.

What will happen to my data?

We will collect:

- your contact details (for project communication only)
- the work you create during the workshops (work remains your property and where possible, will be returned to you after the project)
- any comments or reflections you choose to share
- photographs or videos, if you give media consent

Your name will remain connected to your work unless you ask for it to be removed, or through using another chosen name or pseudonym. Your data will be stored securely on University of Leeds systems for five years. Only the research team (Elspeth Mitchell and Lauren Saunders) will have access to the data, unless the University needs to check that the project is being carried out properly.

Privacy Notice and Data Protection

To understand how your personal data will be used, please see this link: [Privacy Notice for Research](#).

Rights as a data subject

The UK GDPR provides you with the following rights in relation to your personal data:

- The right to access the data we hold about you
- The right to rectify the data we hold about you
- The right to have the data we hold about you erased.
- The right to restrict how we process your data.
- The right to data portability
- The right to object to us processing the data we hold about you

Please note the extent to which these rights apply may vary and in some circumstances rights may be restricted when the data is being used for research purposes. We will always try to respond to concerns or queries that you may have. If you wish to exercise these rights, please contact us using the information provided in 'Contact for further information' section below.

Who is organising and funding the research?

Queer Mycology Lab is part of the Roots and Spores project. It is funded by the Sapling Fund and delivered collaboratively by independent Hull-based artist Lauren Saunders, and Elspeth Mitchell at the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies, University of Leeds.

Concerns or Complaints

Participants with any concerns or complaints should be advised to contact the Research Team in the first instance and if there are any issues or concerns about which participants remain dissatisfied, then the Research Ethics Team should be contacted via ResearchEthics@leeds.ac.uk who will then consider next steps.

Ethics approval

This research project has been received research ethics approval from University of Leeds Arts, Humanities and Cultures Research Ethics Committee on 03/02/26. ID 3818.

Who can I contact for more information?

For questions about the project, you can contact:

Lauren Saunders: hello@laurensaundersart.co.uk and Elspeth Mitchell: E.R.Mitchell@leeds.ac.uk

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information.
You will be given a copy of this sheet and the consent form. Please keep them for your records.**

Project Title	Document Type	Version #	Date
Roots and Spores	Information Sheet	1	25.11.2025