

RECONCEPTUALIZING GENDER & HEALTH

Community Commitment

Reconceptualizing Gender & Health is a research project committed to reimagining and reworking how academic research is conducted in service to community. We believe that ethical health research must center the well-being of participants, staff and the communities in which we work. We recognize the power and privilege of academia and our responsibility to counter the exploitative foundations of academic research, particularly for marginalized people. We also acknowledge that our efforts will always be a work in progress. In support of these values, we are committed to:

Accountability

We value transparency both in how we work together and how we work with participants and communities. We will make mistakes; it will be messy and challenging at times. The impact of our efforts may be felt differently than our intentions and we recognize that our intentions do not outweigh these impacts. As we are constantly evolving and working to stay committed to our core values, we invite you to share feedback about your experience with RGH, areas where we can improve, and behavior we may be doing that causes unintended harm. We are thankful for any feedback you may have, please [email](#).

Reimagining Research as a Collective Endeavor

RGH is designed to challenge the hierarchy of research by including participants and communities more broadly in the analytic process. We also will fairly compensate for and acknowledge contributions of people's time, knowledge, practices, and expertise. We will formally acknowledge the intellectual and other labor of the members of RGH based on contribution not seniority. At the same time, we will not abdicate our responsibility for the integrity of the project and the resources we produce. This includes not tokenizing marginalized people or using them as shields to legitimize the work of the project.

Collective Well-being and Healing

We strive to provide the space for all of us to heal in the ways we are comfortable doing, free of judgment and with encouragement and structural support to take time to renew and rest. We serve ourselves and our community best when we take the time to rest, and we encourage everyone who engages with us to do the same. We are intentional and present in our interpersonal and intrapersonal interactions by actively listening and showing up from places of care, empathy, and love.

Honoring and Learning from Different Forms of Knowledge

There are a wide range of knowledge expressions, forms of expertise, and neuro and bodily experiences. We do not assume any are more legitimate than others. We will listen to, believe and learn from the experiences people share and their interpretations of those experiences. We will maintain systems and provide support to bring the voice of people of all genders, bodies and minds into the project.

Respecting Individuality, Autonomy and Multiplicities

It is our expectation that everyone involved with the project honor each other's words and actions. We center the framework of intersectionality by recognizing that every individual holds multiple, intersecting identities, each with their own meaning and potential for privilege or oppression. We will base our theorizing on the self-determined identities and definitions shared with us rather than predetermined categories. We honor the contradictions and messiness of living multi-faceted lives. We will elevate the voices and histories of the people who participate in RGH, while making clear the distinction between their voices and our analytic interpretations.

Honoring Boundaries

Clear and clearly articulated boundaries are of the utmost importance to being safe, valued, and respected. We will take responsibility for communicating our project-based and personal boundaries and when a boundary has been crossed. We will also take responsibility for honoring the boundaries of the participants, staff, and the communities in which we work. This includes protecting confidentiality, respecting people's limits, and making repairs when a boundary is crossed.

This is a living document and will be refined as we learn and grow.

Thank you to Wild Hand for sharing their community commitment process and inspiring us to create our own. These commitments are also informed by the work of Prentis Hemphill, Brene Brown, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Patricia Hill Collins, bell hooks, Audre Lorde, and Tricia Hersey and The Nap Ministry. Any missteps are our own.