UNT Professors seek participants for survey on queer peoples' experiences of childbirth in America

A new digital survey is seeking participants to share their birth stories. The goal of this survey is to understand the experiences and perspectives of queer people (LGBTQIA+) who have experienced childbirth and family building in the United States. This includes the stories of both gestational and non-gestational parents, surrogates, adoptive parents, or anyone who identifies as queer and has experience with childbirth.

From DIY to IVF, increased availability of alternative reproduction techniques coupled with advances in LGBTQ+ rights have led queer people to start families in diverse ways. However, few studies have examined the childbirth experiences of queer people, and the unique physical, emotional, legal, and psychological challenges that are imposed by mainstream institutions and culture.

In 1981, the artist Judy Chicago posed the question, "how do women feel about all aspects of birth" via an original questionnaire. Forty years later, using Chicago's archival materials in the Schlesinger Library at Harvard as a model, this new survey asks: **how do *queer* people feel about all aspects of birth?** The questions in this survey have been expanded upon and updated with inclusive and affirmative language relating to pregnancy, childbirth, family building, lactation, and loss.

The *Queer Birth Project* is facilitated by artist Liss LaFleur (PI), and sociologist Katherine Sobering (co-PI), both from the University of North Texas. "The way we talk about birth and parenting can be deeply alienating," commented Liss LaFleur, the survey's lead author. "Judy Chicago's work proves that visibility and representation are essential to a feminist practice, and as a queer parent I hope to help educate, inspire, and empower a new generation through this work."

If you would like to disseminate or participate in this survey, please visit
www.http://queerbirthproject.com/