300 WORD SUMMARY: Ritual Reconstructed (AHRC funded project, 2014-2016, part of ‘Connected Communities’ strand)

From 2014 to 2015 members of the UK Jewish LGBT+ community were involved in Ritual Reconstructed, an Arts and Humanities Research Council UK funded project. Ritual Reconstructed encouraged participants to use bricolage to (re)create faith rituals and merge their core Jewish and queer identities by using personally meaningful objects alongside film, art, storytelling and music.

Using Mary’s (2005) definition of bricolage as a dialogue between ‘meaningful material that one borrows’ and ‘incarnated forms one inherits’ and Savastano’s (2007) argument that that LGBT+ people have been forced to create their own sacred or alternative myths to create a new way of bringing together queer and their spiritual identities, the Ritual Reconstructed research project explored the London Jewish LGBT+ community as bricoleur. Researchers analysed with the community how they have (re)created their own ritual identities creatively through film, photographs and material artefacts.

The outputs included in this portfolio are made up of 2 of the collaborative films made by Searle Kochberg and the Community, looking at LGBT+ ‘reconstruction’ of Jewish ritual in 2 communities, one in central London, the other in Streatham, south London. Also included are 3 RR articles, all authored by Searle Kochberg, including one in Jewish Film and New Media (2016).

Research results are being disseminated elsewhere too: notably at the ISA Forum of Sociology, Vienna, 2016, when preliminary results were presented. Also Kochberg and Greenfields have been approached to provide a chapter in Queer Localities as a consequence of a paper they gave at the conference of the same name at Birkbeck College, London, 2017. This includes RR research results as well as results from Kochberg’s current Practice PhD research, My Jewish London.

To find out more about the project visit www.ritualreconstructed.com

Key Words (4 allowed): Bricolage; Rituals; Judaism; LGBT+