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# The RPG Brain Trust

Public Group

- 

Search this group



**Luo Daying**

8 hrs

Call for RPG / LARP bibliography volunteers! - <http://rpgresearch.com/.../call-for-rpg-bibliography-voluntee...> The RPG Research Project is a community website.



## Call for RPG Bibliography Volunteers — RPG Role-Playing Game Research Project Community Website

The RPG Research Project community website...  
RPGRESEARCH.COM

- 



**Emily Brumfield-Hessen** Wait, wait, wait. The guy who was spamming rpg.net doing "research" with weird unscientific polls that randomly took shots at transgender people is trying to pretend to be some sort of academic doing therapy? I...wouldn't really get involved with this website, if I were anyone reading. Not without some really strong proof of actual credentials.

### Roleplaying Games & More - RPGnet

RPG.NET

Like · Reply · 1 · 7 hrs



**Emily Brumfield-Hessen** Like, seriously, everything I've seen of this guy's behavior looks like a giant red flag swaying back and forth over a blaring alarm while a sign blinks saying to stay away. I normally wouldn't call someone out like this, but RPG professionals are constantly getting taken advantage of by individuals like this who waste their time at the very least and sometimes really mess up their careers. (No offense to Luo Daying here for reposting, just giving everyone a warning about that "group" and his "studies.")

Like · Reply · 1 · 7 hrs · Edited



**Emily Brumfield-Hessen** One last thing, because I think it's fair to show evidence and let him respond if he happens to be in this group or something. Maybe he has credentials, maybe he's got some explanations for his sorta odd behavior, whatever. But I think anyone considering dealing with him should be aware of this stuff.

An example of his "research":

<https://forum.rpg.net/showthread.php...>

<https://forum.rpg.net/showthread.php...>

Those are especially relevant due to the weird slam on transgender people, but basically all of the posts were stuff like this. This does not strike me as a professional organization, peer-reviewed academic, or someone who should be getting involved in "therapy."

### Female tabletop role-playing gamers you know?

A discussion forum about roleplaying games and other entertainment,

#### ADD MEMBERS

Enter name or email address...

#### MEMBERS

1,348 Members (5 new)



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#### DESCRIPTION

A social group for all those involved in the creation of Role-Pl... [See More](#)

#### TAGS

RPGs · Business · Creative arts

#### GROUP CHATS

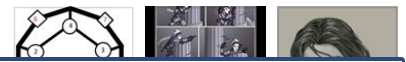
No group chats, start one now.

#### CREATE NEW GROUPS

Groups make it easier than ever to share with friends, family and teammates.

#### RECENT GROUP PHOTOS

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FORUM.RPG.NET

Like · Reply · 7 hrs



**Luo Daying** Emily Brumfield-Hessen I am very sorry you have this perspective about my sincere research efforts. The old [RPG.net](http://rpgresearch.com/.../well-so-much-for-rpg-net-as-a...) posts: <http://rpgresearch.com/.../well-so-much-for-rpg-net-as-a...> were early informal efforts to gather ideas that weren't yet fully formed, and the questions (and inadvertent contention) that came up, helped me to further refine the ideas I was trying to gain understanding about. It was never intended to be hurtful in the least to anyone on gender or any other issues. I am an undergrad student and don't have the language nuance on some topics, so unfortunately the two polls (out of many others) that brought up gender, inadvertently caused upset, and because [rpg.net](http://rpg.net) locked them before I could respond, I could see how they might be misinterpreted. But please believe me when I say there was absolutely no malice. These early polls later lead to forming a current formal research project on gender experiences in the RPG community and industry approved by Washington State University, information here: <http://rpgresearch.com/.../gamers-survey-phase-2-worldcon...> and here: <http://rpgresearch.com/.../rpg-gender-bias-research-stage...> My background information is here: <http://rpgresearch.com/about/staff/hawke-robinson> This research is about experiences of gender-related bias (harassment, exclusion, etc.) in the gaming industry or community.

### Roleplaying Games & More - RPGnet

RPG.NET

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 7 hrs



**Mark Charke** Two locked threads. That's like an achievement. In any case, none of your links work. I was able to find your site and claiming you started this work in 1984 is kind of silly since none of your links or posts predate 2016. And why do you need a six thousand dollar trailer that only anonymous people have donated to? And the "I don't speak good English"? Please, your English is as good as anyone else posting here. The lists of important looking accredited RPG sites on your page are embarrassing. People don't get accredited for Role Playing. But above all, you lost me at "Volunteer". Volunteer projects never go anywhere important. Maybe, just maybe you are legit, but everything I'm seeing here just screams scam.

Like · Reply · 1 · 7 hrs



**Sarah Lynne Bowman** Emily Brumfield-Hessen: I appreciate you looking out for the quality of research out there. I am one of the central scholars in this field and Hawke has been mentoring under me for some time. While he is still an undergraduate, he has spent many years gathering research from various disciplines that deal with the positive effects of RPGs on his site. He cares deeply about equality and inclusion. He works with underprivileged populations to bring RPGs to them as a form of therapeutic recreation. To learn more about his work, here is a recent presentation he delivered virtually at our Role-playing and Simulation in Education conference at Texas State University: <https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=!AH8NE8ydb-gCQTg...>

I have seen early results of the study for which he was gathering -- clumsily, but in good faith -- early data on gender in those posts. I can assure you that his goal is to promote gender equality and highlight and structural inequalities that might exist in gaming groups rather than to further marginalize people. His research on gender has recently been approved by his school's IRB, so it has institutional backing behind it.

He is still growing as a scholar, but has good intentions, so please be gentle. The original post is an attempt to get help organizing his site by consolidating all of the role-play studies bibliographies out there into one document, which would be an invaluable asset to researchers. He has the support of many of us with credentials.

### OneDrive

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**Emily Brumfield-Hessen** Thank you for the information, Sarah.

Like · Reply · 1 · 6 hrs



**Sarah Lynne Bowman** You're welcome

Like · Reply · 6 hrs



**Mark Charke** The video was very professional. The RPG industry is full of people taking advantage of the industry and, unfortunately, Luo will need to prove he's not doing that and learn how to approach those in the RPG community without setting off red flags. Asking for free work is a big flag raiser - everything I ranted about in my previous post



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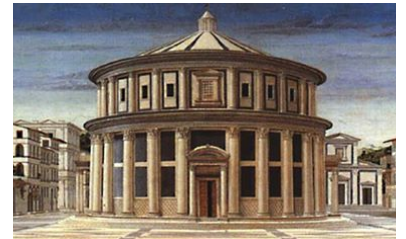
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Organization · 1,005 likes

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is. It's very hard to get out of the RPG distrust hole. I would probably suggest an apology to RPGnet that does not include an excuse. I've been in this industry for 15 years, I've never seen a red flag on someone who made a come-back in the trust department. But be the exception.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4 hrs



**Sarah Lynne Bowman** That's a good point, Mark. As scholars, we often do work for little money or for free. I was actually the one to suggest he get volunteers. We're all coming off the high of the Living Games Conference, where there was a wonderful freeflow of resources ... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4 hrs · Edited



**Emily Brumfield-Hessen** I don't think an apology to [rpg.net](#) is necessary (because [rpg.net](#) has some weird history regarding apologies and such), but I do think everything else Mark says is accurate. I mean, this is an industry where many of us have gotten screwed over by supposedly legitimate and experienced industry professionals. So it's a bit of a hypercautious culture, with good reason.

## Roleplaying Games & More - RPGnet

RPG.NET

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**Sarah Lynne Bowman** Great to keep in mind. Thank you for the reminder, [Emily](#) and [Mark](#). On our end of things, we're unlikely to ever receive money for larp research, so it's really a labor of love. Sometimes, trying to catalog the sheer amount of information scattered to the four winds in different disciplines can be daunting, hence the hope for some sort of centralized depository of information.

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