



September 1, 2020

Dr. Anne Valk, Executive Director
American Social History Project /Center for Media and Learning
The Graduate Center, CUNY
365 Fifth Avenue, 7th Floor
New York, NY, 10016

Dear Dr. Valk:

Thank you for your invitation to serve as an advisor on the proposed *Teaching and Learning OutHistory* project. I would be happy to contribute to this collaboration between OutHistory, a major repository of primary and secondary materials related to the history of LGBTQ+ life in the United States, and ASHP, a highly regarded producer of educational resources for teaching social history.

As both a teacher and a scholar with an interest in LGBTQ+ history, I enthusiastically support this initiative to make LGBTQ+ sources more accessible to faculty and students by adding dedicated teaching materials to OutHistory's site. Although scholarship in this field has flourished over the past two decades, including the production of digital archives and exhibits, there is still a tremendous need for materials that can be readily incorporated into general U.S. history courses and serve as a the basis for classroom reading and activities. The proposed project promises to help address that need.

In addition, I look forward to contributing to this project by writing an essay on the topic of LGBTQ+ history and religion. In recent years, scholarship on LGBTQ+ history and religion has blossomed, offering some of the most exciting insights into not only conservative religion but also the religious lives of politically liberal LGBTQ+ Americans. I am excited to draw from this historiography in my essay for the *Teaching and Learning OutHistory* project.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Babits". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Chris Babits, Ph.D.