APPENDIX A

Intimate Relationships Oral History Interview Schedule

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Script begins here:

Hi there. Again, my name is Alison Moss and I thank you for offering to participate in my oral history study on non-married, long-term intimate relationships. First, I would like to double check that you have read the study information sheet and consent to participating in this project. Have you read the study consent information? Do you agree to participate in my research on non-married, long-term intimate relationships? Are you age 22 or older? Thank you.

Today, I would like to discuss your experiences and life events around marriage from childhood through your current relationship as a person who currently is in some kind of long-term relationship but not married. Is that okay with you? Really, I am here to listen to your stories and recollections, I will do my best not to interrupt. But, please feel free to ask questions throughout the interview process. Also, for your comfort, we can stop the interview at any time.

The format of our time together is that I will ask you a question or ask you to recall particular moments in your life. Please feel free to talk at length; there are no time restrictions here. Do you have any questions before we get started? We will begin with some demographic questions.

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS:

1) Where do you reside?

2) What is your occupation?

3) What is your age?

4) What is your race?

5) Approximate annual income?

6) Do you identify as a specific gender? What pronouns do you use?

7) Do you identify as a specific sexuality? (heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, etc.)

8) Are you monogamous?

(If yes, then move forward with interview; if no, ask follow up questions here)

8a. If not monogamous, what is your status?

**Prompts:** Single? Polyamorous? Another relationship status?

8b. How many long-term intimate relationships are you in currently?

**Prompts:** Long-term, four years or more?

8c. Are you in short term relationships, as well?

**No prompt for this question.**

9) Do you have biological children or children for whom you are responsible?

**Prompts:** Age? Gender? Race? Relation (parent/guardian/relative/etc.)?

May I ask you the same demographic questions about your partner(s)?

(If yes, I will ask the above questions. If no, I will go on to the guiding questions for the oral history interview.)

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW SCHEDULE:

1) What is your current relationship status and how do you define your relationship to other people, e.g. what do you call your relationship when speaking with others?

**Prompts**: Do you say that you are dating? Do you say that you are living together? Etc.

2) What was your intimate life like before this/these current relationship(s)? How would you describe your past intimate relationships?

**Prompts**: Did you date or hookup? Were you single? Were you married? Were there moments in your life in which you felt like you were doing intimate relationships right or wrong?

3) Where did you grow up and with whom did you live while growing up?

**Prompts:** How did you experience or not experience marriage growing up? Were adults in your life married? Were you aware of marriages/family life of adults in your life?; Tell me about a time when you were a child/young person that marriage was central in your life.

4) Growing up, how did you learn about marriage and intimate relationships?

**Prompts**:

(**early life**): Tell me about a time when you remember learning about dating/relationships/marriage in your early life; Did your parents/siblings or other family members teach you anything about intimacy/relationships? At church?; (**childhood/youth**): Tell me about a time when you remember learning about dating/relationships/marriage in your pre-teen/teen life; Do you remember learning about sex and relationships in primary or secondary school from friends or teachers? Television/Media?;

(**young adulthood**): Tell me about a time when you have learned about dating/relationships/marriage in your young adult life; Did you learn about sex and relationships in college? Job or occupation?

5) Did something or someone influence your decision not to get married or did you always know that you never wanted to marry?

**Prompts**: Can you think of any person, event, or experience that made you think or feel a certain way about marriage? What was the feeling like? What was it like to think this way about not getting married? Were there people in your life that supported you in your decision-making? Were there people who did not support your decision?; Tell me about a time when you felt like questions around relationships and marriage were an important part of your life. Who or what brought these feelings on? What was its influence?

6) Where or when have you experienced pushback about your decision not to marry?

**Prompts**: Have you experienced challenges in your day-to-day life because you are unmarried? Do you recognize any behaviors directed at you that make it difficult to remain unmarried? Do you see other groups given special rights or privileges because they choose to get married? How does that make you feel?; Tell me about an experience in which your decision not to be married affected you negatively.

7) That concludes our time together. Thank you so much for your time and contribution to my project. However, I would also like to ask you if there is anything about our discussion that you feel like I missed? Anything about your experiences as a non-married but long-term partnered person?

**Prompts:** Are there any questions that you would like to go back to or anything that has come up that you would like to add? (After a pause and time for the respondent to think) You are more than welcome to contact me via email should something come up for you: [amoss4@uic.edu/arosemoss@gmail.com](mailto:amoss4@uic.edu/arosemoss@gmail.com).