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**Title**

Lorraine Hutchins Oral History Interview and Transcript

**Date**

August 7th, 2023

**Extant**

1 hour 9 minute interview and 1 transcript

**Abstract**

In this oral history, Lorraine Hutchins, founder of the U.S. bisexual rights and liberation movement, discusses sacred sexuality, and gender in the context of world religions. As a Pagan living in a Quaker community, she discusses the intersection between religions, as well as the isolation she experiences.

**Biographical**

Lorraine Hutchins, Ph.D., is a founder and leader of the U.S. bisexual rights and liberation movement who has increasingly integrated issues of spiritual beliefs and practices into her sexuality education work. She co-edited *Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out*, the anthology that catalyzed the bi movement decades ago.

Lorraine Hutchins was born in 1948 in Washington, DC. She graduated from Shimer College in Mt. Carroll, Illinois, in 1970 with a degree in English and American Literature. Some 30 years later, Lorraine earned her Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from Union Institute and University in Cincinnati. Her 2001 doctoral dissertation, "Erotic Rites: A Cultural Analysis of Contemporary U.S. Sacred Sexuality Traditions and Trends," offers a queer feminist approach to the variety of sex-positive spiritualities being explored and practiced in the U.S. today, and looks at the intersection of roles between sex workers and the helping professions. Hutchins teaches the inter-connecting issues of race, gender and class in her work and sexual liberation's connection to overall issues of social justice and human rights.

Hutchins was raised as a progressive Methodist baptised in the crucible of the civil rights movement and often speaks about how her family's fight for an integrated neighborhood church shaped her early identity. She is now retired from teaching inter-disciplinary sexuality studies at the undergraduate level. She lives in a multi-faith retirement community founded by Quakers, the Religious Society of Friends, in Sandy Spring, Maryland. Her archival papers reside at Smith College women's studies collection and her books collection is at Goddard College. See list below for recent publications.

### **Scope and Content**

In this oral history, Loraine Hutchins, founder of the U.S. bisexual rights and liberation movement, discusses sacred sexuality, and gender in the context of world religions. As a Pagan living in a Quaker community, she discusses intersection between religions, as well as the isolation she experiences.

This interview was conducted by Rev. Dr. Michelle Mueller, an independent scholar and freelance minister from the Wiccan tradition. She completed a Ph.D. in the Cultural and Historical Studies of Religions Area at Graduate Theological Union. Mueller is the author of *New Religions and the Mediation of Non-Monogamy: Polyamory, Polygamy, and Reality Television*

### **Access**

Open to all researchers.

<https://lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/oral-histories/loraine-hutchins>

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### **Languages**

Collection material is in English

### **Custodial History**

This tape was given to LGBTQ-RAN archives by the interviewer.

### **Cite as**

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## **Tags**

Women's spirituality

Author/editor

Bisexual activism

Hutchins, Loraine

Washington, D.C.