

## Project Khitomer 2020

# Developing Consenting Relationships

Host: [German Galven \(UFOP: Starbase 118\)](#)

Room One • Session 2

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:00:39 AM**

Good morning/afternoon/evening everyone!

I'm Dane and my character's name is German Galven who is a Denobulan second officer and chief scientist. I write on the Play-By-Email RPG group called UFOP: StarBase 118 where we have 7 ships with 10-14 members and each individual writer is recommended to write a minimum of 2-3 sims/week.

Today, I'll be opening the floor about a discussion regarding creating consenting relationships. Throughout the time I've been playing role playing games, I've noticed that genders will play a totally different gender from their own. Then as time goes on as they get into the game, there's the question if they want their characters to be in a relationship with another writer's character or create an NPC to avoid the open a dialogue with someone because of that awkward conversation and the possibility of being harrassed. Which can be seen differently from someone else who feels they're being genuine and not at all disrespectful.

Either way, there's a history of issues that have led to people feeling ways that are valid.

Rules: Use common sense. Be respectful to one another.

That's just an all around given, but here as well 😊

**[SB118] Groznin Smith 2/22/2020, 11:02:16 AM**



**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:02:59 AM**

I'll start with the first question and then every 10 minutes, I'll ease into another one. Or sooner if it's a dead chat.

👉 hope not

**[SB118] Groznin Smith 2/22/2020, 11:03:19 AM**

Hello

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:03:42 AM**

1st Question!

Do you write for a different gender than your own? If so, why?

**[SB118] Groznin Smith 2/22/2020, 11:04:18 AM**

I have a PNPC who's a female just so I can explore different things I wouldn't be able to with my Male character

**Sheila Bailey [SB118] 2/22/2020, 11:04:27 AM**

I do not as I just enjoy writing for a female. I have a male PNPC

**[OF-TGCO/ZF-Academy] Kristi 2/22/2020, 11:04:28 AM**

yes, because it's interesting to explore what you are not.

**[STF] Simmyish 2/22/2020, 11:04:34 AM**

Not "write" per-se, but in some Tabletop RPGs I have played another gender

**[STF] Simmyish 2/22/2020, 11:04:55 AM**

I see it as a challenge and a good way to get a new perspective on things, that's why I did it at least

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:05:00 AM**

What do you mean by exploring what you can do with a different gender?

**[PF] Capt. Franklin Johnson 2/22/2020, 11:05:18 AM**

I write for female NPC's quite often, particularly because they offer a different perspective and open opportunities to explore scenes. In the match of Star Trek Simming, I use female NPC's and other unique genders to add characters and scenes to that effect. Most of the time I'll play my PC as my own gender.

**[TF] Kaede Kayano 2/22/2020, 11:05:29 AM**

I seem to write all females all the time.

**[22][118][SARP] Kylindra 2/22/2020, 11:05:38 AM**


I write for female characters almost exclusively. I cannot reach male characters often enough to sustain interest.

**[SB118] Groznin Smith 2/22/2020, 11:05:48 AM**

Different relationships I guess and sounds silly but things like clothes and whatnot I enjoy writing that

**[22][118][SARP] Kylindra 2/22/2020, 11:05:50 AM**


(Which was a problem the few times I *tried*)

**Cam  2/22/2020, 11:06:25 AM**

I'm female and write both genders

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:07:00 AM**

So going into that, what are some things that you're able to sim with regarding more interest and open opportunities?

**Cam  2/22/2020, 11:07:02 AM**

but I'm a female engineer and people I interact with online mistake me for a guy all the time anyway, so...

**[PF] Capt. Franklin Johnson 2/22/2020, 11:07:44 AM**

The prospect of using different gendered NPC's opens up further dialogue in relation to other-player NPC's or PC's so as to explore story potential, for my uses anyway.

**Myz Phoenyx 2/22/2020, 11:08:38 AM**

Most of my characters tend to be in the "Forever Alone" category, because I've found it difficult to develop such relationships and I hate writing things like that on my own.

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:09:03 AM**

Ah good point because that goes into my next question

How do you go about talking to another writer about potentially starting a relationship between characters and is it important that your PC is in a romantic relationship?

Rather than making an NPC

**[PF] Capt. Franklin Johnson 2/22/2020, 11:10:42 AM**

If it fits the story, then yes, otherwise it's useless unless the player and I get some creative potential out of it or we establish a proper timeline for our characters to allow those characters to be further explored.

**Sheila Bailey [SB118] 2/22/2020, 11:10:42 AM**

It's not necessary that a character is in a relationship but if your going to its best I find to have an open discussion about it.

**[SB118] Groznin Smith 2/22/2020, 11:10:49 AM**

I'd message them and discuss it

Talk about the goals for the relationship and what we wanted out of it

**[TF] Kaede Kayano 2/22/2020, 11:11:12 AM**

One of my CO Characters got asked out by one of the players in his reporting in post. That was... interesting. They're now married with a daughter...

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:11:23 AM**

Communication is very important between players because it might feel rushed

**[PF] Amethyst 2/22/2020, 11:11:38 AM**

I think a large part of it will depend on how well you know the other player as well.

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:11:42 AM (edited 2/22/2020, 11:11:50 AM)**

and pushed into something someone doesn't want

**Myz Phoenix 2/22/2020, 11:12:27 AM**

I've never found it necessary, though I'm not opposed to them. It's just not something I tend to pursue after being bit a few times.

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:12:58 AM**


which is where consent comes into play. I've noticed where, for example, a female will write for a male character so they're not hounded by males

**[STF] Heron 2/22/2020, 11:13:30 AM**

So far I've had one character that ended up in a relationship. And there I talked with the other player a lot on Discord, both beforehand and while rping the relationship. And while my characters sometimes develop feelings for another character, it isn't important for me that it leads to a relationship (and sometimes it isn't possible anyways). Though almost all of my characters develop (close) friendships over time.

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:14:38 AM**

That's good to have that level of conversation between you and someone else.

Cam  2/22/2020, 11:15:08 AM

I have played female Orions so that there was good excuse for rejecting anything exclusive, but still allowing some 'romantic' scenarios

Sheila Bailey [SB118] 2/22/2020, 11:15:19 AM

I find that in some respects it's just like IRL

[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:15:52 AM

What are those aspects?

Sheila Bailey [SB118] 2/22/2020, 11:17:48 AM

Communication is one of the big ones. It's all about communication and that makes any relationship work. Other than that it takes most of the same needs, like dating, taking, just the general things that go into a relationship. the main difference is that the writers aren't always in a relationship.

[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:19:03 AM

It looks like a lot of people have already found their safe space within their community. What is important for you regarding OOC activities like Discord? Because there's other elements other than getting lost in a world living vicariously through a character.

[STF] Simmyish 2/22/2020, 11:19:41 AM

As long as we remember what is IC and OOC, that I think is key

[SB118] Groznin Smith 2/22/2020, 11:19:50 AM

Indeed

[PF] Amethyst 2/22/2020, 11:20:01 AM

OOO, for me it comes down to respect, and knowing that there is someone that has your back.

[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:21:42 AM(edited 2/22/2020, 11:21:51 AM)

Tone for example can falter what someone's intentions are and then people that try to explain themselves are accused of backpedaling or "mansplaining" the situation

Myz Phoenix 2/22/2020, 11:22:25 AM

I do have some romances with my characters, but they're either written with my hubby as my mate, or another writer that I've written the characters with for years. Beyond that, I can do without it. OOC and IC separation is vitally important to me. I'm married, and not seeking an OOC relationship, other than friendship.

[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:23:31 AM

Has there been any exhausting situations where you've come across someone who doesn't understand that?

Cam  2/22/2020, 11:23:42 AM

yes

[PF] Capt. Franklin Johnson 2/22/2020, 11:23:44 AM

Yes, recently.

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:23:47 AM**

the difference between IC and OOC

**Myz Phoenix 2/22/2020, 11:23:49 AM**

Yes.

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:24:31 AM**

How did it happen and what was explained to put out the fire?

**[PF] Capt. Franklin Johnson 2/22/2020, 11:25:18 AM**

I recently had a player who I had opened up to about some relationship stress, and now that I look back I realize that the situation perhaps was a mixture of IC and OCC strain; Our two characters were ICly engaged in a gay relationship, which is fine and fit well for my character, but it seemed to cross over and make our interactions difficult especially when I resolved those differences with my present boyfriend. That player has since left my sim.

**[PF] Capt. Franklin Johnson 2/22/2020, 11:25:59 AM**

It was an educational experience for me, since I in no way blame that player, on how to properly conduct such interactions in the future.

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:26:56 AM**

Sounds like a very amicable situation.

**Myz Phoenix 2/22/2020, 11:27:07 AM**

I'd rather not go into detail, but it was enough to make me draw back into my hard, protective shell.

**[PF] Capt. Franklin Johnson 2/22/2020, 11:27:26 AM**

It ended amicably, yeah, with a good understanding and we're still friends. So.

**[22][118][SARP] Kylindra 2/22/2020, 11:28:22 AM**

(in my case, I've yet to have an IC relationship develop far enough except with one particular person to really encounter this problem, but it's something difficult to resolve from watching it tear apart a group I was in. Three times. <\_<)

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:28:25 AM**

To each their own. That's what this conversation is about. @Myz Phoenix You're okay with feeling that way. What are some of the barriers you've put up?

No need to answer that if it's personal

**Myz Phoenix 2/22/2020, 11:30:03 AM**


I just tend to write characters that wouldn't exactly dive into relationships for IC reasons.

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:31:35 AM**

Are there any species that people play that makes it feel more unique to be in a relationship, make more friends, just be the workaholic, and/or no relationship at all?

**[SB118] Groznin Smith 2/22/2020, 11:32:23 AM**


I think a Relationship with a Vulcan could be interesting as they wouldn't show the love you feel for them back openly which could make it really interesting and fun

Cam  2/22/2020, 11:32:59 AM

I admit I tend to play non-human females b/c it gives me multiple avenues for avoiding a relationship if I want to

[SARP] Immortal Cyan 2/22/2020, 11:33:19 AM(edited 2/22/2020, 11:34:33 AM)

I've always thought of playing a Deltan woman if I ever decide to join a Star Trek Sim one day.

Cam  2/22/2020, 11:33:20 AM

but it also makes it fun in that gender stereotypes/expectations will be different

[PF] Capt. Franklin Johnson 2/22/2020, 11:33:25 AM

I usually go human for Star Trek, any others non-human.

[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:34:30 AM(edited 2/22/2020, 11:34:45 AM)

I've started playing a J'naii character and it's especially difficult trying to get their own purpose going being androgynous, genderfluid species

Saskbertan81 2/22/2020, 11:34:33 AM

I write a same sex relationship with one of my secondary characters on the game I GM. I was worried at first it would put people off but my crew seems fine with it

[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:35:13 AM(edited 2/22/2020, 11:35:30 AM)

What made you think people would have a problem with it?

Myz Phoenix 2/22/2020, 11:35:13 AM

I play a Deltan, and Vulcans... I have some interesting characters, they're just more married to their work, than anything else.

[STF] Heron 2/22/2020, 11:35:43 AM

I (she/her) general play non-human female characters. I find it hard to write male characters and I find non-humans more interesting to play. My favourites are Bajorans, Trill & Betazoids, but there are a few other species like Xahean I'd like to play at some point

Saskbertan81 2/22/2020, 11:36:23 AM

Years of writing in corners where that would have been incredibly frowned  
frowned on rather

[22][118][SARP] Kylindra 2/22/2020, 11:36:47 AM

(There are still places *now* that frown on that, they're just not as popular, thankfully.)

Saskbertan81 2/22/2020, 11:37:16 AM

Agreed. One sim I was XO on, i guarantee you that the CO would have absolutely lost her you know what on me for playing a gay character

The folks in my own game though 1) Know I'm gay and 2) Even if there was a problem, I'm the GM, so.... *adjusts crown*

[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:38:28 AM

My main PC is a Denobulan and it can be difficult to find someone to sim a relationship with because how their culture is with 3 spouses. The jealousy factor comes into play

**Saskbertan81 2/22/2020, 11:38:37 AM**

(I'm much nicer than that last comment sounded btw. LOL)

I'm Canadian. It's illegal for us to not be nice 😊

**[STF] Heron 2/22/2020, 11:39:09 AM**

*nods* Yeah, sadly that is the case. My characters are often queer (like me) and the one relationship I played was a gay one. I was beyond nervous when we started writing it, but thankfully I didn't get any negative comments from anyone

**[STF] Simmyish 2/22/2020, 11:39:11 AM**

I've been lucky with my simming experiences when it comes to same-sex relationship representation 😊

**Cam 🖥️ 2/22/2020, 11:39:21 AM**

this is why when I've played an Orion, I make clear in the bio that the normal answer to gender preference for the species is 'all of the above'

**[SB118] Groznin Smith 2/22/2020, 11:39:33 AM**

That's why with my 3/4 human 1/4 denobulan's great grandparents I made them just have each other (and then the same going down to my characters parents) as it was just much easier but that's a personal preference

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:40:42 AM**

Yep, I've hinted that my Denobulan character is bisexual/pansexual. It's quite difficult for people to understand that he's inclined to go out with whomever.

**Sheila Bailey [SB118] 2/22/2020, 11:41:05 AM**

My Elaysian character is Bi

**[22][118][SARP] Kylindra 2/22/2020, 11:41:22 AM**

(I've actually had a lot of problems opening up my characters to relationships period. But thankfully, I tend to play in fleets where you can be fairly OK with same-sex relationships. Now will it ever matter? 🙄 )

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:41:36 AM (edited 2/22/2020, 11:41:46 AM)**

Although, he's more in love with his job than anything else right now  
cause science

**[SB118] Groznin Smith 2/22/2020, 11:41:42 AM**

lol

**Cam 🖥️ 2/22/2020, 11:42:11 AM**

lol

**[STF] Simmyish 2/22/2020, 11:42:25 AM**

I've always seen it as "we've become more and more accepting in the recent teens, another 300 years of progress like that would look very different"

**Cam 🖥️ 2/22/2020, 11:42:46 AM**

on of my engineers is clearly more infatuated with explosions than anything else lol

**[STF] Heron 2/22/2020, 11:42:48 AM**

*nods*

**[STF] Simmyish 2/22/2020, 11:43:01 AM(edited 2/22/2020, 11:43:19 AM)**

and there were men wearing the female uniform in TNG... none of the main cast but there was an evacuation scene where at least one of the people on board were definitely LGBTQIA+

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:43:46 AM**

yep because in the TNG days, Riker was very weirded out by an androgynous species. As if that's never been a thing, but 30 years later, it's definitely getting to become more of a thing

**[STF] Simmyish 2/22/2020, 11:44:30 AM**

And even though not currently in a relationship... my XO in STF is gay

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:44:51 AM**

scandal! Alert the press!

**ReminderBot 2/22/2020, 11:45:01 AM**

15-Minute Warning

**Cam 🖥️ 2/22/2020, 11:45:02 AM**

I've played a felinoid who was demisexual

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:45:19 AM**

demisexual?

**Cam 🖥️ 2/22/2020, 11:45:39 AM**

it's about emotional connection rather than physical attraction

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:46:31 AM**

I understand that because pansexual is different because that's more personality attraction than physical

**Cam 🖥️ 2/22/2020, 11:46:49 AM**

the two I think are very close

but I admit I'm old (54) so I have to work to come up to speed on categories that I never heard of growing up or during most of my younger adult years

**[OF] B 2/22/2020, 11:48:41 AM**

And you've done it so well.

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:48:42 AM**

Which you've just gained all the more knowledge to better understand and teach it to others


**[OF] B 2/22/2020, 11:48:53 AM**

Not many people would do that Cam

**Myz Phoenix 2/22/2020, 11:49:03 AM**

I'm 46, but really, I've been around so many various individuals, that I find it difficult to discriminate. Unless you're a shifty Romulan. 😊



Cam  2/22/2020, 11:49:12 AM


lol

[STF] Heron 2/22/2020, 11:49:13 AM

Demisexual is part of the asexual spectrum

[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:49:34 AM

asexual is different

Cam  2/22/2020, 11:49:42 AM

yes, and that's really why I learned about it, because someone I know in RL is there

[STF] Heron 2/22/2020, 11:50:18 AM

A demisexual is a person who does not experience sexual attraction unless they form a strong emotional connection with someone. It's more commonly seen in but by no means confined to romantic relationships.

Cam  2/22/2020, 11:50:19 AM

and she herself is on the fence as to whether she's asexual or demisexual at this point

[22][118][SARP] Kylindra 2/22/2020, 11:50:27 AM

nah, asexual is a spectrum of things

at least, that's my understanding of it

(but then again, this veers into the weeds, so I'll shut up again.)

Cam  2/22/2020, 11:51:06 AM (edited 2/22/2020, 11:51:35 AM)

I feel better knowing you young folks are confused too 😂

[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:51:45 AM

no, don't shut up and we're all confused since it's also you older folks that raised us weirdos 😊

[OF] B 2/22/2020, 11:52:39 AM

I love this conversation

Cam  2/22/2020, 11:52:41 AM

which brings up the idea that in a vast universe there are probably a lot more genders/orientations/etc

[PF] Capt. Franklin Johnson 2/22/2020, 11:52:46 AM



[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:52:50 AM

Which I'm not serious about when I say confused and weirdos btw

Cam  2/22/2020, 11:53:00 AM

so there are any number of ways to play that

[STF] Heron 2/22/2020, 11:53:11 AM

*nods* I've been doing a lot of research lately trying to figure myself out and thus looked more deeply into the ace spectrum as well.

**[STF] Simmyish 2/22/2020, 11:53:29 AM**

but when it comes to keeping track of the spectrum it does become more complex more and more

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:53:33 AM**

do you mean age spectrum or ace?

**Cam 🗨️ 2/22/2020, 11:53:34 AM**

I wouldn't be offended if you meant it @German Galven lol

**[STF] Heron 2/22/2020, 11:53:39 AM**

ace

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:53:56 AM**

what's the ace spectrum?

**[STF] Heron 2/22/2020, 11:54:06 AM**

ace is short for asexual

sorry

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:54:53 AM**

don't see the reason for shortening it to ace because then I think of Ace Ventura who is on a whole new level of spectrum o\_O

**[22][118][SARP] Kylindra 2/22/2020, 11:55:00 AM**

ace is one syllable.

**ReminderBot 2/22/2020, 11:55:04 AM**

### **5-Minute Warning**

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:55:32 AM**

thank you bot. I'll start wrapping up

**RunLikeAZombie 2/22/2020, 11:56:21 AM**

Ace is used a lot by those who identify with it

**Adingo 2/22/2020, 11:56:58 AM**

Ace is shorter than asexual, to be fair.

More casual, imo.

**[22][118][SARP] Kylindra 2/22/2020, 11:57:18 AM**

which is why people who are aromantic may also just say aro instead. >\_>

**RunLikeAZombie 2/22/2020, 11:57:38 AM**

Whatever people are comfortable with

Labels are like that. Whatever makes sense to you.

**[STF] Heron 2/22/2020, 11:58:05 AM**

*nods*

**[SB118] German Galven 2/22/2020, 11:58:29 AM**

I'm really glad that people were able to talk about their unique characters rather than they feel better in a non relationship, plus learning more about different genders,

sexuality, and the more unique comfortable things that define your character. From every age group, I'm happy that you found your safe space and happy simming!

Thanks everyone for attending!

**[SB118] Groznin Smith 2/22/2020, 11:58:57 AM**

Thanks!

**[STF] Heron 2/22/2020, 11:59:11 AM**

Thank you!

**Myz Phoenix 2/22/2020, 11:59:16 AM**

Thank you!

**[22][118][SARP] Kylindra 2/22/2020, 11:59:26 AM**

thanks for the panel!

**Cam 🗨️ 2/22/2020, 11:59:48 AM**

thanks!

**[PF] Capt. Franklin Johnson 2/22/2020, 11:59:56 AM**

Thank you!