

## **Appendix A**

### **Communication in Intercultural Marriages**

**By**

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#### **Informed Consent for Participation in a Research Study**

You are invited to be a part of a research study about the unique elements in intercultural marriages. You were selected as a possible participant because one of your friends identified you as a spouse in an intercultural marriage. Please read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

This study is being conducted by:  
Chrestella Budyanto, Postgraduate Communication Student

#### **Background Information**

The purpose of this study is to explore factors which affect how married couples in intercultural marriages communicate. Another purpose is to discuss how intercultural couples deal with cross-cultural differences. The final purpose involves describing how spouses in intercultural marriages experience and handle conflict in their marriage.

#### **Procedures**

If you agree to be in this study, you will need to:

- Agree to be recorded during the interview process.
- Participate in an interview with the researcher, lasting approximately 20-30 minutes,
- Talking about your intercultural marriage.
- Be available for contact if any additional questions arise after the interview.
- Agree to have your data (anonymous) included in a potential published journal article.

#### **Risks and Benefits of Being in the Study**

This study has minimal risk and is no more than you would encounter in everyday life. If at any point during the interview, information is given which triggers mandatory reporting requirements for child abuse, child neglect, elder abuse or intent to harm self or others, this information will be reported to relevant authorities. If issues arise which would be helpful to discuss in a counselling situation, we will provide possible referral options for counselling services.

#### **Injury or Illness**

LSPR will not provide medical treatment or financial compensation if you are injured or become ill as a result of participating in this research project. This does not waive any of your legal rights nor release any claim you might have based on negligence.

The benefit to participation includes the potential to have a better understanding of factors which influence your intercultural marriage, specifically in the areas of communication and conflict.

**Confidentiality**

The records of this study will be kept private. In any sort of report I might publish, pseudonyms will be used to protect your privacy. Research records will be stored securely and only the researcher will have access to the records.

All information will be kept confidential including information you share during your interview about your spouse who will also be interviewed. However, when interviews are conducted in a public setting, the interviewee cannot assure confidentiality due to the nature of the setting.

**Voluntary Nature of the Study**

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with Liberty University. If you decide to participate, you are free to not answer any question or withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships.

**Contacts and Questions**

The researcher conducting this study is Chrestella Budyanto. You may ask any questions you have now.

Statement of Consent:

I have read the above information. I have asked questions and have received answers. I consent to participate in the study.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Researcher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Interview Questions for Intercultural Marriages

### Preliminary Questions:

Please begin by telling me about yourself, your cultural background and how you met your spouse.

What is your age?

What is your ethnicity? Your spouse's ethnicity?

Where (city, state, country) did you get married?

How long have you been married to your current spouse?

In what countries have you and your spouse resided? For how long?

### Interview Questions:

1. Prior to meeting your spouse, how much intercultural interaction did you have?

*Use the following prompts as needed:*

*Did you travel to foreign countries? Which ones?*

*Did you have other relationships with those of a different culture?*

*If so, what type of relationships did you have? What culture were they from?*

*Did you grow up in a culturally diverse environment?*

2. What was it that attracted you to your spouse?

3. How are you and your spouse similar? How are you different?

Which of your differences do you think are because of your different cultural backgrounds?

How do these impact your marriage?

Has the way you viewed the similarities and differences changed throughout the course of your marriage?

How do you resolve or deal with differences?

4. Considering your cultural differences, describe how you and your spouse communicate.

Do you have trouble making yourself understood?

Do you have trouble understanding your spouse?

What language do you use?

What are the differences in your languages?

Have you and your spouse created your own language? What is the result of your own personal language?

Are there any topics that are taboo?

Are your communication styles similar or different? How?

In which ways have your ways of communicating with each other changed over the years? What prompted these changes?

5. How do you and your spouse integrate your two cultures?

Do you have any customs or traditions that you and your spouse celebrate?

Which ones are from which culture?

How did you decide on using these particular customs?

Do you have any of your own customs/traditions? How did this come about?

6. What do you like the most about being married to someone from a different culture?

Why is this element(s) attractive to you?

7. What do you find to be most difficult about being married to someone from a different culture?

Do you feel free to be yourself when w/ your spouse? OR Is it difficult for you to think about or talk about conflicts in your marriage?

Closing Questions:

Do you have any final thoughts about your intercultural marriage that perhaps came up during the interview but that we did not discuss today?

Can I contact you again if I think of another question?