

TELLING OUR STORIES, FINDING OUR ROOTS ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM

Date of interview	22nd September 2020
Location of interview	Ockment Centre, Okehampton
Name of interviewee	Mrs C
Name of interviewer	Nicole Redfern
Length of interview	01:05:09 [Interview Part One]
File format, storage format	WAV, hosted on Soundcloud. Digital copy obtainable from DDE.

Tags:

Philippines ; First Generation Story ; Heritage ; Festival ; Education ; Discrimination ; Identity ; Cultural Tradition ; Community ; Diversity ; Language ; Okehampton

Interviewee's wishes regarding use of interview

None.

Interviewer's notes / any issues on recording

There is a tapping noise under Mrs C's speech - [00:12:32 - 00:12:40]

Yvonne mentions briefly a discriminatory hiring practice in relation to British Airways [00:32:32 - 00:33:15]

Linked objects/photographs.

Mrs C opens the interview by discussing a Filipino top [00:25 - 02:34]

Key themes and topics covered in the interview

Theme / topic	Timecode on recording
Traditional Filipino Garment	[00:00:25 - 00:02:34]
Life in the Philippines	[00:02:51 - 00:06:15]
Moving to the UK	[00:06:15 - 00:12:43]
Teenage Life	[00:12:43 - 00:18:37]
Filipino Tradition and Identity	[00:18:37 - 00:31:26]
Discrimination and Assumption	[00:31:26 - 00:49:24]
Moving to - and Settling in - Okehampton	[00:49:24 - 00:55:17]
School Curriculum	[00:55:17 - 00:57:18]
A Message to Your Younger Self	[01:03:44 - 01:04:36]

Interview highlights

"Just be open minded. Yeah. Because we've all had different experiences in life" [00:29:41 - 00:29:47]

On adversity - "you just have to, you have to just learn to to deal with it and just not let it eat you up." [00:39:37 - 00:39:45]

"Oh, you can never be a local in Okehampton. You've got to live here for - I don't know - I mean, you know, it's -- 15 years and in Okehampton is not local." [00:54:32 - 54:43]

"I think, part of why I think my daughters are actually so, they have the, they're really happy with who they are is because I've never really hidden the fact or trying to change where I'm from, you know, or trying to sort of ignore where I'm from." [00:56:21 - 00:56:51]

Interview summary

Mrs C Interview Part One Summary

In part one of her interview, Mrs C begins the interview by describing and discussing a traditional Filipino garment [00:00:25 - 00:02:34]. She talks about her early life in the Philippines [00:02:51 - 00:06:15], including moving around often with her extended and adopted family [00:03:41 - 00:04:47], and the different languages spoken in different regions of the Philippines [00:05:24 - 00:06:15].

Next, she speaks about the preparations she and her family undertook before from Manila to the UK [00:06:15 - 00:07:03]. This leads her to explain her family structure, and the realities of their move to the UK [00:07:03 - 00:12:40].

Mrs C describes her first impression of Paignton, the place her family first moved to when they arrived in Britain [00:09:45 - 00:10:57], before talking about her experience of the Filipino community in Devon and the wider UK [00:10:57 - 00:12:43].

Mrs C then explores the process of adapting to her new life in Paignton, noting that she was “trying to, sort of, fit in with your peers, and but you, but you can't because, you know, obviously, visually, you're not like them” [00:12:43 - 00:15:41]. This included learning English [00:15:41 - 00:18:37].

Next, Mrs C speaks about some of the traditions and culture that she has brought with her from the Philippines, [00:18:37 - 00:20:58], including a traditional 18th birthday celebration that she recently attended [00:21:06 - 00:22:36]. She then mentions members of her extended family who have also made the move to the UK from the Philippines [00:22:47 - 00:24:57].

Mrs C then talks about the process of relearning and reclaiming her Visayan language [00:23:47 - 00:26:19], and about her daughters' relationship to the language [00:26:22 - 00:28:16]. This leads Mrs C on to discuss briefly her thoughts on her own identity [00:28:16 - 00:30:00], as well as that of her daughters [00:30:00 - 00:31:26].

She then talks about her early working life, when she was attempting to secure a career as an air stewardess [00:31:26 - 33:40]. This allows Mrs C to discuss in detail some of the discrimination that she has faced in the UK [00:33:40 - 00:40:06], in addition to the attitudes to, and assumptions made about, her migration [00:40:06 - 00:46:18]. She also talks about fitting in to society as an adult, and questions the genuineness of some people's expressions of acceptance, noting that “they're more aware of it. But at the same time, I don't know whether that aware - that awareness is genuine or not. Do you know, do you get my meaning by that? All - people are just, maybe they're thinking oh this is because we have to be inclusive.” [00:46:39 - 00:49:24].

Interview summary

Mrs C then details her decision to move to Okehampton [00:49:24 - 00:51:14] and details the process of settling into the local community [00:51:21 - 00:55:17]. Within this, she talks briefly about the local people's response to her arrival, noting that "And people actually generally they were, you know, really nice and accepting" [00:53:20 - 00:54:29].

Mrs C also describes cultural experience days which she sometimes ran for a local primary school [00:55:17 - 00:57:18]. She then talks about the need for the school curriculum to embrace diversity [00:57:18 - 01:00:17].

Briefly, Mrs C considers how she has changed since living in the UK [01:00:17 - 01:02:55], and what she perceives as 'home' [01:02:55 - 01:03:23].

She finishes the interview by giving her younger self the message to "just take everything and learn from - just just open your mind and to to all the possibilities and make the most of, make the most of those experiences and and, yeah, just enjoy yourself. Don't let things get you down, really" [01:03:44 - 01:04:36].

TELLING OUR STORIES, FINDING OUR ROOTS ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM

Date of interview	9th October 2020
Location of interview	Remote
Name of interviewee	Mrs C
Name of interviewer	Nicole Redfern
Length of interview	00:15:48 [Interview Part Two]
File format, storage format	WAV, hosted on Soundcloud. Digital copy obtainable from DDE.

Tags:

Interviewee's wishes regarding use of interview

None.

Interviewer's notes / any issues on recording

This is the second part of Mrs C's interview, in which she discusses a few topics which she would like to have included in her history.

Linked objects/photographs.

Key themes and topics covered in the interview

Theme / topic	Timecode on recording
Filipino Festivals	[00:00:31 - 00:05:05]
Filipino Hospitality and Culture	[00:05:05 - 00:07:56]
Daughter's Geography Lesson	[00:07:56 - 00:10:38]
Cultural Assumptions and Discrimination	[00:10:38 - 00:14:34]
A Message of Acceptance	[00:14:45 - 00:15:42]

Interview highlights

"I'd like to take the kids, my girls to to, to those that they've not been to, other than the one in Exeter - Respect - where they've had some dances. Some Filipino performers, dancing on stage and stuff at Respect. That's really that's really good: introducing people to the different cultures. I think that's great." - [00:04:40 - 00:05:05]

"Just always be true to yourself, and don't try and - because I suppose I, I did it when I was younger - tried to change and to be accepted and worried about fitting in - is to actually just be yourself and just to be to not to try and, and change for the sake of pleasing other people. You know, it's, it's, it's about that, that's accepting who you are and others will just then then follow, and not to bend to any anyone's sort of idea of who you should be" [00:14:53 - 00:15:39].

Interview summary

Mrs C Interview Part Two Summary

In the second part of her interview, Mrs C begins by talking in more detail about the spirit of Filipino festivals, noting that “the entertainment side of things is something that Filipinos, they can always find something to, to, you know, always have fun” and that “So even if you went to somebody's house, who may not have much, but they would just offer you whatever, and everything that they have got. You know, that's how accommodating they are, and has hospitable they are. So it's just, it seems to be like part of that sort of culture, really.” [00:00:31 - 00:05:05]. Within this, she particularly mentions the London Barrio Fiesta and the Exeter Respect Festival, of which Mrs C says “that's really good: introducing people to the different cultures. I think that's great” [00:02:21 - 00:05:05].

Mrs C then recalls an anecdote about her family organising chickens to feed some men who would be carrying out works at their home, reiterating that “it's that, again, you know, it's that idea, that culture, that has hospitality.” [00:05:21 - 00:07:56].

Next, Mrs C relates an incident in which her daughter challenged a damaging stereotype in a geography lesson. She recalls her own pride in her daughter for standing up against the stereotype because, she states, “I just think that we should have moved away from that now, you know, because there's no, it's it's not black or white for things.” [00:08:13 - 00:10:38]. Mrs C then relates identical incidents of both herself and her cousin being mistaken for nannies when caring for their own children [00:10:56 - 00:14:34]. She notes that “it made me feel sad. The fact that it was just, the assumption that they would come up with. And yeah, yeah. It's upsetting really, isn't it?”

Finally, Mrs C leaves a message of acceptance and self-assurance to those listening: “You know, it's, it's, it's about that, that's accepting who you are and others will just then then follow, and not to bend to any anyone's sort of idea of who you should be, I think” [00:14:45 - 00:15:42].