

Immigrant narratives:

Recording the Experiences of Greek female immigrants to NZ

Identity perceptions as constructed through pre-arrival and early period experiences and sense of contribution to New Zealand in the 1950s

Questionnaire

Part A

Introductory/warm-- up questions to relax the interviewee

Thank you for having me here today and agreeing to share with me your memories and experiences; Let's start with some basic information about you and your family:

1. What's your full name?
 - Where and where were you born?
 - How old are you? What is your date of birth?
 - Are you married?
 - Do you have any children?

2. How long have you been living in NZ?
 - When did you arrive?

3. Where did you live in Greece?
 - How was life back then in Greece?
 - How was it affected by the war and the immediate post-War period?

4. What prompted you to immigrate to NZ?

5. How did you find out about immigration to NZ?
 - Did you know anyone who lived here before you came?
 - How much did you know of NZ before you came?

6. Did you arrive on your own, with spouse, children?

7. How did you come to NZ?
 - Through the NZ assisted passage scheme
 - did you pay your way with a job waiting for you
 - as a Bride
 - other

8. Did you have to go through some selection process to qualify for immigration to NZ?

9. Could you describe your pre-arrival experience?

10. How was the trip to NZ?
 - How did you travel

- how long
- In what conditions?

11. What were your expectations of life and work in NZ?

I would like us now to talk a bit more about your early experiences in NZ...

Part B

Main question: What early experiences of immigration to NZ shaped your life in NZ? What were your first impressions?

[These questions relate to how an immigrant constructs his/her identity in a new homeland and how that affects their perception of their identity. The identity continuum: construction – adaptation – integration – consolidation]

1. Where did you first arrive?
2. How was your arrival to NZ?
3. What was the arrival immigration process?
4. Were there any restrictions by the immigration office about:
 - your movements,
 - choice of work and
 - Where you lived
5. what were your first impressions of:
 - Your job?
 - What was your co-workers reaction to you?
 - Your community?
 - Life style in NZ?
 - How did people address you? Did they anglicise your name?
6. What were your living conditions back then?
7. What were your working conditions back then?
8. Did you come with a spouse from Greece or did you get married here?
 - If married here: how did you choose your spouse?
 - Someone from the Greek community
 - A Kiwi (European)
 - A Kiwi (Maori)
 - other
9. What was your knowledge of English when you first came to NZ
 - How did that affect your integration to the local society?

10. What were your first impressions of the NZ culture and society?
 - What did you like most in your new country?
 - Were there things you did not like and had a hard time getting used to?
 - How did you overcome these difficulties and learn to accept your new country?
11. How was your Greekness received at work and local society?
 - Positively, negatively, mixed?
12. Did you experience discrimination because you were an immigrant and/or a Greek person?
13. Did people have difficulty pronouncing your name?
 - Did you have to anglicize your name?
14. What did you think were the attitudes of NZers about Greek people back then?
 - Have they changed over the years?
15. Did you feel any pressure to assimilate, discard your Greekness?
16. What aspects of Greek life did you keep at home?
 - Did you cook Greek food at home? Was it easy to find the ingredients?
 - How about clothes and ways of dressing? Did you keep some of the Greek ways?
 - Did you speak to your children in Greek?
17. Did you socialise with your Greek fellow workers and neighbours?
 - Dancing, card games, sports?
18. Were you part of a Greek cultural/community club?
 - What activities did you have?
 - If not part of a club, why?
19. How did you keep in touch at the time with your family back in Greece?
 - Today?
20. Did you consider at some point during those early days going back to Greece?
21. When did you get your NZ citizenship?
 - Have you kept your Greek citizenship? If yes, why?
22. When was the first time you went back to Greece to visit?
 - What did it feel like to be back in Greece for the first time since immigration to NZ?

what an interesting life! Can we talk a bit more on your achievements here in NZ?

Part C

Main question: What is your sense of contribution as a Greek immigrant to the NZ society?

1. What job did you have when you first came to NZ?
 - How was it?
 - What other jobs did you have during the years?
2. Did you feel that your work ethics were different from your fellow NZers workers/ employers/ employees?
3. How have you been influenced by or reacted to local attitudes to work?
4. Has (Greek) religion/culture played an important part in how you feel about your achievements?
 - Could you give me some examples e.g. attitudes towards other people etc?
5. What is the contribution of Greek immigrants to NZ?
6. How did you find non-Greeks related to you? How did they value your contribution(s)?

I would really like now to hear how much of your *Greekness* you have kept over the years!

Part D

Main question: How do you perceive your identity now?

1. What Greek habits have you kept over the years:
 - food
 - language
 - religion
 - other ways of living?
2. Have these habits got stronger as you grew older?
3. Do you consider yourself a NZer or Greek or a mixture of two?
 - Can you give me some examples of when you feel like an NZer and when a Greek?
4. How about your children?
 - How much Greekness do you think they carry in them?
 - How much Greekness do you think you instilled in them?
 - Do they speak Greek?
5. What are your links with Greece today?

This has been such an interesting life account! Just before we close this interview....

Part E

Concluding part and time for more specific questions that were not properly explored in the above sections: missing details; sensitive memories etc

1. Is there anything else you would like to add:
 - something that you consider an important memory,
 - an experience that does not directly relate to what you said before?

2. If there is anything important that you have forgotten to mention today, please feel free to call me.

3. Do you have any photos that you would like to share with me about your family, from childhood back in Greece and those early days in NZ?
 - Could I take photos of them?
 - We can only display them with your permission.

Thank you so much for your time and sharing your memories and experiences with me today!