



City Research Online

City, University of London Institutional Repository

Citation: Shen, W. (2018). How intermarriage between Chinese women and Caucasian men starting with Internet-dating evolves over time - from the Chinese wives' perspective. (Unpublished Doctoral thesis, City, University of London)

This is the accepted version of the paper.

This version of the publication may differ from the final published version.

Permanent repository link: <https://openaccess.city.ac.uk/id/eprint/20286/>

Link to published version:

Copyright: City Research Online aims to make research outputs of City, University of London available to a wider audience. Copyright and Moral Rights remain with the author(s) and/or copyright holders. URLs from City Research Online may be freely distributed and linked to.

Reuse: Copies of full items can be used for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge. Provided that the authors, title and full bibliographic details are credited, a hyperlink and/or URL is given for the original metadata page and the content is not changed in any way.

City Research Online:

<http://openaccess.city.ac.uk/>

publications@city.ac.uk

Acknowledgements

These Acknowledgements mean a lot for me, as they revisit a part of my life journey that stirs up many emotionally touching moments, and jogs my memory into recalling many deep-seated names worthy of my gratitude.

During this professional doctoral training I have been through the most difficult time in my life, as nearly every significant aspect of my life collapsed. Having lost the most important people in my life, I now have no family members anymore. Luckily I am still on the way of completing this professional doctorate as intended, and will devote myself to helping people regain their psychological well-being with my increased confidence.

Thanks to this doctoral training, I have been continuously learning to turn all the negative experiences into positives, and believe that all the past experiences will positively contribute to my work and the rest of my life.

First and foremost, I want to show my deepest gratitude to my dearest parents, who both passed away during this doctoral training. It was you that gave me life and shaped me into the strong person I have become, with great compassion, perseverance, independence and ability to overcome every challenge in my dramatic life. I still remember even in the last stage of your lives, you did not want to divert my attention from my training to worry about your health, but all along encouraged me to work hard toward my intended goal. I regard completion of this doctorate as a best gift in return of your greatest love.

I also want to particularly thank my research supervisor Professor Carla Willig. Thank you for taking me onboard! I feel very lucky to have had you supervising my doctoral research. I

enjoyed every discussion with you, including your academic books; they were thought provoking and inspiring. You are not only a very experienced doctoral research supervisor, but also showed great empathy towards my difficult circumstances. Your understanding and encouragement motivated me to overcome all the hurdles to move forward with my research. I appreciate your input from the bottom of my heart throughout the journey.

I of course very much appreciate all my participants who generously and openly participated in my research. It was your contribution that made my study possible, which will contribute to the field.

I need to say many thanks to Dr Pavlos Filippouls as well. It was you who kindly supported me (as the previous programme director) to hold my place and to later be able to return to the doctoral training after going through my first life crisis.

Sadly my personal therapist Marilyn passed away. Diagnosed with cancer exactly during the same period that my mother was ill, you were still able to work with me, but you intentionally chose to stay away eventually, as you were concerned about me, i.e. following the loss of my mother, you were aware that your forthcoming death would further traumatize me. You were so thoughtful and empathetic. I still keep your supportive message right after I urgently rushed back to China due to my mother's health crisis. I was touched too that a couple of days before your death, in hospital you were thinking of whether I needed your signature to complete my training documents. Thereafter I was glad that your husband Gabriel took over your role of becoming my therapist and later he became my clinical supervisor; he offered me great support, as you did. I thank you both wholeheartedly.

Moreover, I must say I am very grateful for my clinical supervisor Caroline, and my previous

fellow student and friend Franca who strongly supported me in the different phases of this training, and thoughtfully accompanied me through the difficult times.

There are still many more names, which I cannot list here one by one. Without these friends, colleagues and supervisors who generously and kindly supported me, I might have lost my volition and would not have been able to reach the point of achieving my passionately and humbly sought-after professional goal. Thank you all for your giving!

Lastly, I want to particularly thank myself who has been able to survive all the life crises, and emerged as a better and more robust self. This is a journey of a phoenix rising from the ashes!