

Interviewee: Julia Pendleton-Knoll (Julia has a hyphenated last name.)

Interviewer: Kelson Brighton

[Explain project, consent] *Can you state your full name?* Julia Micaela Pendleton- Knoll. *What is your last name story? Can you explain why you have a hyphenated name?* My mom didn't want to give up her last name. And she didn't hyphenate her last name, so it's just the kids. She didn't want to lose the Pendleton. *And the Knoll is your dad's last name?* Yes. *And how many siblings do you have?* Two older sisters. *And they have the same hyphenated last name?* Yup. *Can you clarify your mom's relationship to feminism in general?* We've never really talked about it but she's definitely the dominant one in the relationship and she's always pushed us to stand up to sexism and stuff. *What effects has your hyphenated name had on you and your sisters?* I guess mostly in middle school and elementary school people asked why we had a hyphenated name and I didn't know. It's also annoying to write. Lots of times my mom gets upset when people call her Mrs. Knoll or Mrs. Pendleton-Knoll. They never do that to my dad, though. *Does she get called Mrs. Pendleton-Knoll?* Sometimes, lots of times it's Mrs. Knoll. And lots of times people just call me Pendleton or Knoll or P-K, of course. *So what is your mom's preferred name?* Ms. Pendleton. *What do you think that you would do in the future with your hyphenated name?* I don't know. I guess it depends on my husband's last name, if he has a cool last name. I don't know if this is possible but Pendleton-Knoll is so long and I go by P-K a lot, so maybe if I just shortened that to P-K. I don't think I would take my husband's last name and I wouldn't mind having my kids have my husband's last name because for me it's annoying to have a hyphenated last name.

*You said that your mom chose to have her kids have her name as well because she wanted her name to be passed on? Yes. She didn't want us to be known with my dad's identity. Is there any importance in the aesthetic or uniqueness or ethnicity of your name?* I don't think so. *Do you know if your mom had any role models in choosing a hyphenated last name?* I don't think anybody else in my family has had hyphenated last names. I don't know if there was some other outside source, but no one else in our family does. None of my cousins do or anything. *So what do you think that your parents hoped for when they chose for you to have a hyphenated name, and do you think that it's worked?* (laughing) I have no idea. I honestly don't even think that any of it had to do with my dad. No, I guess they did it so people would identify me equally with my mom. I guess I don't really know, sorry. *That's okay. So maybe just identifying with both parents?* Yeah. *Have there been any unforeseen consequences to having a hyphenated last name?* I guess now my kids can't have a hyphenated last name. Double hyphens? Also, a lot of people don't even know my full last name because they don't know how to say it. I just go by P-K.

*So are there any times that you've been called names that aren't your last name?* I'm sure there have. I've never been called just Knoll, maybe because it's the second name. Also, people have asked me why my mom's last name is first. I think it just sounds better, I don't know if there's another reason for it. But no, not really. Usually just P-K or Pendleton-Knoll. *How do you feel about the length and pronunciation and uniqueness?* I don't like that. My signature is always annoying. *Because it's so long?* Yeah, and lots of times I just write P-K and they make me re-do it. People just end up waiting for me to finish it. Yeah, lots of people don't know how to pronounce it. *What kinds of reactions have you and your family gotten about your names?* I

really only remember people questioning it when I was little, because they didn't know why it was hyphenated. No, I can't think of anything recently. I know other people with hyphenated last names so it might be more well-known now. *Was it hard for you when you were younger?* Yeah, especially because I didn't know why and people would ask me and I didn't know how to explain it. *Do you think that your mom's choice in intervening in the process of women losing their identity is effective?* Yeah, I don't know why it has to be the husband's last name. It's a historical thing I guess, I don't really know. *Ok, well something we talked about in our class is whether it's effective to use a woman's maiden, patrilineal name and whether that is effective. Do you think that a woman keeping her father's name is effective in speaking to feminist goals?* Well I don't know because it's her father's name, but it's also her identity. I guess so. And then if I keep my hyphenated last name too, it represents both my mom and my dad and maybe that can be passed on. *What do you think the generation of children with hyphenated names should do as they get older and get married? What do you think people should do with their hyphenated last names?* I remember in third grade my elementary school lover's last name was hyphenated and we didn't know what to do! I don't know. I really can't predict now or say what people should do because I don't want to lose my name. Then there will be no more P-Ks. I want my kids to have my last name! *But do you think that when you get married you'll take your husband's name?* No, I don't think so. No, I'm going to keep my last name but I don't know about if I have kids. *Okay, that was great, thank you.*[End]