

Interviewee: Sarah Hautzinger (She kept her maiden name in her marriage. Her children have a hyphenated name)

Interviewer: Daphnee Chabal (first 10 minutes transcribed by Rhea Jain)

[Explain project, consent] *Can we first talk about your parents, were they married before you were born? They were. Did your mother keep her name? My mother did not legally keep her name, she changed her name at marriage, but then later, and she was a stay at home mom when we were little kids, but then I think I was in like second grade and I have one younger brother, and then she began using her maiden name professionally. And actually anyone who knew her by the time she died had no idea that her name was Hautzinger, she was only identified by her maiden name. So you have your father's name? I was given the name of my father.*

*Did your mother talk to you at all why it was her choice to use her maiden name professionally? Because Hautzinger was a really awkward name to use as a journalist. I also think she was very identified with her Irish ancestry as well so she used O'Brien. So it was for practical as well as personal reasons? Mhmm. And, so you kept your father's name? Did you think at all about changing your name to your mothers or including her in your last name? Are you asking about when I am married? No, before you were married. I never considered changing my name ever, before marriage or after marriage.*

*Is that because your mother was called Hautzinger too? If your mother had kept her maiden name, would you have considered including her in your naming? I have considered taking my mother's name. Is there a reason you didn't act on it? Mostly because I thought it would hurt my father's feelings. And I would have a different name than my brothers. I don't believe in making that much of a fuss about yourself. I already have a whole thing with my name being Sarah but always being called Sally as a kid. And people like old friends are like "you're not Sally anymore!" No, I just tried to keep it simple, and failed to keep it simple.*

*You were comfortable with your identity as it was. I was. Were you informed about the process of name changing? Did you know how complicated or simple was to change a name? Not really. So then, you got married. I'm going to make a little aside here. I think that, a lot of the background stuff that we are starting with, I would do that by backing up to them. So I would start by saying, "So we understand, you have an interesting story around your last name, what is it?" Then you can back up and ask what you might need to about my parents.*

*So what was the interesting thing about your story, about your husband and you. I think it is that I kept my own name at marriage, but also that my kids have both names. I think I'm an interesting subject in this because of my kids mostly. I thought it had more to do with your parents. No, not my parents. My parents stuff wasn't particularly influenced by feminism.*

*So, I heard you have an interesting story with your last name, would you mind telling us about it? Did you change your name at any point in your life, and if so why? No, I kept my birth name when I married. And my husband at that time said, "Well I wouldn't consider changing my name, so why would I ask you to?" And that was that. It was pretty simple.*

*Was there a reason you didn't want to take his name? I might have liked his name. I like the last name Ferguson a lot. And especially because I do have more Irish, Scottish ancestry myself even more than my Austria ancestry. But Sarah Ferguson? Princess? That would be a problem. Weight Watchers spokesperson? Problem. Anyways, I had already earned a doctorate under the name*

Hautzinger. Had already published some scholarly articles and that kind of thing. I think I wanted to keep my name as an author and as my professional name.

*And did you ever have any wonder about if that would affect your marriage and your relationship with your husband, to have separate names?* I knew in my case, I think my husband thinks of himself, if not a feminist then a pro-feminist, or someone who supports feminists. So, I didn't think it would affect my marriage, and it didn't.

*So, you didn't have any pressure in that aspect. So then you had children I understand.* That's when it got kind of messy. Because we decided to give our children just Ferguson, I didn't want to complicate things. But then, in the hospital, this woman was signing up our baby, our newborn for her social security card. And then we thought, we would like to use the mother's name, but then hyphenating Hautzinger-Ferguson, that would already be six syllables. So, we are just going to do Ferguson. This woman was a very conservative African-American woman. But she said, "Well I sign up people all the time who do it the Latin American style, with two last names." And then we thought, well we could do that without a hyphen. And then they would just drop Hautzinger and use Ferguson. Okay, we'll do that.

*So you put Ferguson Hautzinger?* Yes that's what we did. We put Ferguson Hautzinger because we thought it sounded better I guess. And that is where we went wrong. Because, first of all, our older daughter, as soon as she got to school and things. She insisted on using Ferguson Hautzinger all the time. Which we didn't anticipate. We didn't factor in the kid's will! Right? And, secondly, we probably should have put my name first and his name last. People in the United States think your last, last name is your real last name. And if they notice that that last, last name is not the father's, then they literally insert a hyphen to make sure that the father doesn't "invisible", which is really surprising to me.

*So you didn't want it to be Hautzinger-Ferguson?* No hyphen. I feel like I start every school year apologizing to the teachers, saying "we didn't mean it to be such a mess!" *And are your kids comfortable with having two last names? Do you think it changed their perception of marriage?* In my views my other kid did it, right? Now she is saying it is not a good solution in the long term. Now, she is talking about creating her own last name which is an interesting idea. Part of me always cheered when she used Hautzinger and Ferguson because a part of me didn't want my family to be made invisible.

*And for your second child?* My second child just changed schools and she just started to only use Ferguson. *And is that something that you regret?* Part of me feels a little bit like: 'the other way is a bit messy but this way makes my family invisible'. *We have found out you could combine the two last names, did you know about that? Would you have talked about it?* We talked about it, Hautguson, Ferzinger, I actually do it when I sign gift cards or anything, I sign it Ferzingers cause it is cute and funny and it is a family name but it is a ridiculous name.

*If you had to do it again would you do the same naming practice? Any regrets?* If we had to do it all over again, I think I will do it Hautzinger Ferguson so that Hautzinger could be a middle name but that is less feminist than the mess we have created which is a feminist mess. [laugh]

*Is it an issue of practicality or of feminism?* Both, I think both are issues. My daughters and I have been talking about created a whole new name like some of the people in our sample and my daughters have been very excited about it and my husband said: ' I have no interest in changing my name, I never did, I never will! I didn't ask you to change your name, my position has not

changed' and I totally think it is a reasonable position he takes so we are just victims of the times, there are no good solutions but i think it would be simpler if we changed it to Ferguson-Hautzinger.

*How important is your last name for you? If you husband insisted upon you changing your name, would you have done it?* I might not have married him. It is not that the name itself is a big deal but it's that a decision like that on marriage symbolises what he thinks the marriage is about and if i had been with someone who insisted on keeping his name.. Unless it is a very unique name, if there was a specific story to it, i would take that in but yeah, i think it would have been a bad sign.

*About the future, do you think your attitude will affect your daughters?* Sure, that is why i am interested in this issue cause i don't know where this is all going and i don't know how many parents are taking the responsibility of passing on a name that kids will know what to do with when they marry, when they have kids, what will happen with those.

*Do you think you set a role model for your children about keeping your name, not being forced?* Yes, I think that part of it is great. *Would you be upset if you daughters took their husbands' name?* No, I wouldn't be upset but still, i'd be surprised if they did just by who they are. I am an anthropologist and in some cultures, they have ambilineal , that have two lines, all girls would have a mother's last name and all boys you have a father's last name and it could possibly be a solution but it has the down side of brothers and sisters not having the same last name. I used to think this idea of creating a whole new name was ridiculous but now thinking about it, i think it is good. [concluding interview with some information about consent]