

Interviewee: Joseph Loyaconobustos (Has a combined name. His mother and his father kept their own name in marriage)

Interviewer: Daphnee Chabal

[Intro and consent giving] *What is your last name?* My last name is Loyaconobustos. *Is it your father's or your mom's?* It is a combination of my mother's and my father's last names. *So your dad's is...?* My dad's is Bustos and my mom's is Loyacono. *So are they married?* Yes. *And they both kept their own name?* Yes.

So do you know why they chose to do that? I know my mother personally chose to do it because I think she had a very intimate relationship with feminism her entire life, and so it is very much a conscious decision on her behalf to both keep her last name as well as taking both her last name and my father's last name and put them together and give it to both me and my sister.
[Pause as interviewer thinks of a question]

Did it have anything to do with aesthetic? Do you think they decided to combine it this way cause it sounded better? I couldn't really speak in depth to that but I definitely believe that it was more an ideological choice than an aesthetic one. *Ok so it was purposely to have...* Yes to have both of our family names represented in their children without having either party having to give up their own name. *Did they ever consider giving you a hyphenated name?* I don't believe so. I think they just wanted to put them all into one.

Ok did that choice have any inconvenience to you? [interviewer gives examples of situations] The only inconvenience that it caused seems to be that it was quite a bit longer than those common last names. But it is a minor inconvenience compared to what I think is a great aspect of consolidation... between both my parents and in a larger spectrum, between female and male solidarity within the marriage structure. *And for example that parent-teacher reunions, were the teachers aware that your father and your mother had different names than yours?* I think they were first not aware and they just assumed it was just a very weird last name but once they became familiar with it, it was a fairly painless transition.

So the inconveniences would not make your mom or dad reconsider their choice? No, I have never heard them show any remorse or possible regret for the decision that they chose. *So you said yourself that it was an effective way for the name of your mom not to be erased and be part of your identity, [thinking about formulation] what do you think about a patrilineal last name practice?* I think the main notion that I personally express about the whole lineage structure is that it should ultimately come down to personal choice rather than the way of patrilineal last name lineage falling down heavily on tradition, and I feel that whatever your choice it should be made for both a personal take as well as a consideration of the name you will give your children and that they will most likely have for the rest of their lives.

And so if you had children would you combine your combined last name? I have thought of that a little bit and I definitely would make it a conversation that I would have with my potential partner in the future. It would be a decision that would be agreed upon with us both having our personal views taken in consideration. I would be extremely open to combining my last name with the last name of my potential future partner. *Nice, ok and you would consider the question of aesthetic? Pronunciation, spelling... while doing so or not?* That would be a component of the conversation, I think it will not be as lengthy and carry as much weight as the ideological

aspect [gives examples of aspects discussed] but I think it will be a small part of the conversation. [long pause]

About your mother's name, is it her father's? It is. It is a long complicated history but she grew up with a single mother in a very low income area as well as household, so I think she grew up with no male figure head serving as her father, and the relationship between her and her father is very strained. And so I think it was more out of the power of her own solidarity and showing she had the will to remain autonomous and keep this last name that most of her life has been an integral part of her identity, and I think that was an extremely important part of her decision to keep it as part of my last name.

And so compared to those reasons, what are the inconvenience of not having her husband's last name, [giving situations of being called sometimes 'Mrs Bustos']? I'm sure it did. With every decision there will be consequences that will go either way but I feel that flying in the face of tradition as well as these minor inconveniences for the sake of being true to your long standing ideas and retaining that integrity is much more important in the long run than those minor inconveniences.

And how did both your families react to both the decisions of combining their names and to a partner not taking the other's name? My mother's side of the family since it is only her mom and sister, they were extremely supportive of both the decisions and still to this day I never heard them express any view even remotely to the contrary. My father's family definitely did not have that easy of a transition, they definitely expressed some uneasy sentiments about us not inheriting that last name completely although they sort of jumped on board as they saw that their last name was still somewhat incorporated in our last name. With time, it got better but at the beginning I definitely think there was some tension.

And did they have an opinion on your father not giving his name to his wife? I think, without going into a lot of depth as to their relationship between his family and my mother, I think there was definitely some underlying tension. I am not sure if it was openly expressed, when that decision was made public.

Any role model that influenced your parents to decide to not have the same name? Any role model that influenced your mother to not take your father's name? I think my mother's mom had a big part in that decision as she had a very [hesitates] strained relationship with my mother's father, and as my mother took cues from her mother's way of acting and her reluctance to give in to this patriarchal mindset in terms of male dominance being the only determining factor in success. That had a play in my mother's personal integrity as well as long held and deeply rooted feminist ideologies.

Did she ever meet anyone else who combined their children's name? Not to my knowledge. I have two friends of mine who have given their child a combined name but in a larger scale I think it is still a minority decision. *So your parents agreed upon that without being influenced by any role model of your knowledge?* Well like I said, I think my mom was affected by my grandmother's views and I think my dad was at a point convinced that he wasn't going to make my mother budge on that issue so they decided to meet in the middle and work it out.

Well thank you very much for your help and I would like to remind you again that the information will be available on the website and you can always contact me at anytime if you want to take some of your claims back.