

Interviewee: Andrea Lucard (created a new name at marriage from Lucas and Howard)

Interviewer: Sarah Hautzinger

[Sarah and Andrea joke about her "evil toymaker glasses" since she is visible on skype. Explanation of project and consent. Discussion of call breaking up. Turned off camera which improved.] Sure. My natal name was Lucas, and my husband's natal name was Howard. The name Lucas was actually derivative of a Hungarian name Lucash (sp.); so I have ancestors - not entirely sure which ones, from Hungary. I have family members in Hungary Lukas [pronounced LUKash], and my husband Malcolm's family name Howard has obviously been passed down for generations. So the question is about feminism... So I can talk directly about myself and also about the influence into where some of this came from.

When [discuss sound on call] When my now husband and I were planning to get married, one of the items of discussion around our marriage was about what we were going to do around our last names. And I had a fairly strong feeling at the time of two things: the first was that we had decided we wanted to have children if that were possible in our marriage. And I had decided that I wanted my children to have the same last name as I did. And that was very much based out of a feeling that I was going to bear them within my body for a nine plus months and I was going to nurse them, and I wanted my relationship with them to be visible with respect to our names. And at the same time was uncomfortable with changing my name to my husband's. That it felt to me like it was too easy to subsume my identity within his, and then the identity within whatever children we might have into the identity with his family.

I didn't feel particularly attached to my last name. It didn't feel particularly necessary for it to be my last name. I would have been happy choosing a third name. I wasn't happy with the idea that I was going to become him. And the children were his and me within that... So what we did was we came up with a bunch of different options for how we might change our name. The options, I said, were he could change his name to mine; we could hyphenate our names, we could come up with a new name entirely, or we could explore the options to merge our names. We put the matter up to our friends when we invited people up to our wedding, and we got another of different options. Some of them were completely unrelated to our names but to the things we love to do: music and gardening and outdoor things. Some of them were terrific jokes that we got back: Malcolm Phillipshead Screwdriver, that was my favorite one, since we were always doing home improvement. And we got a fair number of hyphenated names, which would have been appropriate. And then the two names that came up frequently were either taking my first syllable and his last or reversed. So the options that came up were Lucard and Hocus. And Hocus was a really bad name for a journalist. [Laughs;] *Yes; Hocus Pocus...*

We talked about it quite a bit. And to be quite honest the major was actually Malcolm's, not mine. I was quite certain that that was what I wanted to do. We could have hyphenated our names very easily. For Malcolm to have chosen to take a whole different name was quite a leap of faith for a man, and a rather unusual decision for a man to take. I think the people who found it hardest, initially at least, was probably his family, because one would expect... I mean when you have a son you expect that the name and the lineage of the family travel down through the son. They were incredibly good about it, I mean no one ever made any comment, but I think it was certainly an adjustment for them. *Do you think it was harder for his father than his mother?* No I think maybe it was harder for his mother than his father but I'm not sure. To be fair I really

don't know. It was more a feeling than anything else. I could be incorrect, but I have sons and I could see how you might think your son has gone off the rails. Marrying a woman who wants him to change his name.

It was an interesting process. In order to legally change my name to his name, there was no legal paperwork that had to be signed; you have to say what your maiden name was. If I'd hyphenated my name, the same. To change our names, we actually had to go through a process in El Paso City where we put an ad in the newspaper for three days, telling people we were going to change our names. I suppose it was about a debtors law, in case we were changing our names to get out of bad debt. I think we put an order, or actually had to appear in court, but can't really remember. We also carried papers with us, notarized papers, because it's fairly unusual [to have a created, family name]. So any time Malcolm has to declare, or I have to declare... Well, again, the challenge is more for Malcolm than for me, though we've been married now for 14-5 years so not as challenging now. But we have to have a piece of paper with the Swiss government [where they now live] to show we changed our names. It's something he has to continue to live with. Not me; people say to me how my married name is so similar to my maiden name, but everyone assumes that my husband and I have the same last name because I changed my last name to his. *Does that in any way undercut your satisfaction with what your goals were in doing this?* No my goal was to have a family name in which my kids had the same name as mine, and I didn't change my name to his. So, I don't have to make a statement everyday of the year. I wanted a family name. It actually was okay with me if he didn't change his name and the kids had my name. That was the last option, I forgot: the other option I said was if the children had the mother's last name, and he wanted to keep his name separate, that was also okay, although it was less satisfactory. I wanted us to have a family name, but it was okay with me if he didn't want to change his. I think, actually, it's a funny sort of satisfaction that we have, which is that nobody else has [can't hear] last name. And we have a family identity that is the Lucard family. Mostly we talk about it in derogatory ways, I mean we'll say "You know, we're late because we're the Lucards," or "The house is messy because we're the Lucards."

...But there is a sense, and I don't think the children have a sense that it's because their parents changed their name, but we do have a family identity that's related around our name, that has substance to it. *And have the boys ever talked about being Lucards and what if anything they would do if they marry and have children.* They haven't gotten that far; they're starting to talk about getting married, and having children, but they haven't talked about names yet. I mean names are very important in our family, actually. Both of our kids have four names. They are each named for a family member, they are named for a king or a hero, they are named for an artist, and then they have this family. So naming is in some way important [unintelligible sound]. Uly, the older one, is just doing a piece right now on genealogy, and it's exactly what you had said, what you had threatened as an anthropologist, Sarah. You know that they would try to do genealogy and there wouldn't be anybody in their genes [sic]. He's doing online searching now and there's obviously some frustration around it. Because the lineage isn't as clear; you have to make it more explicit. It's not as easy. *Huh, why is it hard, given that he knows he can do Lucas and Howard?* I'm not sure, he did the initial searching in Lucard, and we had to go back, and explain again... It's still quite possible that it relates to the changing of my family's name, as well, which is all well within living memory; last generation.

Another thing that is interesting is that my mother changed her name to my father's name when she married. When she divorced after twenty years, she legally changed her name again, but she

hyphenated her name. She took her maiden name and my father's name and hyphenating them into her legal name. Because she didn't want to lose the fact that she had 20 years of connection to my father, but she also wanted to reclaim her identity in her maiden name. Do you think it was the connection to your father, or having her children's names? It was about her history. But what's interesting is that at this point she's had her hyphenated name longer than either her maiden name or her married name. Do you think her example had anything to do with the premium you put on wanting to have a family name? It's a good question, because I don't think I thought about it until right now. Or maybe that's not true. Around the time we were married and I was changing my name, my mother made a little bit of a fuss that I was changing my name, or that she wasn't quite used to my married name. I said, well, it took me a long time to get used to your divorced name. [Laughs] So it probably did have an influence, but I don't know how conscious it was.

[Sarah shares personal interest in this project] *I've actually warmed up considerably to the idea of creating new names. A doctor friend, an MD, said the other day, 'We don't need our names to know our histories: we have our genes! And we have records.'* ...I remember you saying "How will this work for genealogy?" way back. What interests me the most is that we have this identity as a family. Gideon came in the other day and there was stuff all over the table and he said, "Well, this is the Lucard family." It's a shorthand. It is, and it's something people who didn't do something clear and simple don't have. I will say, I don't think I've ever really talked to Malcolm what it meant to him to do the change... But he really did make a very unconventional choice. He mostly kept, or continued to publish, under Malcolm Howard when he was in CO Springs. But now he doesn't, now all his work is under Malcolm Lucard. I don't know what that looks like for him now, explaining if you want to search for his bi-line in the last 20 years half of it is under Malcolm Howard. [Chatting about project, block, goodbyes...]