

Interviewee: Christina Anderson (divorced & kept her ex-husband's name; had a child with someone else whom she didn't marry, gave her daughter her--also ex-husband's—name)

Interviewer: Rhea Jain

[Explain project, consent given] *So as you know, I want to ask you a little bit more about your last name and your history. Have you ever been married before?* Yes, I got married once in my late twenties to a man named Roger. He was half European and had a very non-Indian last name. It was my first marriage and I was very idealistic about the romantic notion of changing your name and didn't really think too much about it.

*When did you get divorced?* Our marriage only lasted a short time, we got divorced in the mid 80's. *Did you change your name back to your maiden name?* At that point I was really getting involved in my career and had been using his last name in my workplace for a few years. I thought that I might change my name back, but it seemed much more professional to work with an established name. I'm not sure if I ever really saw it as a huge deal. I had moved my maiden name to my middle name, so I still had that with me.

*Oh okay. Did you ever get remarried?* No, I never remarried. As you know, after my marriage I did have Angela with her father, Nelson, but that is pretty much the extent of my relationships after Roger. That was in '94.

*Yeah, and you gave Angela your ex-husband's last name that you were still using?* Yes, at that point I considered it to be fully my name since I had been using it for so long. I wanted Angela to have my last name and when she was born that is what I put on her birth certificate.

*Was Nelson upset that his name wasn't used at all in her naming process? I mean did you guys talk about it?* Nelson and I were never married and I think he understood my reasoning. Angela was in my full custody and I wanted her to have my last name for legal and personal reasons.

*And what were your personal reasons?* I wanted to create a family unity between her and myself and be connected to her in that way. I'm sure it's for the same reason many women change their name when they get married. They want to have the same last name as the people in their family and those they love.

*Did you ever consider changing both her and your last name to your maiden name?* Well at that point I had published a book with the last name I had received when I was married. I couldn't change my name after such a large publication.

*Did you consider any other name choices for Angela?* Well I also gave her my maiden name as her middle name. I know your mother did the same for you.

*Actually I don't have a middle name, but she did give Tara her maiden name as a middle name. I guess she felt it had already been passed down and didn't feel the need with me [laughs].* Well, I did think I might give her Nelson's name as her middle name, but just for purely practical reasons, his name is really long and hard to spell and I didn't want her to deal with that for the rest of her life.

*Have you ever talked to Angela about it, or has she ever expressed interest in her name?*  
Well, Angela knows she has my name, but I don't think that makes her feel any less connected to her father. She does sometimes joke that if she did have her father's name she would never be able to spell it anyways [laughs].

*Yeah I guess Nelson's name is pretty complicated. Well is there anything else you'd like to share about your name or your choices?* I think that's about it, unless there is something else you'd like to know?

*Not that I can think of. Thanks for your time! I'll call you later and check in about Nani. tell everyone I say hi! I will. Talk to you later, Rhea.*