

Interviewer: Juwan Rohan

Interviewee: Heidi Lewis

Explains the project/Receives consent. What's your LNS? Last name is Lewis, but it was Freeman, and she changed it when she got married. Most women kept their fathers name. The story is complicated to Heidi, because she is black, because the common stereotype for black people is that there is no husband/father in the house. So she changed it and gave her kids that last name, as a political statement, to say that she is married, and there is a father in the house. She first was saying that she wouldn't change it, and her husband understood, but when her kids started going to school, she found it useful to have her husband's last name because of the assumptions that black kids don't have a dad. But her kid's dad was, so she wasn't to make that clear. Especially raising kids in Colorado Springs. "Yes I'm married, yes my husband is in the fucking house, stop looking at my kids like their bastard kids, cause they're not."

Example of how the father is not important enough... "Tell your wife...200 and whatever" "dads are just the dad" She wouldn't do it again with another person, she doesn't quite know if she would do it again with the same person. She wouldn't keep her dad's name "EVER", she knows that. If she gets anything published in a book, she is not changing her name at all. She doesn't regret it, but she would talk to him about creating their own name. There were no consequences for the name change, because it was the 'norm'. ["Some women have a relationship with their farther that honoring their fathering last name makes sense for them, I did not have that, so that wasn't really an issue for me." That's also a name a lot of peoples moms had, so even the mom took the husbands name, that's your mom's name too.] [I made a choice to keep my husband's name, I did not to it because that's what everybody does and that's what it was assumed of what I would do, I struggled with it like I said. She had no idea she could make up her own name]

[Children should do whatever they want with their hyphenated names], [Hyphenated names gives so many possibilities, it's like the dilemma of choice, there's so many choices for them, they are going to have to make a choice and it will take them a while because they would have to think about.][Her and her family were working with three possibilities for names, "freeman" and "Lewis" and some name they created. Kids with hyphenated names have 4 choices maybe three.]