

Kayeon Amaral Conducts Study on Arranged Marriages in the Unification Church

May 8, 2012



(Left to right) back row: Mr. Amaral, Mrs. Amaral, Mrs. Wise, Mr. Wise; front row: Tomeo Wise, Kayeon Amaral, along with Grandma Amaral and Kayeon's siblings, Songgil and JongHee.

Seattle-resident Kayeon Amaral, a senior at the University of Washington studying Communications, welcomes first-and second-generation Unificationists to participate in a her study on arranged marriages. Kayeon was Blessed in marriage by Rev. Sun Myung Moon to Tomeo Wise on March 24, 2012 in Seoul Korea, and is the daughter of Dreux and Keiko Amaral, who were also Blessed by Rev. Moon in 1982.

Dear family member,

If you have been wondering how second-generation Unificationists can find success, love, and happiness in their Blessings, here is an opportunity for you. My name is Kayeon Amaral and I am a second-generation Unificationist attending the University of Washington in Seattle. I am conducting a research study to assess and understand the differences in expectations that first- and second-generation members have towards marriage and the Blessing. I am hoping to see if there are differences in expectations and if so, what they are. Understanding our expectations of marriage is a key insight to predicting how we will approach our marriages, how we will deal with difficulties when they arise, and what our measures are for happiness and success within our marriages. My ultimate goal is to help second-generation members have happier, more fulfilling marriages, and a first step in that process is to understand our expectations of marriage and how those might be different from our parents.

In conducting this research, I want to gather as many opinions as possible to try and understand our Unification-Church community in the United States as a whole. If you are interested in being an integral part of this researching and helping me understand your opinion, please take the online survey. All surveys are being collected with the highest regard for confidentiality and legal rights and have gone through a strict review process with the University and Human Subjects Review Board.

This study is for both first- and second-generation Unificationists as I want to understand the shifting attitudes of marriage from parents to children. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

God Bless.

Sincerely,

Kayeon Amaral

Attitudes About Arranged Marriage

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

CONSENT FORM

MARRIAGE EXPECTATIONS SURVEY

Researchers: Kayeon Amaral, student at the University of Washington, Department of Communication

Valerie Manusov, professor and faculty advisor at the University of Washington,
Department of Communication

Researchers' statement

We are asking you to be in a research study. The purpose of this consent form is to give you the information you will need to help you decide whether to be in the study or not. Please read the form carefully. You may ask questions about the purpose of the research, the possible risks and benefits, your rights as a volunteer, and anything else about the research or this form that is not clear. When we have answered all your questions, you can decide if you want to be in the study or not. This process is called "informed consent." We will give you a copy of this form for your records.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This study will look at beliefs and communication about arranged marriage within the Unification faith. Its purpose is to examine the attitudes and expectations of marriage of members of this faith and specifically compare 1st and 2nd generation followers. This study will focus on members who raised families in the United States; though many of the parents were raised in different cultures, we are looking at children who were raised in America. This study explores whether there is a shift in attitudes toward, and expectations of, marriage between 1st generation parents, who converted to the faith themselves, and 2nd generation children who were raised in the faith and raised simultaneously in popular American culture. Through analyzing the responses of parents and children, this study hopes to gain insight into the process of passing down traditions from one generation to another and is the first step in allowing better understanding, preparation for, and counseling of 2nd generation couples.

STUDY PROCEDURES

First, you must read and confirm that you have understood this consent form. If you have any questions, please contact me before taking the survey. You may call or email me, or ask your pastor to contact me if you would prefer. Estimated time to complete the consent form is 5 minutes.

Once this form is completed, you will be redirected automatically to take the online survey. Take the survey at your own leisure, saving your answers and coming back to them when you'd like. When the survey is finished your answers will be sent, anonymously, to a database, where the researcher can view them. The deadline to complete and submit the survey is May 21st, 2012. Estimated time to complete the survey is 10-20 minutes.

The total amount of time involved in this study is estimated to be 15-25 minutes and the study will be concluded by May 21st.

The survey will involve demographic questions such as age, marital status, gender, etc. The majority of the survey will be either multiple-choice or open-ended questions where you will be given a number of answers to choose from or a short space to write your views.

Some of the most personal or sensitive questions are these: How much do/did you expect to be involved in the finding and choosing of your spouse? Do you see divorce as an option if your marriage isn't going well? In general, how satisfied are you with your relationship?

You may choose not to answer any question or item in any questionnaire or interview.

Some participants may be asked to participate in an interview portion of the study. The interview will include all the questions on the survey. The estimated time to complete the interview is from 30-60 minutes. After the interview has been completed, you will be asked to fill out the same online survey to give an opportunity to share anything which may have been too uncomfortable or private to share in person.

If you are participating in an interview, an audio recording will be made. This recording will be destroyed after the analysis for this study is completed, which will be no later than August 2012.

RISKS, STRESS, OR DISCOMFORT

The risks involved in this study include emotional or psychological discomfort which a question might cause in an individual.

BENEFITS OF THE STUDY

Individually you may benefit from thinking about some of your expectations towards marriage that may otherwise be unconscious. This may help you assess your current or future relationship with your spouse more effectively.

You will also be contributing to a study that will have benefit for the American Unification Church community as a whole. Understanding expectations helps us understand disappointments, conflicts, and people's approaches to marriage. As a student who hopes to study counseling in the future, this information could help me develop better support and education for Unification Church couples in the future.

Further, the Unification Church has received much media attention and critical opinion in the past. However, the American public during this time knew little of the details of the faith, and most information was from sensational news stories and pictures of thousands of couples getting married in large stadiums. There are scholars who believe the Unification church has been misunderstood by the American public. This study hopes to create a fuller, more rounded understanding of the faith and its deeply spiritual and meaningful traditions.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESEARCH INFORMATION

All the answers you provide will be anonymous, meaning they will have no link to you as an individual. As a researcher, I will be able to see all the data that is collected, but no names or identifiers for your responses.

OTHER INFORMATION

You may refuse to participate and you are free to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you have any questions about the study, please contact the researcher before taking the survey.

Kayeon Amaral

Question 1.

Subject's statement

This study has been explained to me. I volunteer to take part in this research. I have had a chance to ask questions. If I have questions later about the research, I can ask one of the researchers listed above. If I have questions about my rights as a research subject, I can call the Human Subjects Division.

Required.

Yes, I understand and willingly choose to participate in this survey

No, I don't understand or do not wish to participate in this survey