



I was born in Kuala Lumpur and my father was English – his name was Christopher Williams Atkinson. My mother was Ceylonese. I came to Singapore when I got married in '62 and my youngest son was born here. We all became Singapore citizens.

In Kuala Lumpur when I was young, Eurasians were quite common. Soldiers came from abroad to help fight the Communists and Eurasian children were the result of their liaisons with local women. There were also many mixed families through colonization. Although these mixed relationships or even marriages were not uncommon, I would say that they were frowned upon. Up to the early '60's even, foreign private firms stipulated in their contracts that their employees were not allowed to marry locally. When I was a child, we were often called 'mixed devils' and the like. Many Eurasian children of that era emigrated to Australia in the end.

My father died during the war so I was brought up by my mother. As a result, I did not really feel the pull between the two cultures. My mother had been orphaned at 12 and attended convent school in Singapore which was full of Eurasian girls. As a result of their influence she raised me in the Eurasian way and cooked Eurasian dishes. I also attended convent school and had a fairly conservative upbringing. I remember having to wear my hair in pigtails until I was 16.

I remember becoming more proud of my Eurasian heritage after I got married and had children. My husband was also Eurasian and as he had a very dominant personality, I was influenced by him and drawn further in to Eurasian culture. I am slightly different to many other Eurasians as I am Anglican as opposed to Roman Catholic but that has not made much of a difference in terms of lifestyle.

Although I am a first generation Eurasian unlike many of the Eurasians in Singapore, I feel no different to the fourth generation Eurasians. Nor do I necessarily feel closer to other Eurasians simply by virtue of them being Eurasian. Maybe 40 years ago I would have, but now at 69, I just live a quiet life.

I have always been pale for someone who is half Ceylonese, especially considering my mother was very dark. Years ago when I had brown hair, people would think I was just English. Nowadays, with white hair, people tend to think I am Chinese – which is odd considering I don't have a drop of Chinese blood!

我出生於吉隆坡，父親是英國人，名叫Christopher Williams Atkinson；我的母親是錫蘭人。我在1962年結婚時來到新加坡，最小的兒子是在這裡出生的。我們一家都成為新加坡公民。

當年少在吉隆坡的時候，混血兒可算很普遍。外國的士兵前來幫忙對抗共產黨，而混血兒孩子就是他們與本地婦女結合而生的下一代。而且，殖民地化也產生了不少混血的家庭。雖然這些混血的關係和婚姻很平常，然而人們卻不會對此表示贊同。甚至到了60年代，外資企業也會在僱用合約上聲明，不允許員工與本地人通婚。在孩童時代，我們常常被人稱為「混血魔童」之類的；很多那個年代的混血兒孩子，最後均移居到澳洲去。

由於父親在戰爭中陣亡，我是由母親帶大的；因此我並沒有真的感受過兩種不同文化的抗衡。我的母親本身在12歲時成為孤兒，並在新加坡一家滿是混血兒女生的修女書院就讀。因為那時的影響，母親以混血兒家庭的方式把我養大成人，也弄混血兒式的食物；我也在修女書院上學，在較為保守的環境下成長，我記得一直到16歲，我還是需要把頭髮束成馬尾辮子。

直至我結婚及生孩子以後，我更自豪於自己混血兒的身份和傳統。我的丈夫也是名混血兒，性格比較強勢，我受了他的影響而更投入於混血兒文化中。我與很多其他混血兒有一點點不同，就是我隸屬於英國聖公會教會，而非羅馬天主教徒，然而這對我們的生活方式並沒有帶來多少影響。

雖然我是第一代的混血兒，有別於一般新加坡混血兒是來自混血兒家庭，我覺得自己跟第四代混血兒並沒有差別。我也不會僅僅因為別人是混血兒，而覺得他們比較親切。可能在40年前我還會這樣想，只是現在已經69歲，我只想過一些平靜的生活。

相對其他半錫蘭人來說，尤其是我的母親膚色相當黝黑，我的皮膚算是相當白皙的。很多年前，當我擁有一頭啡髮時，人家都當我是英國人。現在的我長了白頭髮，別人會以為我是中國人——那是很奇怪的事，因為我身上一點中國人的血統都沒有！

I was born in Kuala Lumpur and came to Singapore when I was five years old, in May of '69 during the riots.

My mother is half English and half Ceylonese and my father was Italian, Vietnamese, French and a touch of Indian. They met in Kuala Lumpur where my father was working for the large department store, Robinsons, and moved back to Singapore when the Kuala Lumpur branch closed down.

I have always felt Eurasian. I spent the first ten years of my education at a mission school where there were lots of Eurasian boys, many of whom were the sons of my father's classmates. It was quite a sheltered existence, everyone knew everyone and being Eurasian was just so normal.

The only time I felt a little lost was when I went to the polytechnic. It was a culture shock, there were fewer Eurasians by far – a bit of a wake-up call really. I did feel different there but it did not affect my feelings about being Eurasian, nor did it have any lasting impact.

When I joined the army there were even fewer Eurasians. That is when people began to ask me what I was doing there. I was initially viewed with suspicion – people could not understand why a white person would join the Singaporean army. I think sometimes it is difficult because of my appearance for people to see me just as a Singaporean.

I feel that my generation of Eurasians are different to my father's generation of Eurasians. We have been encouraged by the government to achieve integration so that we are Singaporean first and Eurasian second. At the same time, we are encouraged and supported in our efforts to remember our heritage and run associations for that purpose. I really feel that we have moved towards that ideal – I am proud to be Singaporean first and Eurasian second. No regrets!

My wife is Chinese so I have been exposed to the Chinese way of life. Despite that, I do not really speak Chinese – I am too afraid that I will offend someone! In any event, from my appearance, people speak to me in English anyway. Without hearing me speak, most people tend to think I am European. But when they hear my local accent it always raises lots of questions.

My children have not really been raised as Eurasians. Out of necessity, they have been brought up with Chinese culture and speak Mandarin as a second language. I have tried to encourage the music and dance of Eurasians as I find that Eurasians are inclined to do well in the performing arts. Anyway, they are fifth-generation Singaporeans so they do not really need to explain where they are from, they were integrated into Singapore from the very beginning.

Being Eurasian has not helped my career as everything here is on merit. But being from a minority group has helped me to be aware of the world around me. I am always being asked to participate in events and I am deeply involved in community work at grassroots level. I feel that Eurasians often act as a bridge between the minority and the majority. In a way, we are the peacemakers.

我在吉隆坡出生，五歲時來到新加坡，當時正值1969年5月的暴動。

我的母親是半英國半錫蘭人，父親是意大利、越南、法國，加一點點印度的混血兒，他們在吉隆坡邂逅。其時父親在大型百貨公司Robinsons工作，直到吉隆坡分店關閉後，才舉家搬回新加坡。

我常常覺得自己是名徹頭徹尾的混血兒。在接受教育的首十年，我均在教會學校就讀，那裡有很多混血兒男孩，大都是我父親的同學的孩子；那裡像個庇護所，大家都知道大家是誰，混血兒在那裡顯得多麼的正常和理所當然。

唯一令我覺得有點迷失的時候，是在我上理工院校時，那裡只有很少混血兒，令我開始察覺到自己與別人不一樣，可算是個文化衝擊。不過那並不影響我對混血兒身份的看法，也沒有對我有太深遠的迴響。

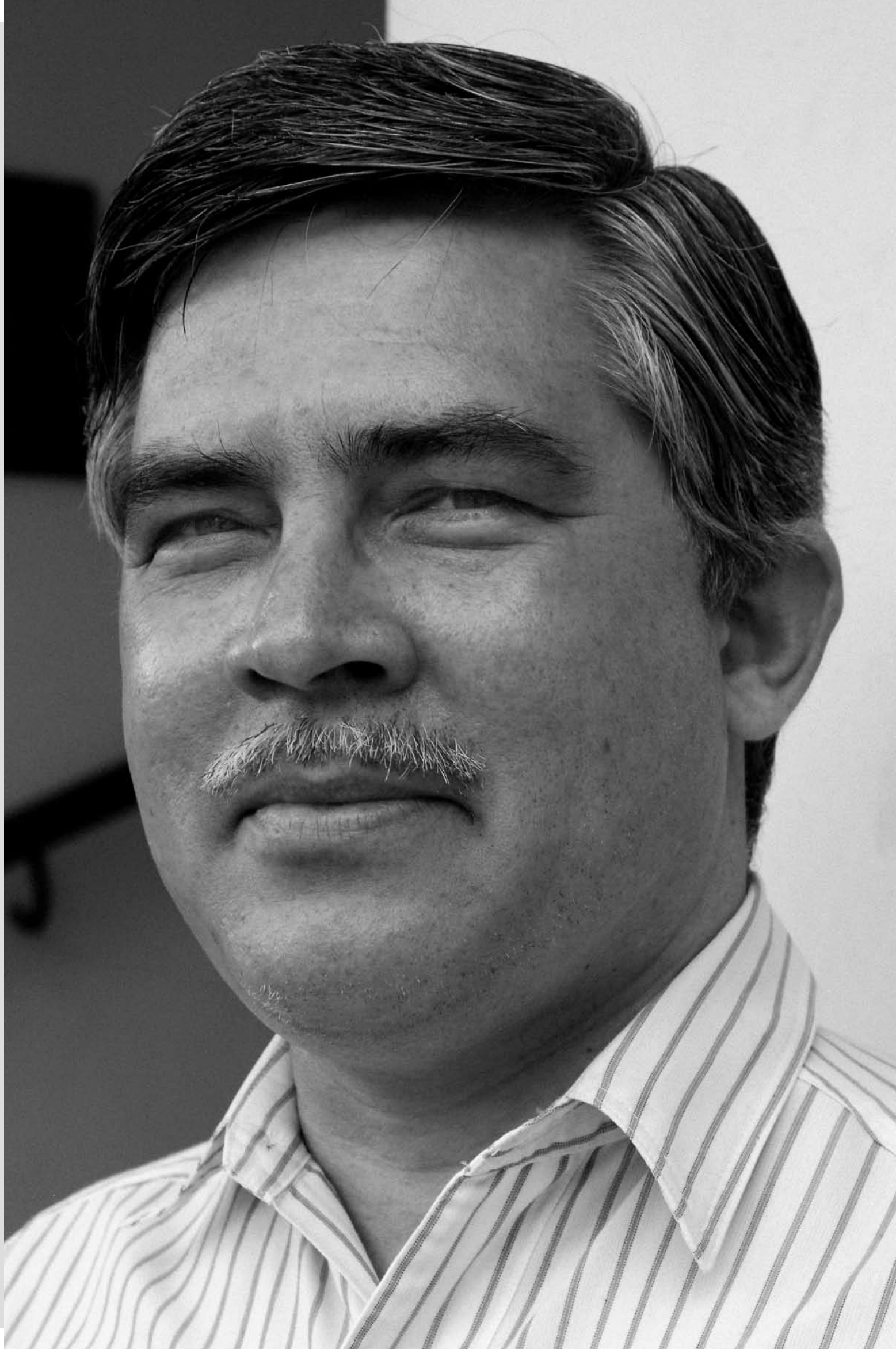
在我加入軍隊後，隊伍內就更少混血兒了。當時開始有人問我為什麼會在哪，起初別人總是以懷疑的眼光看我——一個白人加入新加坡的軍隊是幹嘛的。我想，我的外表有時確實很難令人把我當成新加坡人看待。

我覺得我那一代的混血兒和父親的一代並不同，我們受政府教育要以融入新加坡社會為先，混血兒為次。與此同時，我們在同樣的鼓勵和支持下，努力為此保存我們的文化傳統，經營我們的協會。我真的認為我們已往那個理想邁進——我為作為新加坡人而自豪，而混血兒僅為次要，對此並沒有後悔！

我的妻子是中國人，所要我也接觸到中國人的生活方式。然而除此之外，我不大會說中文，我太害怕因而冒犯了別人！反正在任何情況下，別人單憑我的外表長相，都會跟我說英語的。在我沒有開口以前，大部分人都會以為我是歐洲人。但當他們聽到我的本地口音時，都會引發很多疑問。

因為生活所需，我的孩子的成長環境都是中國文化，並以普通話作為第二語言，有別於一般混血兒的成長方式。我曾嘗試在音樂和舞蹈等方面鼓勵他們，因為我發現，混血兒在表演藝術方面總是比較優秀。他們已經是第五代土生土長的新加坡人了，所以也不需要解釋他們祖先來自甚麼地方，他們在一開始，已經融入了新加坡的社會。

我並沒有因為是混血兒而幫助了我的事業，畢竟這裡是有能者居之的地方。但作為少數族裔，卻幫助我對世界大事有更敏銳的觸角。我常被邀參與不同活動，而我對草根階層的社區工作，也相當投入。我覺得混血兒常常成為了少數族群與社會大眾間的橋樑，在這層面上，我們協助締造和平。



I was born in Hong Kong and have lived here for 15 years; I consider it my home country. My mother is half English and half Irish, and my father is full Chinese. I can speak English, Cantonese and Mandarin, but I am most fluent in English.

I have a Chinese and a British passport, but I call myself British when it comes to nationality. Eurasian is becoming a more and more popular race so I think it should be an ethnic group in its own right. I believe that eventually everyone will be Eurasian, or at least mixed.

I feel more Western in general, although there are times when I feel more Asian, especially when I'm in England. I also prefer Asian food to Western food.

In terms of appearance, I think that I look more Western but that I also have some Asian features. I have been mistaken as Spanish or American, but usually people just assume that I'm English. They only really ask what nationality I am if they hear me speak Cantonese. To be honest, I don't mind when people get my ethnicity wrong, because then it gives me the opportunity to say "Oh no, I'm Chinese and English" and they say "Wow! That's amazing!"

I think being Eurasian is a positive experience; you could say I have the best of both worlds. An advantage of being Eurasian is that you have a chance to experience different cultures. Some people believe that mixed people are the superior race. It's original, and I like it. I'd say the only disadvantage of being Eurasian is that there isn't anywhere you are considered completely at home. But then again, by having more than one nationality, you have more places to fit in.

Living in Hong Kong, which is home to lots of Eurasians, I've never been discriminated against on account of my race. I can usually tell when someone is Eurasian, but then you can have so many types of different Eurasians with different mixes, it's easy to be mistaken. I wouldn't say I feel a bond with other Eurasians, I wouldn't consider race a factor in telling who I feel a bond with. I think that non-Eurasians view Eurasians as different, but not in a bad way, we are just like any other race, just with a bit more variety. I love being Eurasian.

我在香港出生，在這裡生活了15年，並以此為我的家鄉。我的母親是半英格蘭半愛爾蘭人，而父親則純是中國人。我會說英語、廣東話和普通話，不過最流利的是英語。

我分別有中國和英國的護照，但要我表示國籍時，我會說自己是英籍。混血兒變得越來越受歡迎，所以我認為應該可以自成一個民族。我相信最終所有人都會成為某程度上的混血兒。

我平常會覺得自己比較西化，然而有時候也會覺得自己較像亞洲人，尤其當我在英國的時候。同時，我也喜歡亞洲食品多於西方的。

在外表上我是長得比較像西方人的，但是也有部份亞洲人的輪廓。我曾被誤以為是西班牙或美國人，但人們一般假設我是英國人，他們只會在我講廣東話的時候，才會問我的真正國籍。老實說，我不介意別人猜錯我的國籍，因為那樣我才有機會說「啊，不是的，我是半中半英的混血兒啊！」他們就會說「嘩，那很棒呀！」

我認為作為混血兒是件正面的事，你可以說我擁有了兩個世界最好的東西。當混血兒的好處，是你有機會體驗不同的文化。有些人認為混血兒是個超級民族。我喜愛那原創性。作為混血兒唯一的壞處，就是你在那裡都不會有完完全全在家的感覺。但正因如此，作為多種族文化的人，你也可以有多些地方適合於安身立命。

在香港這個很多混血兒安家的地方，我從來沒有因為種族問題而受到歧視。我總可以說得上誰是混血兒，但有那麼多種不同的混血兒，很容易會看錯。我不會說自己與其他混血兒有特別的連繫，民族不會是我與別人建立連繫時的一個因素。非混血兒對混血兒的想法有點不同，但我想都是沒有惡意的，我們就如同所有其他民族一樣，只是比較多元化而已。我喜歡當混血兒。



I recall that when I was very young, I thought I was Chinese. Surrounded by my extended Chinese family in a Chinese village, the only European was my Scottish mother. Whilst we were always very close, the connection between her ethnicity and my own appearance was not made until much later and I remember clearly asking my grandmother to dye my brown hair black to correct what I perceived to be some sort of mistake. On another occasion, my uncle was compelled to remove me from a supermarket after I was found chanting 'Gwei lei ga, gwei lei ga!' (It's a ghost, it's a ghost) at a poor lone Caucasian in Yuen Long. At that point, I was truly bilingual, equally comfortable in English and Cantonese but perhaps culturally weighted towards my Chinese side under the influence of my many Chinese cousins with whom I would spend my days roaming rural Hong Kong.

School days brought with them a Western cultural bias which deepened with passing years and shaped my preferences in music, television, entertainment and to a certain extent, the company I kept. In my teens I preferred trying to get into the local pub to swapping Hello Kitty memorabilia. I listened to Radiohead, not Leon Lai. I dreamt about Johnny Depp, not Aaron Kwok. I laughed with my mouth wide-open as opposed to tittering behind my hand and I never, ever carried pocket tissues.

On the other hand, I also spent a good deal of time after school in noodle shops, did what my parents told me with very little question and was already resolute in my devotion to my family and their expectations of me. Buoyed by my mother's assurances that I could do whatever I wished with my life as long as I was happy, I nevertheless pursued the dreams of many a Chinese father and read law at university.

The issues that have arisen for me in terms of being Eurasian, whilst complex and difficult to explain, are not crisis-inducing. I have never agonized over my mixed ethnicity and wondered how it could have all been very different. Rather, it is the things other people say and do that bring certain thoughts into focus.

Being far more European than Asian in appearance, my spoken Cantonese is nearly always met with a double-take and a string of questions, the first one usually being 'Where are you from?' When I reply, quite simply, that I am from Hong Kong, the next question is invariably, 'But, I mean, where are you from?' Repeating my answer rarely garners any satisfaction for the questioner and I am drawn into explaining that I really am from Hong Kong having been born here but that my mother is Scottish and my father Chinese. This then invites the next inevitable comment, namely 'But you don't look Chinese'.

This tango occurs several times a day and mostly I just accept it as part of my day-to-day existence. People are genuinely excited, are probably unaware that I was asked the exact same things five minutes ago and it seems churlish, if not rude, to not answer their well-meant queries. There are times where I feel bored and weary of it all and other times where I feel downright indignant about having to justify my belonging to Hong Kong, and further yet, my ethnicity.

It is also strange to sometimes feel like a foreigner in the place I was born and bred and it can be disconcerting to be stared at, especially when I venture outside of the expat comfort zone or indulge in more 'local' pastimes such as munching on fishballs in the street. Jaws literally drop when I use my Chinese re-entry permit between Shenzhen and Hong Kong and people assume I am lost if I walk into a Chinese movie. This feeling of disconnectedness is probably experienced by many people who are born and raised in countries in which they do not constitute part of the ethnic majority... but the waters are muddied somewhat by the fact that I am Eurasian and half of me is part of the ethnic majority. Regardless of how I look, I still feel very much Chinese in many ways and being treated so differently on account of my outward appearance can be a little uncomfortable at times.

It is common for Eurasians to claim that they can move seamlessly between Western and Asian culture. But what does this really mean? For me, it is not simply a matter of speaking Cantonese. It is more than that. It is completely possible to speak Cantonese whilst engaged in a totally Western state of mind just as it is possible to speak English in a Chinese state of mind. What I mean by being able to move between two cultures is deeper than mere language. When I am with my expatriate friends, I am British. Not only is my body language, my sense of humour and my manner of speech British but I find myself alluding to a shared cultural heritage. In this company I will exalt the virtues of pork pies, make cracks about Scousers, Essex girls and Sloanes, bemoan the taste of any chocolate made outside of England, enthusiastically join in on the Marmite debate (I hate it but do kind of like Twiglets), shake my head over the woeful state of the Tube and reminisce

記得當我還是很小的時候，我以為自己是中國人。在中國人聚居的鄉郊，包圍在身邊的都是我的中國大家庭，裡面唯一出現的歐洲人，就是我那蘇格蘭裔的母親。雖然我們母女倆很親暱，對於母親的民族以及我的外貌間的關係，我在很久以後才能聯繫起來。我清楚記得，曾經要祖母把我的一頭啡髮染成黑色，以改正我一直以為的錯誤。有那麼的一次，我在元朗的超級市場曾對著一名可憐的白人喊叫「鬼嚟架，鬼嚟架！」，叔叔發現後被迫要帶我離開。那時候的我是真的雙語並用，對於英語或廣東話同樣自然，因為受到很多中國表兄弟姊妹的影響，文化上也許比較靠近我的中國一面，那時我常常與他們一起在香港郊區漫遊。

在學的日子，把我帶到西方文化的環境，並漸漸形成了我現在對音樂、電視、娛樂，及在某程度上對擇偶的取向。在十來歲的時候，我愛到本地的酒吧，與別人交換Hello Kitty紀念品；我聽的是Radiohead樂隊的歌，而非黎明的；我魂牽夢縈的是Johnny Depp，而不是郭富城；我常常咧嘴而笑，而非中國人的笑不露齒或以手掩嘴；我也從不隨身攜帶包裝紙巾。

另一方面，我在課餘時也常在麵店流連，對父母的話言聽計從，堅決不負家人對我的期望。縱使母親鼓勵我只要活得開心，可以做任何喜歡做的事情，我還是選擇了追求很多中國爸爸的梦想，就是在大學裡修讀法律。

作為混血兒，於我來說雖然是很複雜而難以解釋的事，卻並沒有為我帶來過任何危機。我從來沒有對不同民族血統感到煩惱，沒有想過自己和別人有甚麼不一樣。反而是別人的說話和行為，令我開始留意這些迥異。

由於外表像歐洲人遠多於亞洲人，我一口流利的廣東話，永遠惹來別人側目及引發連串問題；而第一個問題通常都是：「你來自那裡？」當我簡單地回應說自己來自香港時，下一個問題總是：「我指的是，你是源自那個地方？」再重複同一答案很少可以令發問的人滿意，那我就詳細解釋我真的來自香港，但母親是蘇格蘭人而父親是中國人。這時候總會有人說：「但你一點都不像中國人呀！」

這樣的對答，一天大概也會發生好幾次，很多時候我會接受這是我生存每天要面對的事情之一。人們真的對此很感興趣，或許他們並不在意我在剛剛五分鐘之前，才被問了同一個問題。如我不回答他們那麼認真的發問，會顯得很無禮。有時我會覺得很厭倦，有時甚至會覺得非常憤怒，為什麼要去證明自己是香港人，或更進一步去解釋自己的種族。

有時會覺得很奇怪，為何在自己土生土長的地方會被人當成外國人，尤其是當我不在令人自在的外國人圈子，很地道的在街上吃魚蛋之類的時候，被別人瞪著注視實在很窘。當我以回鄉證越過深圳香港關口時，人們總會大吃一驚；如我走進放映中文電影的戲院，人們總以為我走錯路。那種疏離感，很多成長於異地的人可能都感受過，因為他們並不屬於當地主流的多數族裔……然而我的情況更為複雜一些，正因為我是名混血兒，有一半中國人血統，理應有部分屬於本地的多數族裔。撇除我的長相，我仍然覺得自己在很多方面很中國化。僅僅因為我的外表不同，而受到如此不同的待遇，有時真的有點令人難堪。

常聽混血兒說，他們可以自在地遊走於西方及亞洲文化之間，到底那是甚麼意思？對我來說，這不只是會說廣東話的問題。我們大可以以西方思維方式去說廣東話，正如我們可以中國人的思維方式去說英語一樣。所以我說的遊走於兩個文化之間，是遠多於語言本身。當我與外地朋友在一起的時候，我是英國人。不只是我的身體語言、幽默感、語氣等都是英式的，我發現自己與他們暗中擁有共同的文化傳統。與這些人為伴，我會讚揚英式的豬肉餡餅，諷刺利物浦人（Scousers）、艾塞克斯女生（Essex girls）、史隆族富家子弟（Sloanes），批評所有非英國製造的巧克力的味道，加入對Marmite 塗醬的熱烈辯論（我很討厭這醬料，但算喜歡Twiglets小吃），對倫敦地鐵可悲的情



bitterly about the Clarks shoes and itchy grey woollen tights (secured by two pairs of knickers) of my childhood. I also believe that something bad will happen if my children wear anything other than Marks & Spencers underwear.

When I go to visit my Chinese family, I am a different person entirely. On arrival, I loudly announce each of my relatives' titles in respect then sit down and read the paper whilst making occasional chitchat and helping myself to snacks. I feel no pressure to make conversation, update anyone on my news or ask anyone what they have been up to. It is a restful state and rather remarkable when one considers that my British self would be compelled, in utter panic, to comment on the weather after a four-and-a-half-second lull in conversation. Whenever I have brought Westerners back to the family home, they are utterly bemused by the fact that ten family members will be crammed into a room and that each person will be happily doing their own thing. Perhaps through necessity, the Chinese have learned how to be alone whilst surrounded by people. My Chinese self unthinkingly keeps conversation superficial, spits her bones onto the table, gives her grandma money, is not at all offended when it is loudly proclaimed that she has put on weight and does not ask personal questions (except those related to appearance, which are always fair game). I know my body language changes, my voice is higher but louder and that my sense of humour morphs from deadpan to slapstick and I never swear in Chinese. It is not like acting a role but more like being two completely different people. It is not choosing to behave one way or another, but automatically doing so.

It is also often said by Eurasians that our experiences make us more accepting of other people. To a certain extent I think that must be true. Growing up, parental influence is of no uncertain importance so when a child is confronted with two such different cultures, it is often inevitable that he or she learns to accept that there is more than one way of looking at the world. For example, when I was growing up, my mother always told me she loved me and was demonstrative in her affections. My father never told me he loved me and at best managed a pat on the head or a squeeze on the shoulder. This did not make me think that my mother loved me and that my father did not – I knew from a young age that he just showed it differently. In adulthood, this understanding that people behave differently and acceptance of the same has helped me in overcoming many obstacles in understanding other people and in accepting their cultures.

Many Eurasians will claim to have the best of both worlds. It is implied in that statement that they feel included in both cultures. Whilst I often feel that is the case, sometimes it can feel that I am included in neither. Despite feeling Chinese in many ways, the fact of the matter is that I have few local friends, I live an expatriate lifestyle, I am treated as an outsider and my only real exposure to real 'local' life is through my family and my work. But then, I am not, would never want to be and never could be an expatriate. A feeling of belonging to British culture does not translate into the feeling that I could ever be at home there. Whilst I take on attributes of both cultures, it could also be said that I am not totally comfortable in either.

I do feel that there is some uncertainty in being Eurasian, especially a Eurasian from Hong Kong. Hong Kong is a transient place at the best of times. Nothing ever feels really that permanent here. I remember when I was at university, it used to upset me when I came home from holidays to find the skyline changed yet again. The fact that my home moved so quickly without me was somehow unsettling and I found myself envious of my English friends who would return to the family homes in which they were born, in villages and towns that had barely changed in decades. A changing environment would perhaps be not so disconcerting if, for example, my parents had very strong links that I shared to their own birthplaces. Or if they were both from the same place or even if they were both born in Hong Kong as I was. It would be less disorientating, maybe, if I looked, felt and behaved more in line with the Chinese majority in Hong Kong without cycling between two personalities. But the fact of the matter is that all these things are at odds and it can be difficult to grasp any sense of belonging in these circumstances.

Despite some of the challenges of being Eurasian, I feel special and I am treated as such by both Westerners and Chinese. I have access to both cultures and I can retreat or advance into either camp at my convenience. Whilst it can feel that I do not belong to any one place, I am not tied down by my nationality or my ethnicity and there is freedom to be whatever I want to be. The rules of each culture bend to make allowances for my other half and I am generally met with tolerance if I step beyond the boundaries of what is usually expected.

For me, being Eurasian is incredibly positive. It is empowering, liberating and lends a rich dimension to my everyday existence. I honestly would not choose to be any other way.

況搖頭嘆息，以及回憶小時候的其樂鞋和令人發癢的灰色羊毛襪褲（以兩條短褲定位）。我也相信如果我的孩子不穿馬莎的內衣褲，會有惡運降臨。

當探望我的中國親戚的時候，我會完全成了另一個人。到達家門時，我會恭敬地大聲叫每一位在場親戚，然後坐下來看報紙，偶爾與他們聊一下，或吃點零食。我與他們對話、談及我最近的狀況、或問候他們等，都沒有感到任何壓力。那是很自然的休息狀態，有人會以為我的英國人那一半，會迫使我在大家沒有對話的時間，忍不住要談天氣，其實不然。每當我帶西方人回家時，他們都很困惑，奇怪為什麼十位家庭成員可以擠在一個房間內，而每人卻做著自己的事，竟也悠然自得。或許出於實際環境的需要，中國人已學習了如何在群體之中獨立自處。我的中國人那一半，會不加思考的說一些表面的話，在檯面上吐骨頭，塞錢給祖母，對於有人大聲的說我身材發福了也不會生氣，以及不會問私人問題（除了與外貌相關的，那是有來有往的）。我知道自己的身體語言轉變了，聲調提高了，由不動聲色的幽默，變化為鬧劇式的說笑，而且，我從不用中文說粗言穢語。那不是在飾演這個角色，而更像是兩個完全不同的人；也不是在選擇怎樣的行為模式，而是自動的轉變過來。

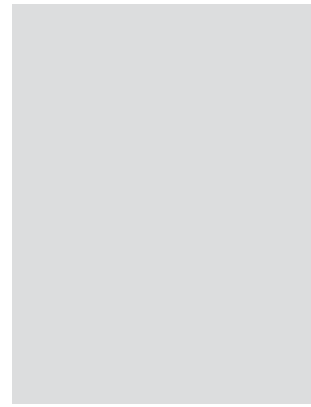
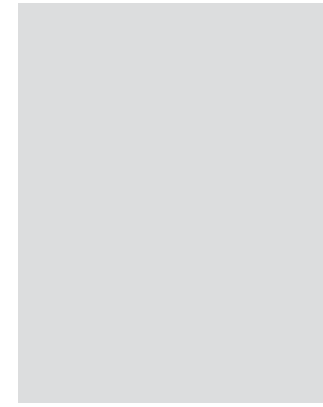
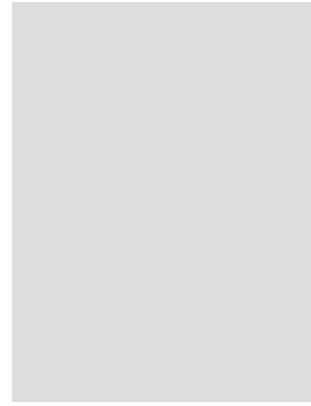
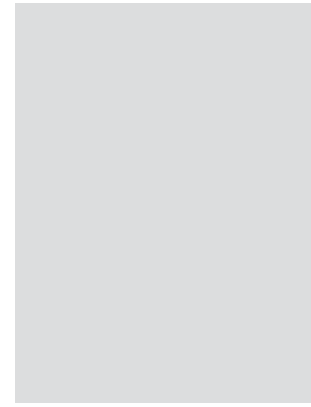
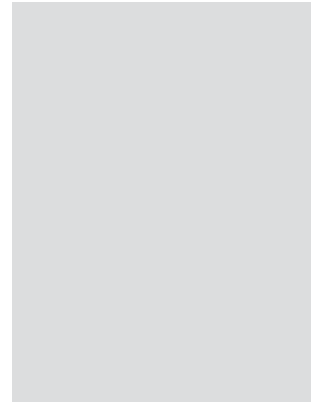
不少混血兒表示，我們的經驗令我們更容易接受別人，某程度上這是對的。在成長的過程中，父母對小孩的影響最為重要；當一個孩子在那南轅北轍的不同文化下成長，他/她不免學習到世界上其實有很多方法去看事物。譬如說，自小到大，母親常常告訴我她很愛我，而實際上也有很多親暱的舉動；而父親則從來沒有說過他愛我，最多是拍拍我的頭、捏一下我的膊肘。我並不會因此就以為只有母親愛我，而父親不然——我從小就知道，他只是對愛有不同的表達方式而已。長大以後，能了解和接受不同人有不同的行為和表達形式，助我克服不少困難，令我明白他人及接納他們的文化。

很多混血兒會說，他們擁有了兩個文化世界中最好的東西，那表示了他們覺得在兩種文化中均被接納。雖然很多時間我也會這樣覺得，但有時卻會感到在兩個文化中都不被接受。雖然我自覺自己在很多方面都很像中國人，事實上我只有很少本地朋友，我的生活方式是西化的，我在社會上被視為一名外來者；只有在工作上及家庭中，才可以接觸到真正的「本地」文化和生活。雖然如此，我並不是，也不想，而且永不會是一名外國人。感覺自己屬於英國文化，並不表示我可以視那裡為家。縱使我具有兩個文化的特徵，也可以說我在任何一方，均不會感到完全的舒適自在。

我覺得作為混血兒，總有些不穩定性，尤其是一名來自香港的混血兒。香港這地方，最好的東西都總是頃刻即逝；在這裡，甚麼都好像不太長久。我記得當我在大學時，每次放假回來，都發現香港建築物構成的城市輪廓線在改變，這使我很不開心。我不在香港的日子，家人常常搬家，這點令我很不安。我發現自己開始嫉妒我的英國同學，回家時可以回到自己出生的村莊、市鎮，這些地方幾十年不會變。如果說我父母的出生地與我有很強的聯繫，或他們來自同一個地方，又或者他們像我一樣出生於香港，那麼環境上的轉變，或許可以不會那麼讓人惶恐。又如果我和香港大部分中國人的長相、感受、行為都較相像，不用老是在兩種不同性格中徘徊，我可能不會如此迷惑。但當所有這些不一致的東西都湊在一起時，則很難在其中找到歸屬感。

除卻作為混血兒的一些挑戰，我覺得自己是特別的，而身旁的西方人和中國人也以這樣的方式與我相處。我可以接觸、並隨意出入兩種文化。雖說有時會覺得自己不屬於任何一個地方，我並不會被自己的民族、國籍而綁著，而擁有自由可以做自己想做的。其中一種文化的規則會對另一種文化下的我較為寬容，並通常容許我在文化的邊界上游走。

對我來說，作為混血兒絕對是正面而具優勢的，在能力上如是、在自由上如是，並豐富了我每一天的生活。老實說，縱是可以，我也不會作另一選擇。





I was born in London and came to Hong Kong when I was seven years old. I moved back to London when I was 16 to go to boarding school and went on to study Art and Design in Wimbledon before going to Central St. Martins for Fashion Design.

My father is Chinese and my mother is Austrian. I do feel a strong connection to Austria as I spent my summers there growing up. After university I went to work in Vienna where I designed costumes for Burgtheatre. Later, I did costume design for opera productions in Salzburg. Through my mother and my education at the German Swiss International School in Hong Kong, I am fluent in German.

I also learned Mandarin at school and have basic restaurant/taxi Cantonese. I started learning Cantonese from last September but I think I'll focus on Mandarin, Cantonese is just so difficult!

People tend to guess that I'm Latin American, Hawaiian, Spanish or Italian. They don't tend to guess Eurasian but when I do tell them, it seems to click into place and make sense. Being different can be a bit of an issue in school, but when you grow up you realize it's a good thing. People are curious but never negative about it.

I have a number of siblings and we all look different. I find it fascinating to see how genetics work and how the two different races manifest themselves in an individual.

Being Eurasian in Hong Kong was never an issue and I never had any problems when I went to the UK – the only thing I had to be conscious of was the difference in lifestyle that I had enjoyed in Hong Kong compared to many students in the UK. I think that is something that many of us Hong Kong kids had to learn – Eurasian or not.

There is a feeling of sisterhood between Eurasians. I instantly feel some sort of silent connection with other Eurasians and can usually tell who they are.

I feel so lucky to be accepted into different cultures and likewise, to understand different cultures.

I will always feel half Austrian and half Chinese but there is no denying that I identify strongly with British culture and feel at home there. Sometimes I think I'm a London girl at heart, other times there is a part of me that feels that I don't quite belong.

I have never felt torn between my Chinese and Austrian side. Any difficulty I have is not with my ethnicity as such but more with the fact that I am not quite sure where home is – Hong Kong, London or Austria? I am going to stay in Hong Kong for now, it is hard to be in London when my family are all in Hong Kong. That doesn't mean that the pull of London is not always there though.

Being Eurasian can make you feel like you don't belong anywhere but belong everywhere.

我在倫敦出生，七歲的時候來到香港，16歲時回到英國就讀寄宿學校，後來在溫布頓唸藝術設計，再到中央聖馬丁藝術與設計學院供讀時裝設計。

我的父親是中國人，而母親是奧地利人。我覺得自己跟奧地利關係非常密切，因為在成長期間，我總是到奧地利過暑假。大學畢業後，我到了維也納工作，為奧地利皇家劇院Burgtheatre設計服裝。隨後，我於薩爾斯堡為歌劇創作設計服裝。在母親及香港的德瑞國際學校的教育下，我能操非常流利的德文。

在學校時，我也學習了普通話，以及學會了可以應付酒樓吃飯 / 的士交通等的基本廣東話。在去年9月起，我已開始學習廣東話，但我想我應該會以普通話為主，因為廣東話實在是太難了！

別人總猜我是拉丁美洲人、夏威夷人、西班牙人或意大利人，不太會估到我是混血兒來的。但當我告訴他們的時候，則會好像恍然大悟似的。長得與別不同，在校園生活或許會帶來一點問題，但當你漸漸長大，將會發現這是一個優點。人們會對你好奇，但永遠不會有負面的想法。

我有幾名兄弟姊妹，但每人都長得不一樣。我覺得遺傳真是很神奇的一回事，看著兩種不同文化血統如何在一個孩子身上顯現出來很奇妙。

在香港，作為混血兒完全不是一個問題，我在英國亦然——唯一我須要注意的，是兩地學生擁有不一樣的生活方式而已。我相信這不僅限於混血兒，是所有我們這些香港孩子所需要學習的。

混血兒之間是有一種姊妹情，我會即時與其他混血兒有種不可言喻的聯繫，並總是可以把他們辨認出來。

我覺得自己很幸福，能被不同文化所接納融合，並明白這些不同文化。

我將永遠把自己看成是半奧半中的混血兒，而且不容否認，我與英國文化有很深的淵源，在那麼會有回家的感覺。在心底裡，我有時會認為自己是名倫敦人，有時卻覺得自己並不完全屬於這個地方。

我從來不覺得內在的中國或奧地利文化在抗爭，我面對的問題，都不在於我的種族問題，而是我的根究竟在那裡——是香港、倫敦還是奧地利？現在我會一直待在香港，因為當所有家人都在香港時，你很難一個人留在倫敦。但是，這不等於倫敦的吸引力已經不在。

作為混血兒，可以令你覺得自己並不屬於任何一個地方，也可以是四海皆可為家。