

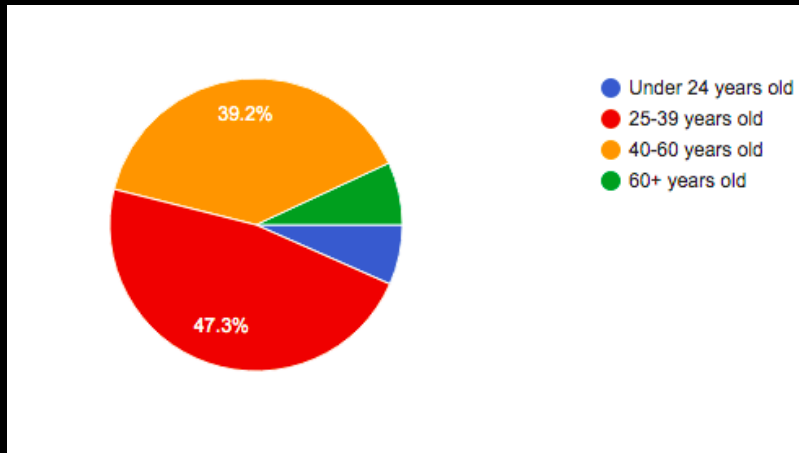


Why did you choose this workshop?

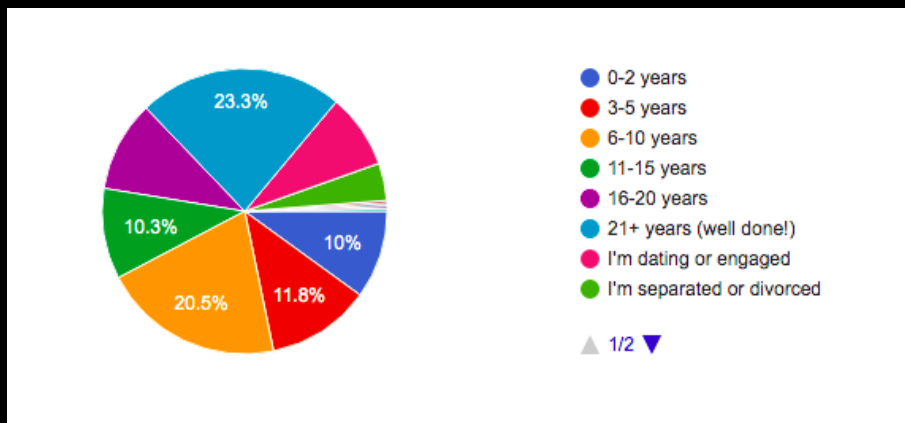
My story



TCKs in love: how old are you?



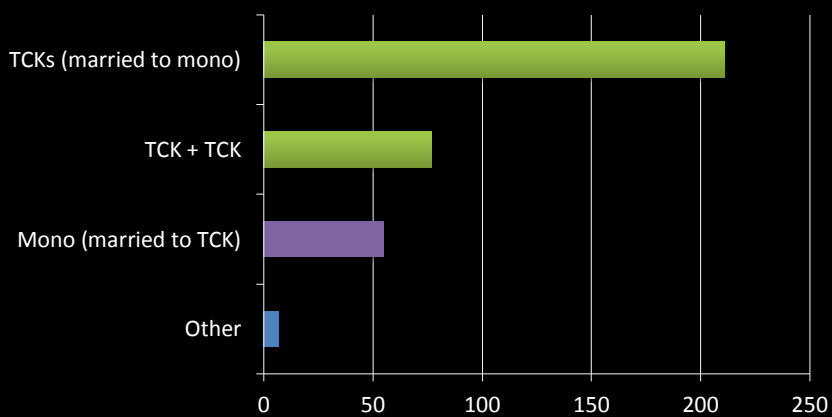
How long have you been married?



Where you have lived!



Relationship to the Third Culture



TCKs: The best thing(s) about being married to a mono is...

- Long term friends from young age who aren't relocating
- Relationship to their family
- Sense of belonging
- Rich understanding of their culture
- Easy to explain their nationality
- They know who they are
- Rootedness



TCKs married to monos: What has been one of your greatest challenges about being married to your spouse?

- My way is best cause I've experienced more
- Not understanding how the other person was raised and why it was important to them
- Feeling as if I moved away, his parents would think I am taking their son away
- Cultural clashes raisings kids
- Sacrifice of living preference
- Inability to stay put, homesick for the road

TCKs married to TCKs: The best thing about your marriage

- They get it.
- Strong desire to raise kids bilingually
- Doesn't have a problem with my restlessness
- Not having to explain myself at home
- Find our rootedness in one another
- We're not afraid of taking what non-TCKs would consider to be huge risks.



TCKs married to TCKs: What has been one of your greatest challenges about being married to your spouse?

- People can't relate/put off by our backgrounds
- Where do we belong? Where should we live?
- Family expectations
- We both have passport culture judgment
- We feel isolated, far from friends and family since we both love to move

Monos: The best thing(s) about being married to a TCK is...

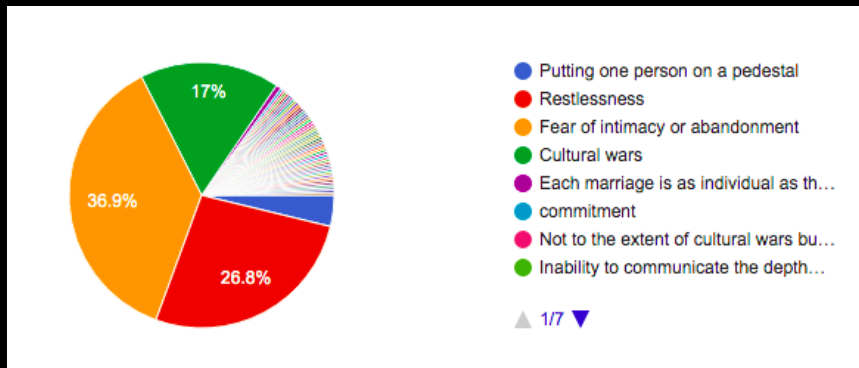
- Not afraid of new things
- Broad understanding of the world
- Large network of friends
- Sense of adventure
- Flexible
- May speak other languages
- Extraordinarily & refreshingly simple and down to earth
- Diversity in their food culture



Monos: What has been one of your greatest challenges (related to the Third Culture) about being married to your spouse?

- They choose allegiance to the culture that backs their point of view
- TCK's awkwardness/ignorance in passport culture
- Language inequality
- Understanding our worldview differences
- Expectation of family on TCK side of the mono

The greatest pitfall for TCKs in marriage



How do you keep your cross-cultural marriage from being a constant fight of my upbringing vs. yours?

- Avoidance
- Fairness. Each family gets equal time and traditions in our relationship
- Choose our battles
- We focus on similarities
- Don't assume. Communicate. Compromise.

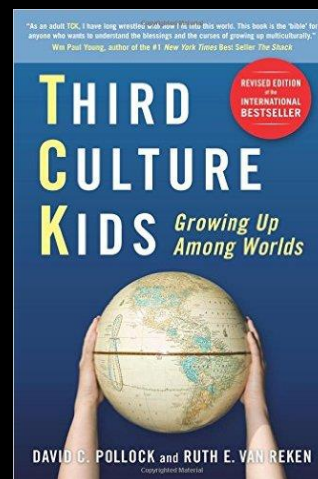


How do you keep your cross-cultural marriage from being a constant fight of my upbringing vs. yours?

- We lived in a 3rd culture / created a new culture
- Traveling to the spouse's country
- Difficult but embracing the other's culture as if it were completely new and foreign to be discovered and accepted for what it is
- Light-heartedness, flexibility and humility
- Taking issues before the Lord

How monoculturals can best understand a TCK spouse

- Read Dave Pollock's TCK book!
- Travel and learn the language! Nothing can replace being in that culture.
- Living abroad together in a country foreign to both
- Raise your own little TCKs



“Ask questions, let them cook food from their childhood, look at pictures, learn key phrases in their language. Understand that we're constantly fighting against this dichotomy of wanting to venture off, but also wanting a place to belong. Realize that we approach emotional intimacy and relationships very differently.”

How TCKs can best understand a monocultural spouse

- See your spouse as a person
- Honor both backgrounds, even if the mono one is boring!
- Get to know their family
- Acceptance, be curious about what makes them tick.



Relationship Tips for TCKs

(and those dating them!)

- Don't skip premarital counseling! Ideally cross-cultural focused.
- Read Pollock's book!
- Be open to living elsewhere
- Choose the person, not the culture. Like the person first.



Relationship Tips for TCKs

(and those dating them!)

- TCKs, work on your pride and do not think your culture is superior to mono-cultural people. That will hurt your relationship.
- Work on your core tensions, before kids come along!



Relationship Tips for TCKs

(and those dating them!)

- Get to know each other culturally and see if you are culturally compatible before getting married or willing to become compatible.
- Assume your marriage is a cross-cultural one, until proven otherwise!



Survey: 10 trends





1. THIRD CULTURE KIDS FIND COMFORT IN THEIR MONOCULTURAL SPOUSE'S ROOTEDNESS



2. THIRD CULTURE KIDS MARRIED TO THIRD CULTURE KIDS: KINDRED SPIRITS BUT ALSO GRIEF X 2



**3. MONOCULTURALS MARRIED TO
THIRD CULTURE KIDS LOVE THEIR
SPOUSE'S BROAD WORLDVIEW**



**4. HOW DO YOU KEEP YOUR CROSS-CULTURAL
MARRIAGE FROM BEING A CONSTANT FIGHT OF
MY UPBRINGING VS. YOURS? TWO DISTINCT
GROUPS.**



5. MONOCULTURALS CAN BEST UNDERSTAND THEIR TCK SPOUSE BY ENTERING INTO THE THIRD CULTURE EXPERIENCE TOGETHER, LIVING IN A THIRD CULTURE AND RAISING LITTLE TCKS THEMSELVES.



6. TCKS CAN BEST UNDERSTAND THEIR MONOCULTURAL SPOUSE BY GETTING TO KNOW HIS/HER FAMILY AND WALK IN THEIR SHOES



**7. COMMUNICATION, RESPECT,
FORGIVENESS, HUMILITY – KEYS FOR
THRIVING TCK MARRIAGES**



**8. VERY FEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE
FOR STRUGGLING TCK MARRIAGES**



**9. TO THE TCK WANTING TO BE IN A
RELATIONSHIP: SETTLE INTO THE COUNTRY
FIRST, BE OKAY WITH FRIENDSHIP, AND
CHOOSE THE PERSON BEFORE THE CULTURE**



**10. MARRIAGE GROWS UP AT 15+
YEARS**

"Listen. It takes a great deal of humility to set aside your own desire to be right. And when multiple cultures are involved it's easy to idealize your own culture and how you were brought up. But if you can set it aside to listen to another point of view and another way of doing things, you realize there isn't only one right way. As a couple you need to decide to say "this is how WE do things. This is what WE believe." Not "this is how my family did it growing up." There is great validity in understanding both of your pasts and how you were raised. But you need to move on from there and choose a path that you go down together. Doing this takes humility, love, and a desire to do right more than to be right. Listen to one another."

Over to you...

- Pre-marriage: How to come alongside the ATCK wanting to get married?
- Newly married: How to create your own culture in a marriage?
- Struggling marriages: Resource toolkit for TCK marriages
- Thriving marriages: What are the markers of a thriving TCK marriage?



Group sharing time

