Walks Before You

Immigrant Motherhood, Roles and Appearances in Columbia, MO

A Project Presented

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Master of Arts

By

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Jackie Bell, Committee Chair

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<u>Abstract</u>

When photographers focus on subjects that come from minority groups, it is important for them to cover all perspectives of a specific character and try to depict his/her social roles as objectively, fairly, and evenly as possible. This research uses two independent photo projects about two different immigrant mothers. The purpose of this research is to find whether or not photographers ignore the other roles in society of an immigrant mother while her role as a mother is clearly communicated. By using the method of quantitative data collecting, participants (photographers) provide information about their feelings on a 7-point-Likert survey for future analysis.

<u>Summary of Professional Skills Component</u>

"Walks Before You" is a photo story about Shenghua Sinkler, a Chinese mother of 2 young children. Shenghua came to America in 2010 from her hometown, Guizhou, China, 7,243 miles away from Columbia, Missouri, and she has been married for 7 years. Without any other close relatives, parents, or siblings, Shenghua finished her Ph.D. program in the United States and now works as a nurse at Women's and Children's Hospital. This photo project documents Shenghua's life for 3 and a half months and depicts the features of an immigrant mother from objective aspects.

Keywords

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Chapter I

Introduction

When I was in the Fundamentals of Photojournalism class, I had an assignment to capture 10 random strangers, get to know them and tell their stories. I met this young mother from Nigeria, who just got a job in Columbia and spoke only a bit of English. When I politely asked if I could take only one picture of her, she looked down at her 3-month-old baby in her arms, and smiled at me: "no, I am sorry, but thanks."

From that day, I developed strong feelings of documenting immigrant mothers. I have been in America for more than 7 years; I know how it feels to be a member in a minority group. Moreover, I am about to become a mother in the next few years, so it is possible I'll be an immigrant mother. I know how cultural differences and other aspects of life in a brand-new country can fully change someone's feelings, characteristics, and personal features. So, I was curious about those great mothers who have the guts to live in a different country, build a family, get a job, and cultivate their next generation on new land. I want to use my camera to capture their life as truthfully as possible and make a cohesive story from my close-up observations.

The first part of this project is the component that builds on my professional skill journalistic photography. I wanted to select an immigrant mother who has been here considerably long and be able to present her connection with her children and other family members in an active way. Based on my requirements from my initial plan, I spent about one and a half months looking for a suitable main character. During this special time, I was refused by a lot of potential mothers because of the inconveniences or limited accessibilities. Finally, the main character of

my photobook, Shenghua Sinkler said yes to me in late January 2021. I was so lucky to document her because she is a Chinese mother who has been married to an American husband. This reality gave me new possibilities to explore not only her independent roles and how she is viewed by society, but also some inner conflicts, specifically the culture shocks that she has to experience with her significant other. I think that my photobook takes the journalistic approach and uses a very realistic style. The goal of this project is to present her life as truthfully and candidly as possible.

The second part of my project was to go one step further and explore how photographers view photo projects about immigrant mothers. By using the quantitative research method, I designed a survey that collects data from three major aspects of emotional feedbacks: first, fundamental recognitions of the main character's roles; second, deeper understanding of her relationship and her life; and third, observable social phenomena presented by this project in general. According to my proposal defense meeting, my committee and I agreed that I would need at least 40 participants' responses to make this study analyzable and valuable. By using the convenience sampling module, I will be able to present what I have found based on my research.

I hope that my study can show a distinguishable pattern or value of capturing immigrant mothers and presenting immigrant motherhood to photojournalists, photographers, reporters, and other media-related workers. I want them to see what has been valued and what has been neglected while photographing a character from a minority group. Moreover, the combination of still images and quantitative research analysis is a brave experiment for both myself and the

photojournalism industry. I hope it can provide some enlightenments to photojournalism students.

Chapter II

Field Notes

Field Notes #1 (Jan. 27. 2021)

1. About my subject:

Before confirming my subject in mid-January, I searched more than 7 immigrant mothers from more than 3 different countries. The process was rough because of this special period of time. By comparing the two mothers who said "yes" to me, I found my current subject, a 39 years old Chinese mother with two children. She is a nurse of University Hospital's women's and children's pediatrics. She came here in the year 2010 and got married in 2013. Her first son is 6 years old, and her little daughter is almost 2.

2. Project progresses (Jan 19th-Jan 27):

During the first meeting with my subject, (1.25) we generally talked about the idea of my project, and why I was interested in this project. We talked about the pros and cons, also some limitations of selecting her and her family. The main obstacle will be the permission to her workplace, but we think that we can figure it out since it is an important part of my project. She only works 2-4 days per week, and I won't have many limitations in accessing her house and other major spaces.   I also made sure that she would allow me to use this project to do my quantitative research starting from mid-March. My first photo making day started on Jan. 27th. We will schedule 2-3 times per week starting from next week.

3. Goals for next week:

I am planning to apply for permission to her hospital next week, and hopefully, we can make sure of the specific days to take photos at her workplace. I will focus on the family side of the

photographs and get more indoor photos on different occasions. Since the Chinese New Year is coming just in about 10 days, we will also be working on the photo-making plans for those days.

4. Research Progress:

I have started searching the comparable photo project related to my topic. I will have those updated in the upcoming weeks.

Here are my thumbnails and selected photos from this week. (No editing works applied)

Field Notes #2 (Feb. 1-5)

1. Project Progress

I was able to cover two photo making days at my subject's house in the past week. I took more than 1,000 photos for about 5-6 hours. The workplace place is still centered on their house and

the general feeling of this family has been depicted. I think that I have been able to establish myself in a comfortable working environment; the next step is to go deeper into my subject's personality and have more reflections on her role as a mother. I would like to pay more attention to her emotional changes for the next few weeks. Also, I think that I might need to stretch the length of the photo making process a bit longer.

2. Plan for Next Week

Next week will be the Chinese Spring Festival. I will need to spend more time with my subject and her family. My plan is to have more situations and a variety of places involved for the next couple of assignments. After finishing the Chinese New Year event, I will start photographing my subject at work as soon as possible.

3. Research Progress

I have started on the design of the interface of my quantitative research questionnaire. I will have that pull up and ready for testing next week. I will also run a test once I have the demo ready.   Because I cannot send the questionnaire out before I finish editing my project, so I will also start to do some early editing work just to see how I want my story-flow to be.

(This week's selects are not in a particular order.)

Field Notes #3 (Week Feb. 8-12)

1. Project Progresses

In the past week, I had 2 photo making days with my subject Shenghua and her family. I had about 980 photos and I spent about 8-10 hours with the family. I used D850 and a 16-80mm lens. The story was mainly focused on the Chinese New Year's preparation and the family dinner. I have separated the selects from those two days. The first set was from the day before New Year's Day and the second set was from New Year's Eve and the big family dinner.

2. Things that I Made Improvements on:

I have had one long meeting with Jackie, and we made some overall selects from my first three times of shooting. We agreed that I need more different themes and I have to have more photos that entail more content and background information. I also need to document the early morning and late-night routines of the family; that is my goal for the future. I will have another meeting with Jackie after I have next week's photographs. I think that I can also start on the early editing works on my photobook.

3. Issues that I had

I was going to have photos taken at my subject's workplace, which was a hospital. But the hospital is prohibiting all media to enter their facility and it is impossible for me to get a permit at this point. I have talked to Jackie about this issue, and we think that the best solution is to have a second subject with an accessible workplace. Right now, I am reaching out to two different people from two different countries. Hopefully, I can start photographing my second subject from next week.

(Photos are not in a particular order)

Field Notes #4 (Week Feb. 15-21)

1. Project Progress

Due to the bad weather issue in the past week, I had to limit my visit time with Shenghua and her family. Luckily, they were able to go to the park and play on snow sleds. Also, I was able to cover a late-night routine with the family. This time I used D850 and 16-80mm lens. I have also used my 70-300mm for the snow-playing day. There were about only 600-650 photographs from this week. I will create two sets of photos and show some selects down below.

2. Research Progress

I have made a demo of my quantitative research questionnaire. I am planning to make a website for my photo book when I feel ready to present the project. The link to the website will be attached to the questionnaire, and an introduction will tell my participants to view the photos

first. Here is the link to the demo of my questionnaire, and I will polish this in the next coming weeks. (let me know if the link doesn't work! I think you have to copy and paste it in your browser.)

https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cTnWVwkz2S2rFb

3. Upcoming Plans:

According to the feedback that I got from Jackie last week, here are some more shooting tasks that I should accomplish in the future:

- showing the relationship between Shenghua and her husband;

- her social life;

- get ready/morning routine/ going to work;

- consider the different time period of the day

I have talked with Shenghua that I need to focus more on her social relationship and social networks in the future. We have scheduled some shooting days to cover her morning routines and get ready for work next week.

4. Questions:

I am still looking for my second subject. I have reached out to two potential subjects, but they all said no to me. I know that I have to find this subject as soon as possible so I will keep searching over the weekend.

Field Notes #5 (Week Feb. 22-28)

1. Project Progress:

I planned to take photos of Shenghua going to work on Thursday morning. It was a much shorter period than I expected, and I was not able to enter the hospital building after she entered the door. She usually leaves the house around 6:20 a.m. and she gets ready when she is at her workplace. I have several selects from that morning. I can try to do this one more time if it is necessary.

Nothing really happened in the past week. I wanted to take photos of her having some good times with her friends or do more social activities; however, she didn't manage to do anything related. That is also why I have such limited numbers of photos from this week.

2. Plans:

I feel that I already have a decent number of photos and I will start on my editing work in the

following week. I will have another meeting with my Chair Jackie next Friday and we will go through all the questions that I have so far. I also feel that I am on a stage that I don't have a lot to shoot but I just have to find more meaningful and significant events to document.
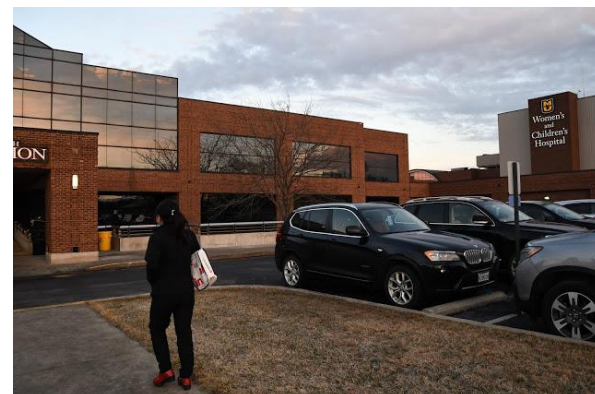
3. Research:

Here are the two potential photo projects which I found (awarded photo stories) useful for my research. I would establish a comparable and existing project once my survey is ready.

National – January 2020 – Photo Story/Essay

National – January 2020 – Photo Story/Essay – NPPA Contests

The Lams of Ludlow Street — Thomas Holton

Here are the photos of this week:

Field Notes #6 (March 1st-7th)

1. Project Progress

In the past week, I have met with my Chair Jackie and we have a really loose edit of all still images that I have made until now. There are approximately 4,000 photos in total and Jakie selected 103 images with me. I have added 15 by myself so there are 118 images right now. Since I will continue working on this project and more photos are coming in, we have arranged these selected ones in a very loose order. I am ready for the next editing step and find the right way to generate the whole story. I have attached the thumbnails of these 118 photos down below.

There are also some new photos that I have selected that Jackie hasn't reviewed since Saturday, March 6th.

2. Research Progress

Jackie and I went through my survey one more time and we thought that the questions are ready. Hopefully, we can find a more suitable project as the comparison. Also, we hoped that we can get at least 20-30 participants before March 21 (a week before spring break). I would also have my project ready to show by then.

3. Issues

The biggest problem that I am facing right now is to have more photos that could show her relationship with her husband. We also agreed that these images are crucial even though we won't need a lot of them. So, I will try my best to push this further.
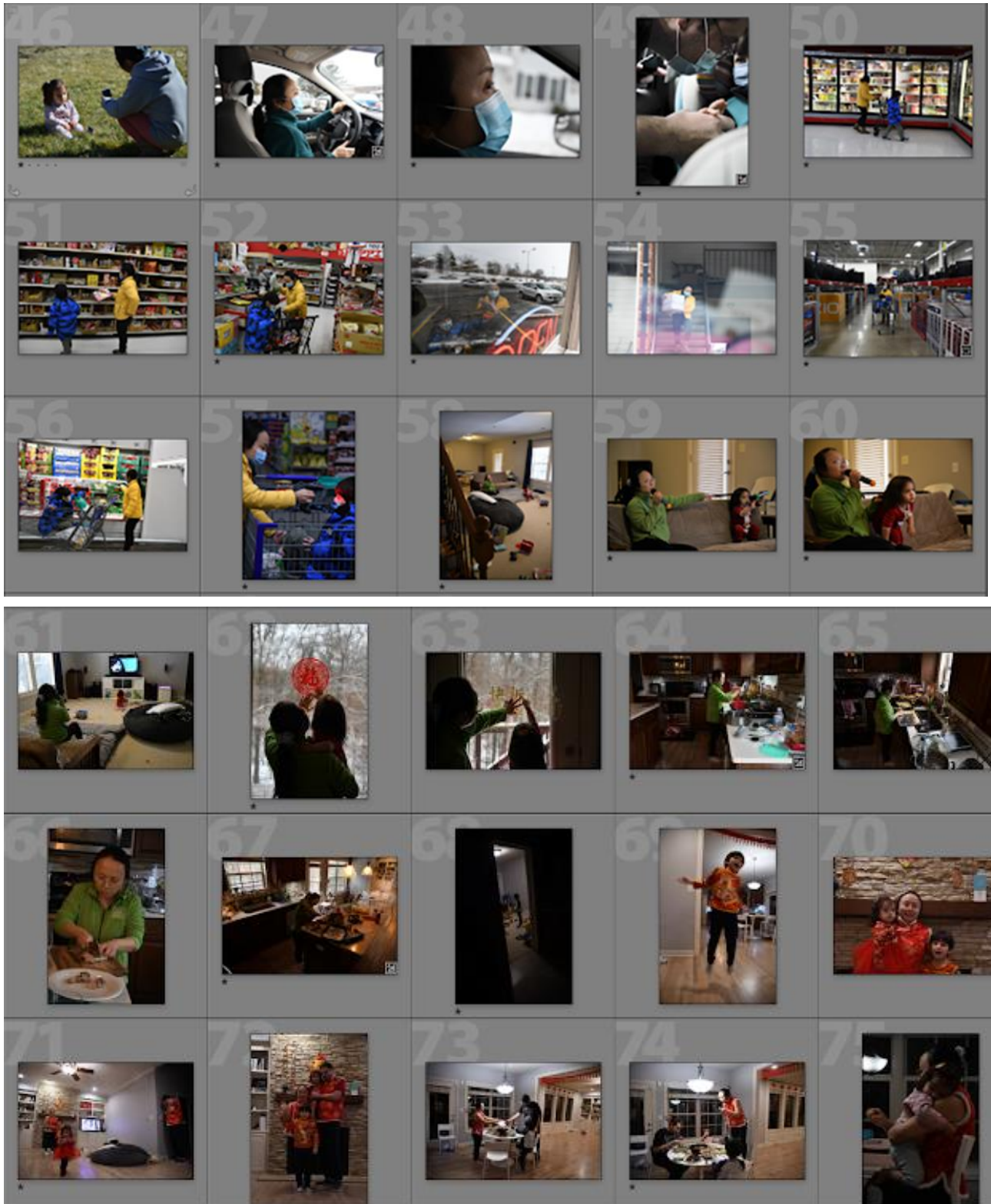
Field Note #7 (March 8th-14th)

1. Project Progress

In the past week, I tried to focus on the missing element---the father, and Shenghua's morning routine again. I was glad that I could find more great moments of the father and his interaction with the wife on his birthday. I have made 900+ photos in the last week and I hope that these could help with the flow of my photo book in general.

2. Research Progress

Since I am finishing up my photo selecting process and starting to make my photo book, I will continue to make photographs in the future but reduce the shooting time. My plan is to have the last photo selecting meeting with Jackie this following week and start to upload my edited

photos and my photo book's inner design. Also, please inform me if I still have any crucial missing elements at this point.

There are two sets of photos that I have selected:

Chapter III

Evaluation

First and foremost, this project is the most significant assignment I have ever accomplished. It is important not only because it is my graduate project, but also because I have incorporated what I learned in the past two years and made it practical. This project went through several changes, and it is not quite the same as what I had pictured in the beginning. However, I am greatly thankful for my chair Jackie, who knows me extremely well, and my committee members, Keith and Stacey. Through their valuable suggestions and empirical advice, I could finally customize my project, make it into something that I am passionate about and present my study results in an applicable way.

I learned so many things, far beyond what I could imagine. I had huge ideas before I wrote my proposal. I wanted to establish different experiments for my research, and I highly overrated my time and energy. After several meetings with my committee, I finalized that I would only focus on one single subject and do one set of experiments (my quantitative research) in order to present my most powerful educational result. The fact was that my committee was so right about what I could do in 3 months.

I had sufficient time to communicate with my subject and establish my ideas while making photos. I was so lucky to have Shenghua as my subject because she fully supported me from the beginning to the end. I wanted my project to be as realistic as possible. Therefore, I told her to ignore me while I was taking photos. From winter to spring, I felt her become more and more comfortable with the camera, and she never deliberately posed for my camera. I became friends with her and her children, as I promised in my project proposal. I think this is the best

scenario for me to make the best story.

I would like to make evaluations and critiques from these two following aspects: from the professional skills component and from the professional analysis:

1. **Professional skills component**

- I wanted to stay long enough with my subject to photograph as much as possible. However, the truth was that I needed to think more beyond what was real. I experienced some difficulties brought on by the pandemic, but that is not an excuse. I realized that I must think deeper because a lot of my photographs stayed on the surface of normal people's life. I think that I did not pay close enough attention to the subject's reasons behind her actions. I have grabbed the details of this mother's life, but I still have not reached her social aspect and how she positions herself in society among those social relationships. For instance, during our first conversation, she mentioned that her daughter Skylar attended a Chinese nursery, and she had a many Chinese friends who also sent their kids there. When they dropped off their children, they would stay for "mommies' time" and exchange homemade Chinese food. I think this would have been a special moment for me to photograph because this would show that she has friends and that they socialize based on common topics. However, I was not able to see that happen. This is hard to photograph, but this is the soul of this project that I am lacking.

- My photo-making process was inspired by *An American Family: Three Decades with the McGarveys* by Pam Spaulding. I realized that all of her characters in this project have their own line of growth, and their characteristics develop throughout time. Viewers can really see those changes in specific people through time. So, I imagined

that I would be able to capture Shenghua's changes, both inner and outer, through these 3 months because this is the longest project that I have done. However, I neglected the fact that a mother's life is often centered on her relationship with her children and family. This family culture has been formed for 7 years, and it changes her in a slow way from so many dynamics. I realized that I have to spend much more time on one subject if I really want to explore her social behaviors, just like how Spaulding spent decades with her subjects.

2. Research

- It was beneficial for me to have my questionnaire finished and approved for the proposal last semester. This gave me a good start on my question design because they are suitable for my research question. I think that the process of collecting data by using Qualtrics was smoother than I expected. I appreciate how my chair wanted me to keep diversity in mind so that I didn't just get people from my own age group.

- I think that writing the analysis and doing the research report were hard for me because I had two sets of data that I had to compare. There were numerous calculations and evaluations. I had to extract useful conclusions from the mind of a journalist while making numerical calculations. I was also surprised by what I found. This is a unique approach, and it is not flawless. However, I think the process of doing this is and experiencing failures is much more important than doing everything correctly.

- The biggest flaw that I noticed while collecting responses was that I totally eliminated qualitative responses. One of my participants emailed me her feelings and suggestions about how this project should go deeper than the surface, but this could not be reflected

by the survey questions because quantitative questions are too objective and straight-

forward. In the future, I would consider incorporating spaces for participants to provide

written texts in my survey; moreover, I think it is important to find a way of combining

these two methods, even though I am doing a quantitative analysis-oriented research.

Chapter IV

Physical Evidence

Please refer to PDF file *Walks Before You* to view the final edit of the photobook.

Chapter V

Analysis

1. Introduction

As an international student who has been living in the United States for seven years, I am often asked where I came from, why I chose America, when I got married, and if my husband is Chinese as well. I am never offended by these questions; instead, I am interested in their motivations for asking these questions, and I have chances to see myself as an immigrant from the perspective of Americans. I can see myself becoming an immigrant mother in the future and as a photojournalist, I sometimes feel that photographers are unable to cover every aspect of an immigrant woman, especially when they are making long-term photo stories. When motherhood is part of the story, photographers tend to focus only on the aspect of immigrant women being mothers while ignoring their other roles and identities.

I started to realize this phenomenon when I worked as a staff photographer for the Columbia Missourian and photographed immigrant subjects. I felt that while some photographers may have the intention of documenting immigrant mothers from several different aspects, they often emphasize a stereotypical icon or a particular time (for example, common stories such as "how immigrants are living under the pandemic" or "how the proportion of immigrant workers dropped during 2019 to 2021"). To test whether photographers stereotype immigrant mothers and ignore their other social roles, I decided to devise a study using photo stories and participant photographers.

In order to find out if photographers really do ignore parts of an immigrant mother's life in their photo stories, I designed a study that utilizes photo projects and questionnaire-based

research. If photographers can recognize a pattern of stereotyping immigrant women via my project and study, my findings should tell them what the elements are that they should have focused on.

To begin, I spent three and a half months documenting my selected subject Shenghua Sinkler, and I created a photo book of 25 images as the foundation of my study. This project, "Walks Before You," depicts a Chinese mother who is now living in the United States. I selected a second project, Marco Postigo Storel's "In Between Cultures," which depicts a Syrian mother who is now living in Brazil. Participants (photographers) were required to see these two projects and answer the same set of questions.

I sent participants a Qualtrics survey with two parts. First, they answered a demographic questionnaire to gather data and determine if they were qualified for the study of professional or student photographers (gender, age, race, job, income from photography, time spend each day as a photographer). Then, they were given a website link to my project before they answered the 13 project-related questions. They would complete the exact same process for the second project. The two sets of data were then compared to show specifically whether or not photographers are ignoring other identities of an immigrant mother, such as their participation in their own communities or workplaces, and which roles they have seen in the first photo project but not in the second one, and vice versa. Indeed, 41 qualified participants gave answers on the 7-point numerical scales.

2. Finding Reports and Conclusions

The first inquiry of gender distribution shows that 65.85% of participants are female, and

31.71% of participants are male (Table 1), which means that the answers that I am expecting to get will lean more toward a female perspective. I got responses from 4 major race groups: Asian, white people, African Americans, and Latinos. More than 65% of participants are news photographers, sports photographers, photo editors, etc.

My first three questions were designed to evaluate whether participants understood the general storyline. Participants agreed on how much time the two subjects spent with their children and that there were about 3 to 4 life roles they could perceive, although they had controversial opinions on how many roles I documented. Participants agreed that there were about 3 minor subjects other than the two mothers. This result is also reasonable because Shenghua's family has 3 other family members, and AlOmair has two daughters. Overall, the responses that I gained for comprehensive questions met my expectations. The data information clearly showed that my participants understood the general story idea and were clear about who appeared to be the main characters of the stories.

Questions 4-6 inquired whether participants agreed with the roles and identities that have been presented in those two projects and whether photographers introduced their subjects in proper ways. Responses show that participants generally agreed on the fairness of the presentation of these subjects. Furthermore, participants agree that both photographers have shown some obvious and strong connections between two mothers and their other family members. Question 6 responses show that participants have different opinions on "what defines a woman's role outside of the family." Participants perceive more from *In Between Cultures* because AlOmair is religious. Features such as the Bible and her routine of praying added powerful hints for the dynamics of her roles.

Overall, this part of the data shows that participants are generally satisfied with how these roles have been presented and that the depiction of these two mothers' relationships with others meets their expectations. However, I found that participants seem to have some trouble defining "subject's positions in her related communities" because of the high standard deviation values for both projects (see practical data in section 3). Presumably, this is because participants can view the proof of subjects having community-related activities, but they never truly and practically see the documented photos of these specific communities.

Responses to questions 7-9 can show whether participants are "passively" ignoring the roles of immigrant mothers while observing their lives. In other words, these questions determine whether these photographers are the ones who (intentionally or unintentionally) choose to neglect those roles while documenting them. Responses to question 7 showed that participants are polarized when viewing Shenghua's story. One accountable prediction is that participants reviewed more images but received less perceivable roles for Shenghua. Responses to question number 8 show that participants are generally satisfied with the photographers' access, and it shows that more images can somehow decrease participants' satisfaction, perhaps because they think access can be pushed further. Question 9 asks participants if they found captions, introductions, and other details to be helpful in understanding the subject. It is interesting to see that participants are excited about all the different roles that an immigrant mother has because combining responses for Q4-6 and Q7-9, participants are seeking more on how these mothers participate in their communities while simultaneously being satisfied with what photographers have portrayed. This demonstrates an expectation of exploring more of the subjects' identities. Also, participants have a firm

standard on each story, and they know what they are looking for in regard to numbers of images.

The set of questions 10-13 is the most important component of the survey because it inquires how photographers view the roles and identities of immigrant mothers in the most direct way and connecting them to the social spectrum. According to responses to question 10, participants tend to believe that I have presented more stereotypical images of women than the project In Between Cultures. It is also very interesting that male participants say they perceived more stereotypical images than female participants for both projects, considering that there are more female participants than male participants. Responses to question 11 show that most participants agree that my project can represent the minority group of immigrant mothers in the United States, and the data appears to be neutral on Marco's project due to the objectivity of his subject's nationality and status of living.

Responses show that participants seem to have some trouble understanding every social identity of this subject. I predict that participants did not perceive enough social identities throughout the whole project. The same thing happened on the project In Between Cultures. The final question asks how many additional important aspects should have been incorporated in both projects. More female participants asked that more important roles be incorporated than male participants for both of these projects. Female photographers are more sensitive to the diversity of roles of immigrant mothers, and it is highly possible that they make additional connections between their own feelings and subjects' standpoint.

3. Results

This result meets my general expectation because I do believe that photographers can

sometimes neglect the roles of the subjects that they portray. I have also learned that photographers have certain expectations before they see the actual story; as my colleagues, they are willing to use what they have experienced to picture what the photo project would potentially be (which appears in V1-V3). Also, they can definitely separate their subjective feelings from the objective representations presented by photographers. Most importantly, both male and female participants agreed that the producers of these two projects need to incorporate more roles into the photo story. Meanwhile, female participants relate more to these subjects. The most important findings are summarized in the following points:

- Photographers tend to capture 3-4 roles on average for an immigrant mother-centered photo project. This met my expectations and can be clearly presented by the results from questions V1-V3.

- Viewers may have trouble defining the subject's roles in photo projects if the visual elements are not elaborated well. It appears that viewers are actively seeking visual hints, but they can feel disappointed when the story does not go deeper.

- Photographer's choices can influence the presentations of the subject's roles. Participants' emotions vary greatly according to how subjects have been presented. These results strongly suggest that photographers are responsible for delivering and sculpturing the proper emotional atmosphere.

- Female photographers are more sensitive to the diversity of roles of immigrant mothers. It appears that female photographers can relate themselves with depicted characters and make necessary connections between their feelings and the subjects' feelings.

Furthermore, the data shows that a selected group of photographers can represent the general population, but the results are not flawless. Since I only collected 41 qualified responses, there is a possibility that the results are extreme or inaccurate. However, it powerfully demonstrates the expectations from photographers of viewing more relevant subjects and more diverse symbols.

A very important question which I should have incorporated in my survey is "are you satisfied with the numbers of images in this specific project?" I realized that responses could vary according to the number of photos, as numbers can objectively determine how much information they can gain. I think this should be something for every photographer to consider for future stories.

It is important to view responses from male participants and female participants separately. I found that male participants are more willing to distinguish between roles while observing a female character; however, female photographers have the tendency of reducing the stereotypical icons that they have in common with those observed characters. Moreover, male participants have a stricter standard on the quality of photo stories and photographers' photographic techniques (see table 6.1) than female participants, while female participants are stricter on the variety of subjects 'roles that have been portrayed.

Last but not least, I think that photographers have the intention of discovering missing roles of subjects, even though the result shows that they do ignore immigrant mothers' other roles. I think that participants are more active on the side of exploring roles than I expected. This is a positive phenomenon. I hope that this analysis according to my research design can inspire photographers, especially those who are in my peer group.

Appendix: Data Analysis and Charts

The two major types of data that I am using to analyze participants' responses are the mean value (referred as M hereafter) and standard deviation (referred as SD hereafter). M values of each question can show which range that the data fall into and presents the general tendency of attitudes on specific questions. SD values of each question can show whether the attitudes or opinions on one question are polarized, and presents how big that variation is. Since the SD value relatively changes according to the particular scales of a survey; according to my survey design, there are 7 scales for all questions, so a 0.5+ difference of SD value of two sets of data on the same question would be considered as big or unable to tolerate. (this is helpful)

There are 13 questions (referred as V1-V13 hereafter) for each photographer. I compared two sets of data for all same questions individually. N will represent the number of valid responses (41).

V1. In your opinion, what percentage of the subject's daily life is spent on taking care of her children?
0%-15%   15%-30%   30%-45%   45%-60%   60%-75%   75%-85 85%-100%
V2. In your opinion, how many different roles have been presented of the subject? (including her role as a mother)
0-1   1-2   2-3   3-4   4-5   5-6   6-7
V3. In your opinion, how many minor subjects (including her children) that are important to the subject have been captured in this project?
0-1   1-2   2-3   3-4   4-5   5-6   6-7

For project *Walks Before You,* M(V1)=4.49, SD(V1)=1.42; for project *In Between Cultures*, M(V1)= 3.63, SD(V1)=1.37. When N=41, participants agreed that V1 for both projects displayed the average time that an immigrant mother spend on their children was $30\% \leqslant t \leqslant 60\%$.

"In your opinion, what percentage of the subject's daily life is spent on taking care of her children?"

V2 inquires how many different roles of the subject that participants could perceive from

each project. For project *Walks Before You,* M(V2)=3.8, SD(V2)=1.55 (Table 5.3); for project *In Between Cultures*, M(V2)= 3.12, SD(V2)=1.21 (Table 5.4). When N=41, project *Walks Before You* receives a higher SD (>1.5).

V3 inquires how many minor subjects (such as children, husband, friends, colleagues, etc.) have appeared in both subjects. For project *Walks Before You,* M(V3)=3.78, SD(V3)=1.35; for project *In Between Cultures*, M(V3)= 3.15, SD(V3)=1.44. When N=41, M appears to be lower, and choice of "2" got the highest choice count. about 31.71%.

V4. Do you think that the subject's identities and roles have been fairly presented through this project?
Strongly Disagree　　Disagree　　Almost Disagree　　Natural　　Almost Agree　　Agree　　Strongly Agree
V5. Do you think that the subject's relationships with other minor subjects who appeared in the project have been fairly presented through this project?
Strongly Disagree　　Disagree　　Almost Disagree　　Natural　　Almost Agree　　Agree　　Strongly Agree
V6. Do you think that the subject's positions in her related communities (such as church, public organizations, etc.) have been fairly presented through this project?
Strongly Disagree　　Disagree　　Almost Disagree　　Natural　　Almost Agree　　Agree　　Strongly Agree

V4 for project *Walks Before You,* M(V4)=5.2 (Agree), SD(V4)=1.2 (Table 5.7); for project *In Between Cultures*, M(V4)= 4.54(Somewhat Agree to Agree), SD(V1)=1.36.

For project *Walks Before You,* M(V5)=4.98 (Agree), SD(V4)=1.37 (Table 5.9); for project *In Between Cultures*, M(V5)= 4.49 (Somewhat Agree to Agree), SD(V1)=1.23 (Table 5.10). Generally speaking, with a 0.14 SD difference, V5 showed that participants were fundamentally satisfied with the relationship depictions.

For project *Walks Before You,* M(V6)=3.76 (Neither Agree nor Disagree to Somewhat Agree), SD(V6)=1.56; for project *In Between Cultures*, M(V6)= 4.41 (Somewhat Agree to Agree), SD(V6)=1.58.

V7, V8, and V9:

> *V7.* Do you feel satisfied with how this photographer portrayed the subject overall?
> Extremely Dissatisfied Moderately Dissatisfied Slightly Dissatisfied Neutral Slightly Satisfied Moderately Satisfied Extremely Satisfied
> *V8.* According to the accessibility that the photographer got with the subject, do you feel satisfied with the photographer's choices to photograph in the various settings, events, and situations?
> Extremely Dissatisfied Moderately Dissatisfied Slightly Dissatisfied Neutral Slightly Satisfied Moderately Satisfied Extremely Satisfied
> *V9.* Do you feel satisfied that the additional information provided by the photographer (such as the introduction, captions, necessary credits) which helped you to know more about the subject?

V7 shows that for project *Walks Before You,* M(V6)=4.66 (Slightly Satisfied to Moderately Satisfied), SD(V7)=1.78; for project *In Between Cultures*, M(V7)=4.73 (Slightly Satisfied to Moderately Satisfied), SD(V7)=1.36.

V8 for project *Walks Before You,* M(V8)=5.24 (Moderately Satisfied to Extremely Satisfied), SD(V8)=1.65; for project *In Between Cultures*, M(V8)=4.83 (Slightly Satisfied to Moderately Satisfied), SD(V8)=1.17.

V9 for project *Walks Before You,* M(V9)=5.61 (Moderately Satisfied to Extremely Satisfied), SD(V9)=1.38; for project *In Between Cultures*, M(V9)=5.07 (Slightly Satisfied to Moderately Satisfied), SD(V8)=1.40.

> **V10, V11, V12 and V13:**
> *V10.* To what extend do you think that this project reflects stereotypical images of women?
> Very Much Probably Some Possibly Some Neutral Possibly Not Probably Not
> Definitely Not
> *V.11* To what extend do you think that this project represents the minority group of immigrant mothers in United States under the current social spectrum?
> Definitely not Probably not Possibly not Neutral Possibly Some Probable Some
> Very much
> *V12.* Have you clearly understood every social identity of this subject?
> Definitely not Probably not Possibly not neutral Possibly Some Probably Some
> Very much
> *V13.* How many additional important aspects should have been incorporated into the project that you think have been neglected?

Two M values for V10 appear to be 2.98 and 4.24, which has a significant difference (Table 5.19 and Table 5.20). Responses of V12 shows the most polarized situation of my entire survey. SD values are 1.82 and 1.74, M values are 4.34 and 4.0. V13 With M values 3.34 and 3.39, and SD values are both 1.34.

Based on my research question, I turned my hypothesis into a null hypothesis because this research involves statistical hypothesis testing. So, my hypothesis appears to be:

H_0: Photographers (participants) **do not** ignore the social roles (other than the role as a mother) of an immigrant woman when their role as mothers is clearly communicated.

H_1: Photographers (participants) **do** ignore the social roles (other than the role as a mother) of an immigrant woman when their role as mothers is clearly communicated.

I used the Chi-Square testing method to evaluate my results. Basically, the Chi-Square test gives values of Chi-Square statistic, which reflects whether the sample data matches and represents the general population (photographers). It predicts whether data is closely related with my hypnosis, and how intimate this relationship is reflected by statistics. For this project specifically, two Chi-Square statistics (two values) are calculated separately for two projects. The formula of the Chi-Square statistic is $x = \sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$ (O represents the observed values of participants and E represents expected values). According to the Chi-Square table of project *Walks Before You* (referred as P1 hereafter), x of **P1 equals to 24.42** (Table 3.P1), for the project *In Between Cultures* (referred as P2 hereafter), x of **P2 equals to 20.344** (Table 3.P2).

Participants/Category	Observed Values (Project 1)	Expectation Value	Residual=(Obs-Exp)	(Obs-Exp)^2	(Obs-Exp)^2/Exp
1	0	3	-3	9	3
2	1	4	-3	9	2.25
3	3	6	-3	9	1.5
4	14	10	4	16	1.6
5	18	8	10	100	12.5
6	5	7	-2	4	0.571428571
7	0	3	-3	9	3

(Table 3.P1)

| Participants/Category	Observed Values (Project 2)	Expectation Value	Residual=(Obs-Exp)	(Obs-Exp)^2	(Obs-Exp)^2/Exp
1	0	3	-3	9	3
2	0	4	-4	16	4
3	6	6	0	0	0
4	16	10	6	36	3.6
5	15	8	7	49	6.125
6	3	7	-4	16	2.285714286
7	1	3	-2	4	1.333333333

(Table 3.P2)

The calculation of P value tells me if my null hypothesis is valid or not. It takes my calculated Chi-Square statistics, and the degree of freedom, which is the probability that my current data could possibly incorporate (usually calculated by the numbers of categories minus one). With these two Chi-Square statistics, and DF (degrees of freedom)=7-1=6, I inserted the values into the Chi-Square Distribution Table, both of the **P values are around somewhere <0.005. It shows that I have less than 0.5% chances of accepting H_0, and I should accept H_1**.
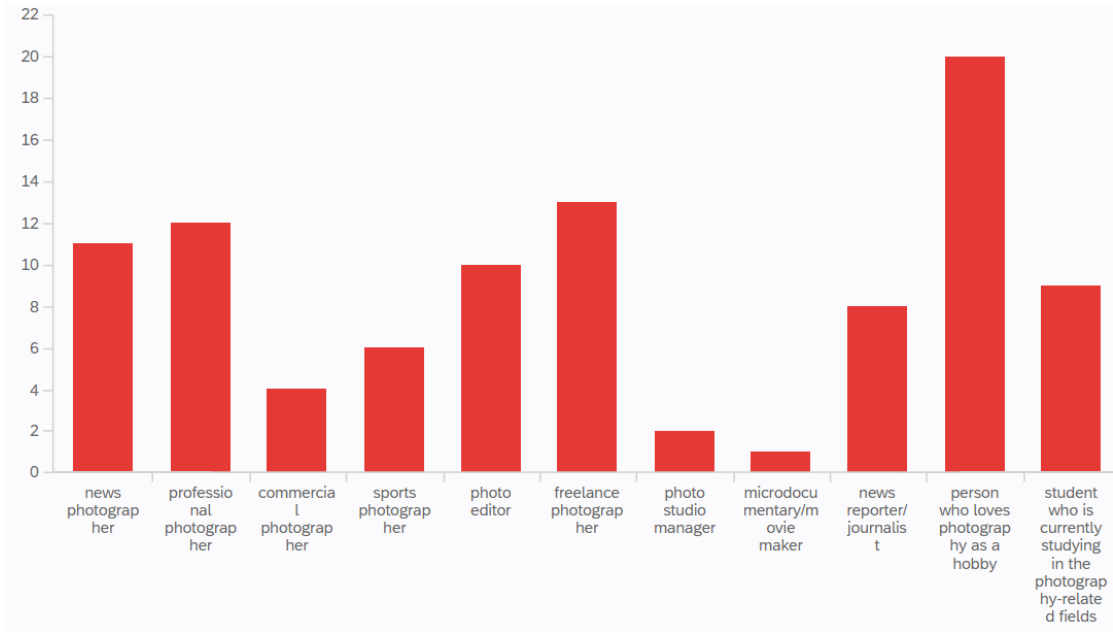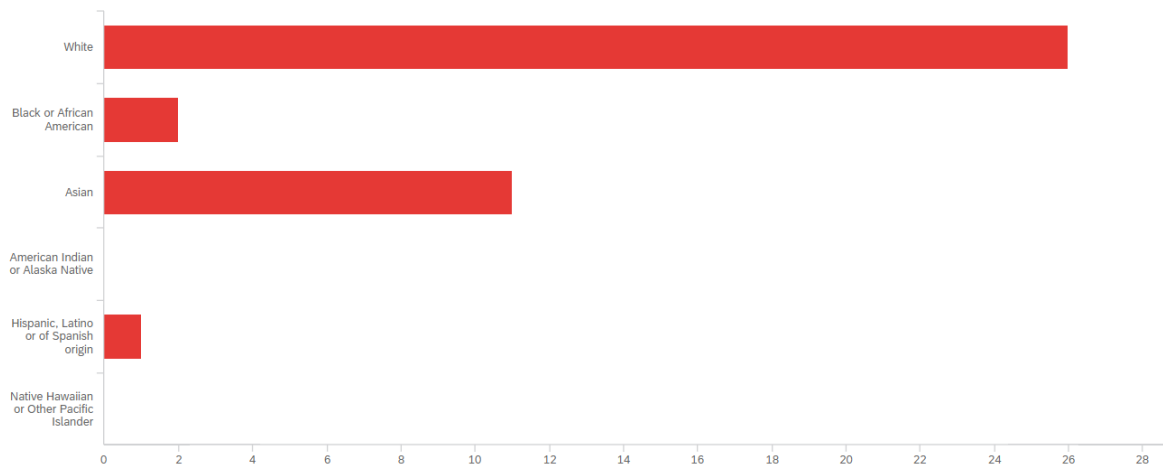
(Table: Career)
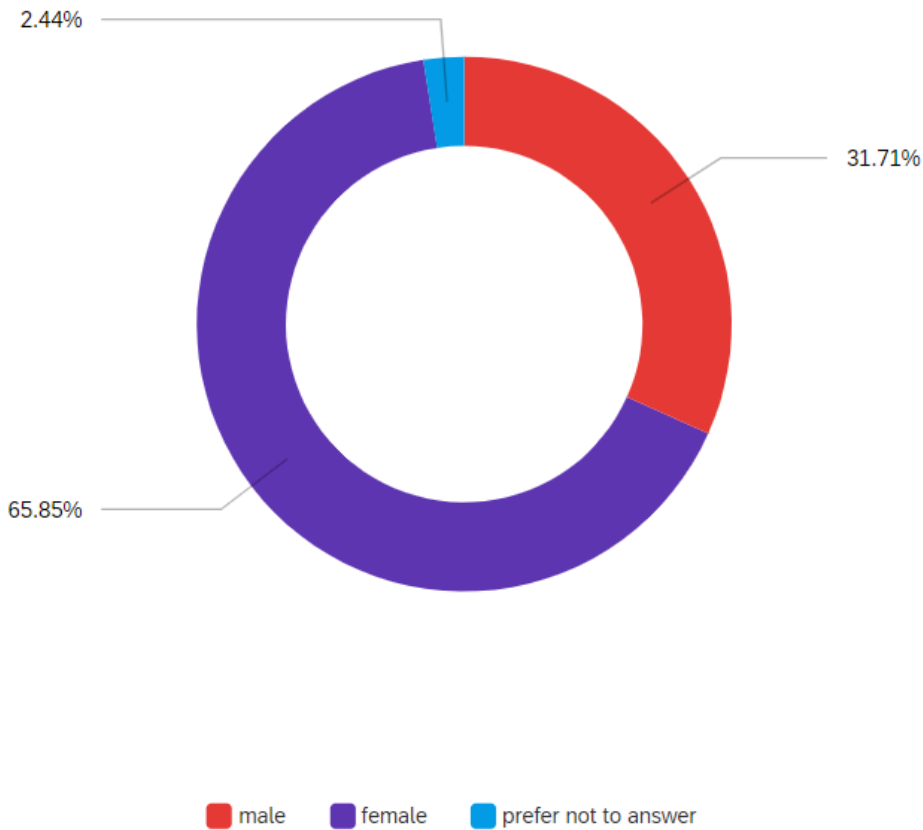
(Table 1: Gender Distribution)
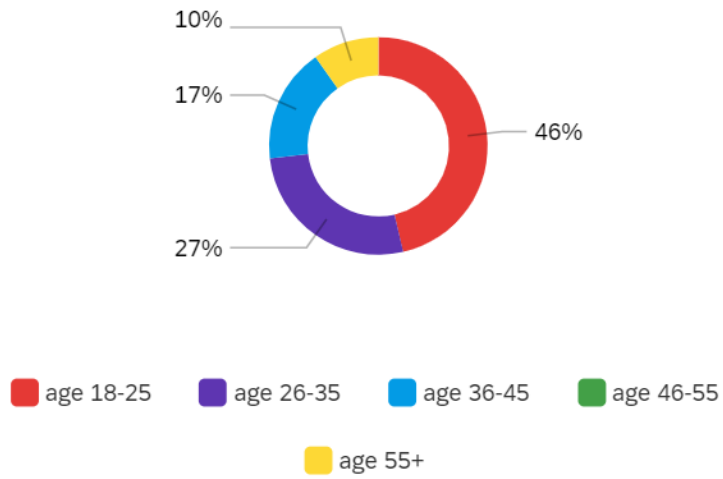
(Table 2: Age Distribution)

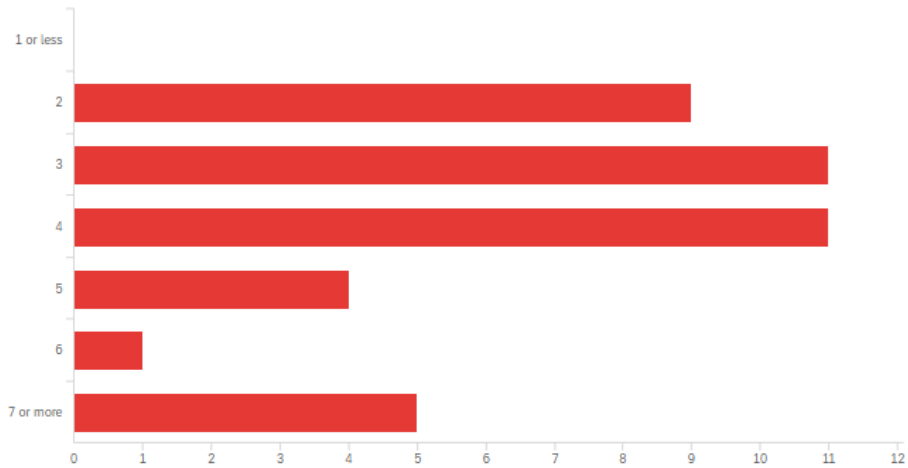
(Table 3: Race Distribution)

(Table 4: Career Distribution)

"In your opinion, how many different roles have been presented of the subject? (including her role as a mother)"

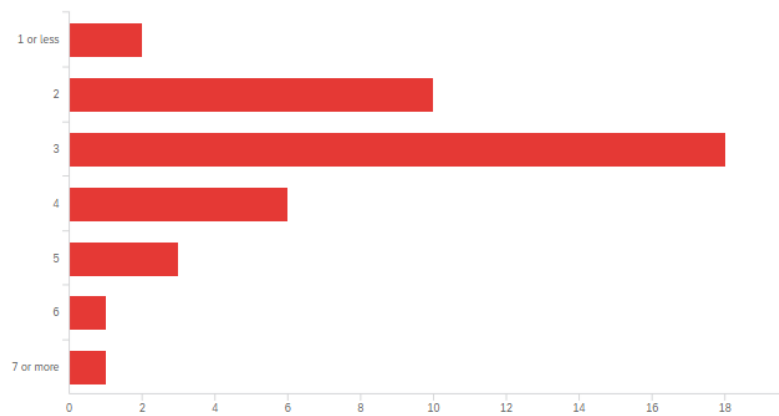Q2 - In your opinion, how many different roles have been presented of the subj...   Page Options ∨

(Table 5.3:V2-1Yanchen)

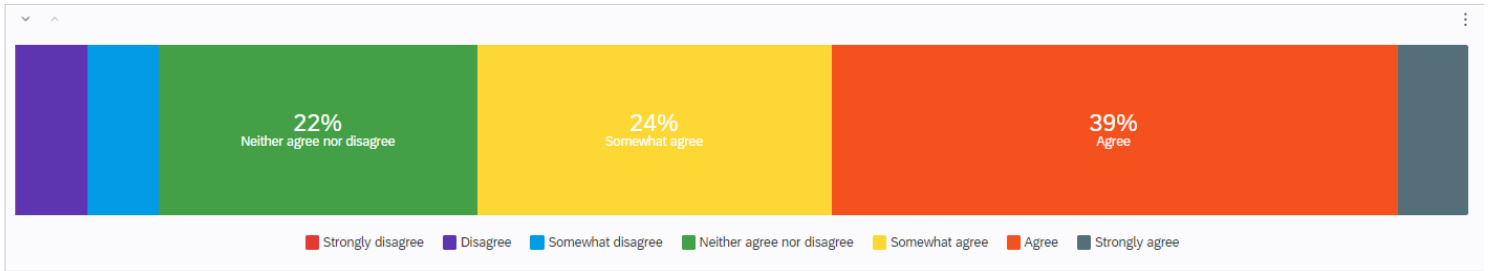Q27 - In your opinion, how many different roles have been presented of the su...   Page Options ∨

(Table 5.4:V2-2 Marco)

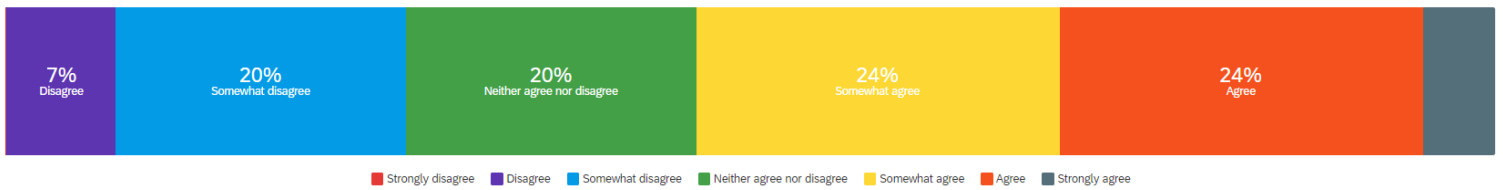Q4 - Do you think that the subject's identities and roles have been fairly presented through this project?

| | | 22%
Neither agree nor disagree | 24%
Somewhat agree | 39%
Agree | |

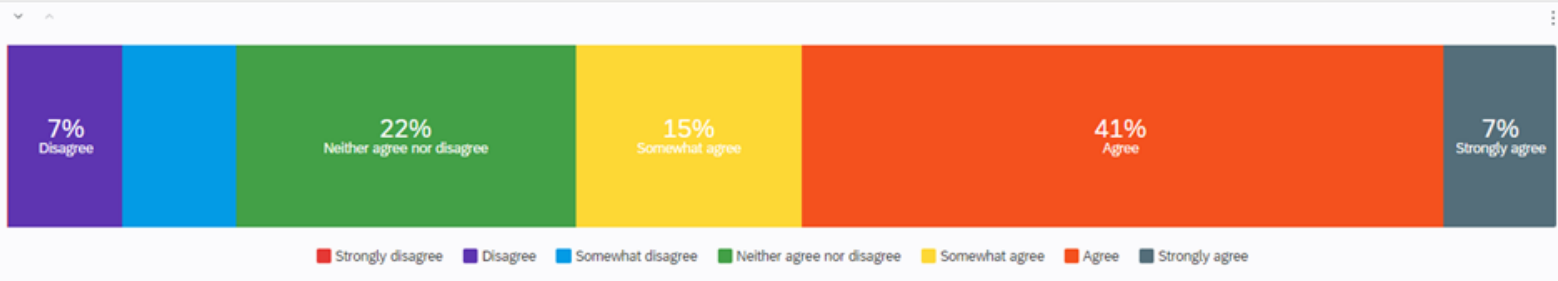Strongly disagree ■ Disagree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Agree ■ Strongly agree

(Table 5.7: V4-1 Yanchen)

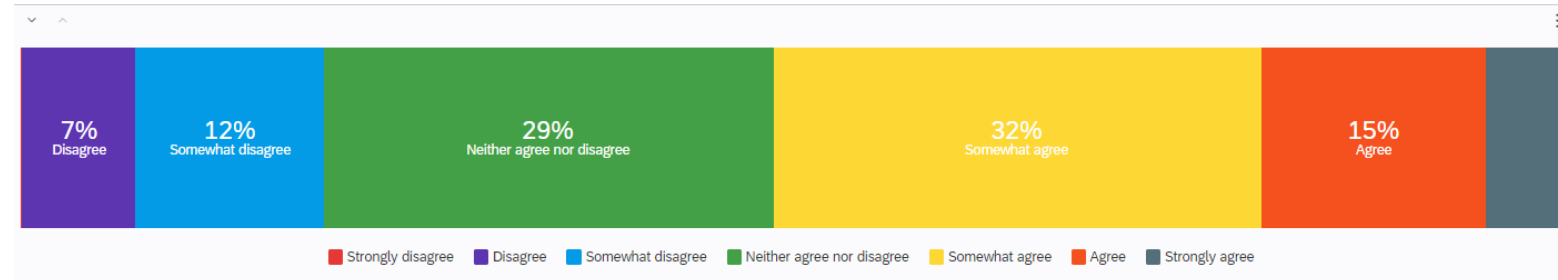Q29 - Do you think that the subject's identities and roles have been fairly presented through this project?

| 7%
Disagree | 20%
Somewhat disagree | 20%
Neither agree nor disagree | 24%
Somewhat agree | 24%
Agree | |

Strongly disagree ■ Disagree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Agree ■ Strongly agree

(Table 5.8:V4-2 Marco)

| 7%
Disagree | | 22%
Neither agree nor disagree | 15%
Somewhat agree | 41%
Agree | 7%
Strongly agree |

Strongly disagree ■ Disagree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Agree ■ Strongly agree

(Table 5.9:V5-1 Yanchen)

| 7%
Disagree | 12%
Somewhat disagree | 29%
Neither agree nor disagree | 32%
Somewhat agree | 15%
Agree | |

Strongly disagree ■ Disagree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Agree ■ Strongly agree

(Table 5.10:V5-2 Marco)F

(Table 5.19:V10-1 Yanchen)   *(Table 5:20: V10-2Marco)*
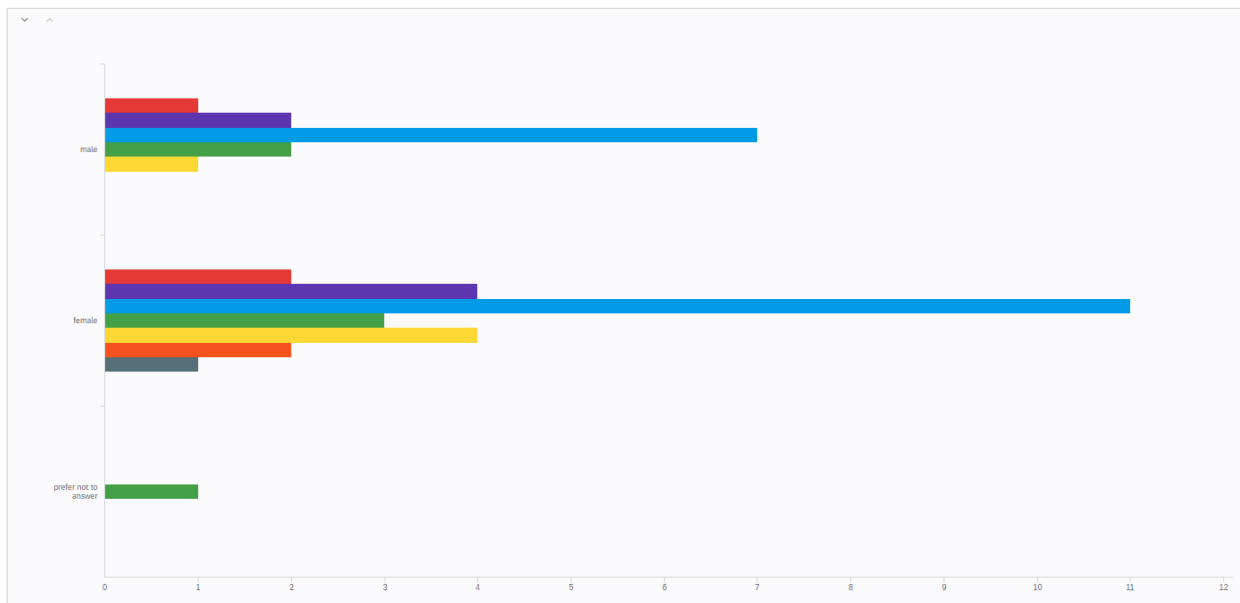
"How many additional important aspects should have been incorporated into the project that you think have been neglected?"

(Table 5.23:V13-1)

47

Q38 - How many additional important aspects should have been incorporated into the project that you think have been neglected?
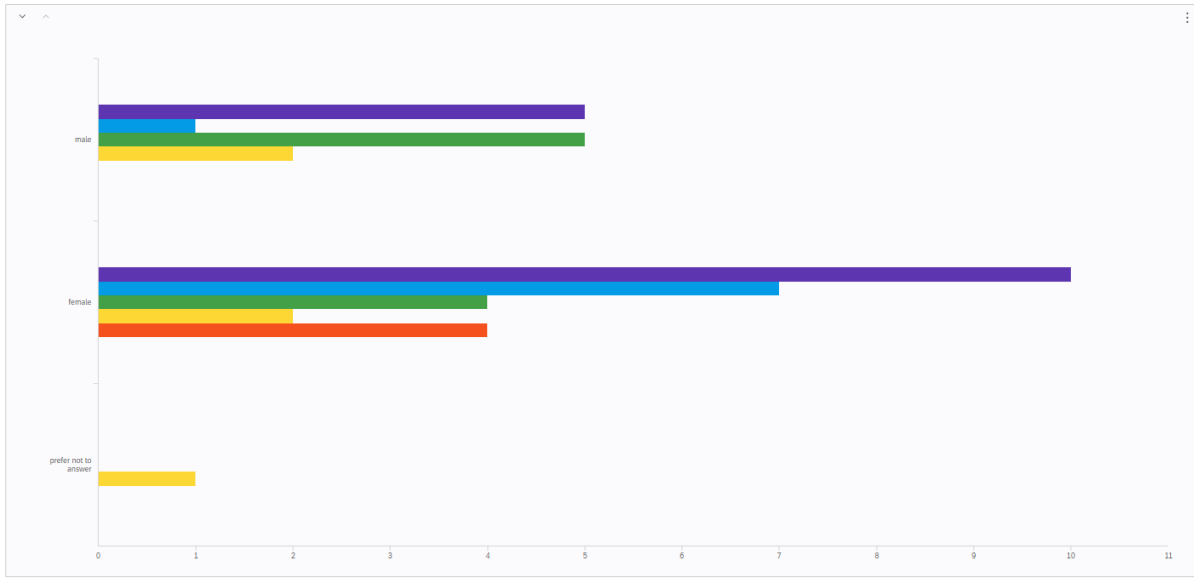
(Table 5.24: V13-2)

Q7 - Do you feel satisfied with how this photographer portrayed the subject overall?

prefer not to answer	
Extremely dissatisfied	0
Moderately dissatisfied	1
Slightly dissatisfied	0
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	0
Slightly satisfied	0
Moderately satisfied	0
Extremely satisfied	0
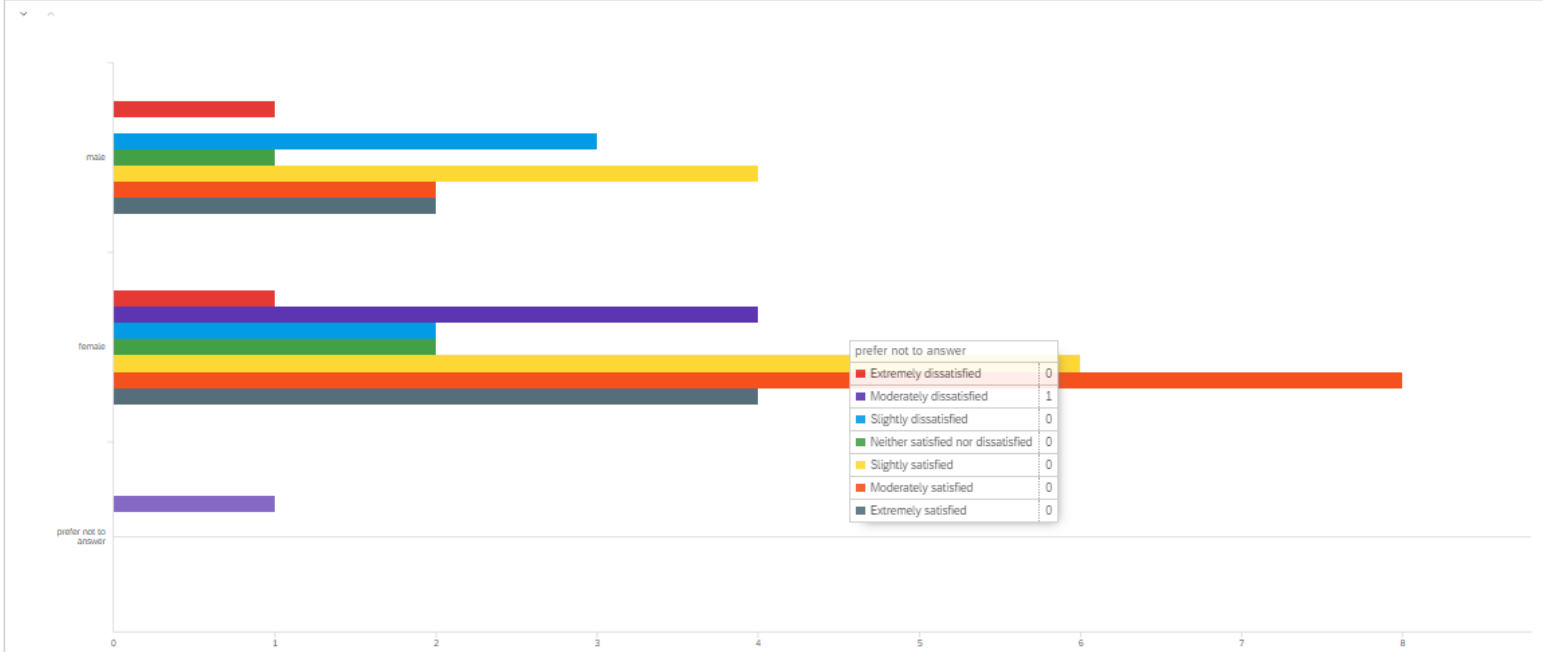
Photographic Project and Photojournalists' Visual Quantitative Analysis
Immigrant Motherhood, Roles and Appearances in Columbia, MO

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Missouri School of Journalism - University of Missouri
Fall 2020

COMMITTEE:
Jackie Bell (Chair)
Keith Greenwood
Stacy Woelfel

Content

I.   Introduction

In the past one and half years of my graduate study, I found that making photo projects, especially photo stories, was a good way of expressing emotions. Personally, I think that good photography techniques and the ability to capture crucial topics were the most important elements to define a "good photographer." While I was working for Missourian as a staff photographer, I trained myself to be a news photographer who focused mostly on human beings' choices, actions, emotions, and ways of thinking. With these practical skills that I had learned I also studied some theoretical courses. When I was in the History of Mass media class, I was obsessed with the history of global women and the journey as they fought for their rights. I also felt that the job done by great photographers who chose to document these historical milestones inspired me while covering female subjects.

I also chose to study the quantitative analysis method because I was planning to make a combination of visual elements and quantitative data. I felt that as a journalism student, it was a privilege to use numbers and reasonable analytic techniques to interpret human-made photo stories. I understand that emotions can be abstract and hard to describe; however, by borrowing numbers and looking for logical patterns behind specific human behaviors, journalists can better understand the effective ways to present human emotions.

Since the School of Journalism requires students to use the knowledge of their graduate studies and make influential efforts to approve their research abilities for this professional project, I will combine the most inspirational points listed above to make this project. I am going to do a project which entails two parts: a photographic project and a professional analysis project. These two parts are equally important to this independent study. In conclusion, the

photographic project will be an immigrant mother centered photo story, and the professional

analysis project will further inquire on photographers' behavior and choices by using

participants.

Immigrant motherhood is a topic which has been addressed frequently by American

journalists. Women's social appearances have been valued and the industry of journalism

presents a gradually improving interaction between women and the news media, however, can

reporters and news photographers guarantee that they can make totally unbiased stories about

women? Women, especially immigrant mothers, have been noticed not only from the aspect of

the "minority group", but also from the aspect of undertaking different social roles. According

to the statistics from the "Status of Women in the States" website, more than 50% of immigrant

women choose to work in the industry that requires labor forces (*Spotlight on Immigrant*

Women: Employment and Earnings Data, 2015).

Immigrant and U.S.-Born Women and Men in the Labor Force, United States, 2013				
	Immigrant Women	Immigrant Men	U.S.-Born Women	U.S.-Born Men
Percent of Women and Men in the Labor Force	56.2%	77.8%	59.0%	67.3%
Percent of Women and Men Working Full-Time	62.5%	75.7%	62.1%	74.6%
Percent of Women and Men Working Part-Time	27.8%	13.1%	29.7%	16.4%
Percent of All Employed Women and Men Working in Managerial or Professional Occupations	32.7%	27.8%	41.1%	34.1%
Unemployment Rates by Gender	8.9%	6.5%	8.0%	9.0%

Note: Aged 16 and older. Part-time includes those who usually work fewer than 35 hours per week. Part-time workers may work either part-year or full-year.
Source: IWPR analysis of American Community Survey data (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Version 5.0).

Furthermore, research shows that immigrant women do not earn a high-level social position.

Instead, they invest most of their time in their family. According to Ana Ferrer from the American Economic Association, "…researchers argue that immigrant women are secondary workers, that is, they join the labor market mostly as a response to family income shocks and become employed mainly in unskilled jobs to support their husbands' investment in local skills." (Adserà & Ferrer, 2014). This assumption is self-explanatory for most of the reporters who want to make stories about immigrant women simply because we often see reporters cover stories which would emphasize their identities as secondary social workers. However, this is going to be different from the perspective of photojournalists. For photojournalists who want to document immigrant women and their social representations, they must build an intimate relationship with their subjects and present their stories from different angles.

Now, the questions are: do photojournalists really doing their jobs well when they portray immigrant women, especially immigrant mothers? Do they choose immigrant mothers as subjects because of their mother identity, or do they find the mother identity interesting and then choose to focus on immigrant mothers? With these questions in mind, I came up with my professional project that is based on the quantitative research method. My central question which guides me for this study is: **to what extent do photographers perceive that immigrant women's role as mothers is clearly communicated , while ignoring or not ignoring other aspects of their roles in society? (other aspects of their roles includes their jobs, relationships with others, appearances outside of families and workplaces, etc.)**

I hope that my study will inspire photojournalists and help them to construct better stories on minority groups. My study would also incorporate a great amount of quantitative research methods which would also be beneficial to the researchers who focus on journalistic visual

expressions. In this proposal, I will demonstrate my project design, the research methods that I am using, and the academic theory which supports my study.

II. Project Design and Structure

Photo Component

1) In-depth Photo Project Description

I will first select an immigrant mother who lives in Columbia and make an in-depth photo story about this subject. This will be a long-term project which will last for 3-4 months, and it will require that I build an intimate relationship with this subject. I will use the photographic methods which I have learned from the School of Journalism to create a feature story that meets the requirements for publication. I will analyze the story from the perspective of a photojournalist and edit the projects as a professional newspaper editor. I will pay attention to all the technical aspects and use different kinds of shots and lenses.

The aim of creating this project is to focus on all different aspects of this subject. This project will show the subject's identities as a mother, caretaker, social worker, and other potential family roles (such as a wife or a daughter). There are no limitations on her nationality, age, or how many kids she has. Preferably, I would find a married subject so that I can also incorporate her identity as a wife. The photo project will document her daily life with no additional directions, storyboards, or intentional poses. As a photojournalist, I will show the most candid life of my subject and make sure to cover as many significant events of her life as I can to present deeper components as culture, family traditions, and norms, minor subjects' personality traits, etc.

2) How to Present

The final project should have up to 40 final, edited still photos. The project should use at least 3 lenses to cover all types of photo making conditions. (I am going to use 18-55mm, 24-70mm, and 70-300mm lenses). The final photo project should be presented as a designed photo book with an introduction and captions.

As I mentioned, I would like to cover all aspects of my subject's life and to document not only her identity as a mother but also her other identities. Here is the break-down plan for the actual project:

- Photos about motherhood: I am going to present her identity as a mother. These photos should have the theme of the mother-children relationship and how she is taking care of her children. For example, the visual elements should display: the mother is playing or nurturing the child, sending her kids to school, changing diapers for her baby, and so on. The goal is to make sure that my viewers can directly perceive her identity as a mother.

- Photos about her working: For this section, I am going to show her career and what does she do for a living. These photos will show her working conditions, the type of her job (whether it is in the service industry or something else), and how she performs in her position. I will also incorporate important details about whether she needs to have a special technique for her job, and what does that technique require physically.

- Photos about her other roles: I am also going to display her life with minor subjects, such as her husband, relatives, or coworkers. These photos are going to tell my audience who are the most important people in her life, what is the most important thing that she values, and potentially, why she is choosing to spend time with these specific people. In order to show her "other roles", I would imagine that the themes will include: the subject is cocking

for the family, taking care of the elder people in her hose, cleaning and doing house works, and so on.

- Photos about her own culture and traditions: I would use an independent section to cover her cultural identities and how she performs to keep her own traditions. Ideally, I can cover important events or festivals about her own culture (for example, if she is Chinese, how she celebrates the Spring Festival). If my subject is related to a specific religion, I would also cover the aspect of her engaging with the religious community.

Research Component

Once I finish my photo project, I will start to do my research and analysis part around March 15th. I will prepare a quantitative method-oriented survey as my research tool. There are 30-40 participants needed, and they will be photojournalists, professional photographers, and freelancers. Each one of them will follow the exact same research process and I will apply the exact same research methods to each one of them.

1) Likert Scale Survey (Quantitative)

When I finish the project and have all my digital copies ready, I will let my chair and committee review them for final editing advice. Then, I will have my edited photos printed out as singles for the quantitative Likert-scale survey. In this process, participants will have to review my photo project first, and then review another photo project which is also on the same topic but with a different subjects and storyline. I will find an award-winning project which is about an immigrant mother. However, instead of focusing on all different social identities of the portrayed subject, this project should focus on only the motherhood side of the story. In other words, this project should be interested in the subject's role as a mother. To minimize the

uncontrollable variables, I will try my best to find the project with the subject similar to mine subject's age. Furthermore, the ages and number of their children should be as close as possible.

Once my participants review these two projects, they should be ready to fill out a 7-point Likert scale survey. The questions that they will answer would be exactly the same for the two projects, meaning that each of them should fill out two surveys on two different projects.

2) Survey Format and Question List

The reason for having this process is to collect calculatable numbers that will reflect participants' common comprehensions and nuances and then use appropriate formulas to get data for comparisons. Then, they will give feedback to the questions related to my theoretical framework and consider the subjects' social identities. According to the design of my research question, I will design my survey questions based on the structure supported by these four aspects:

Basic Comprehension (questions 1-3): these questions evaluate whether participants have understood the general storyline and who are the main subjects of these projects.

Subject's Presentations Agreement (questions 4-6): these questions evaluate whether participants have perceived and agreed with the roles and identities that have been presented in these projects.

Photographer's Relationship Satisfaction (questions 7-9): these questions evaluate whether participants are satisfied with the techniques used and the in which photographers created these projects.

Close-Reading Feedback about Social Phenomena (questions 10-13): these questions evaluate the impact of these photo stories from the participants' perspective. These questions inquire as to how photographers view the roles and identities of immigrant mothers in the most direct way.

Here are the questions which I am preparing to ask:

1. In your opinion, what percentage of the subject's daily life is spent on taking care of her children?

0%-15%   15%-30%   30%-45%   45%-60%   60%-75%   75%-85 85%-100%

2. In your opinion, how many different roles have been presented of the subject? (including her role as a mother)

0-1   1-2   2-3   3-4   4-5   5-6   6-7

3. In your opinion, how many minor subjects (including her children) that are important to the subject have been captured in this project?

0-1   1-2   2-3   3-4   4-5   5-6   6-7

4. Do you think that the subject's identities and roles have been fairly presented through this project?

    Strongly Disagree
    Disagree
    Almost Disagree
    Natural
    Almost Agree
    Agree
    Strongly Agree

5. Do you think that the subject's relationships with other minor subjects who appeared in the project have been fairly presented through this project?

    Strongly Disagree
    Disagree
    Almost Disagree
    Natural
    Almost Agree
    Agree
    Strongly Agree

6. Do you think that the subject's positions in her related communities (such as church, public organizations, etc.) have been fairly presented through this project?

    Strongly Disagree
    Disagree
    Almost Disagree
    Natural
    Almost Agree
    Agree
    Strongly Agree

7. Do you feel satisfied with how this photographer portrayed the subject overall?

    Extremely Dissatisfied
    Moderately Dissatisfied
    Slightly Dissatisfied
    Neutral
    Slightly Satisfied
    Moderately Satisfied
    Extremely Satisfied

8. According to the accessibility that the photographer got with the subject, do you feel satisfied with the photographer's choices to photograph in the various settings, events, and situations?

    Extremely Dissatisfied
    Moderately Dissatisfied

Slightly Dissatisfied
Neutral
Slightly Satisfied
Moderately Satisfied
Extremely Satisfied

9. Do you feel satisfied that the additional information provided by the photographer (such as the introduction, captions, necessary credits) which helped you to know more about the subject?
Extremely Dissatisfied
Moderately Dissatisfied
Slightly Dissatisfied
Neutral
Slightly Satisfied
Moderately Satisfied
Extremely Satisfied

10. To what extend do you think that this project reflects stereotypical images of women?
Very Much
Probably Some
Possibly Some
Neutral
Possibly Not
Probably Not
Definitely Not

11. To what extend do you think that this project represents the minority group of immigrant mothers in United States under the current social spectrum?
Definitely not
Probably not
Possibly not
neutral
Possibly Some
Probably Some
Very much

12. Have you clearly understood every social identity of this subject?
Definitely not
Probably not
Possibly not
neutral
Possibly Some
Probably Some
Very much

13. How many additional important aspects should have been incorporated into the project that you think have been neglected?

Very many
Probably Some
Possibly Some
Neutral
Possibly none
Probably none
Definitely none

3) Analysis Explanations and Result Expectations

I am using two sets of works because I want to eliminate the subjectivity of making a photo story merely from my own point of view. Moreover, this comparison helps to explain the research question better. Since I am predicting that I will focus on all different aspects of the subject and I am making my participants review a story which is presumably focusing on the motherhood aspect at the same time, I will get two sets of results that indicate <mark>whether photographers are ignoring or not ignoring other identities of an immigrant mother.</mark> For example, for my own project, I would expect the mean to be around 4.1 and my median to be around 5. However, if I get a mean around 2-3 and median around 3, I expect that my participants don't actually prefer the "average distributing roles" as the narration of portraying this type of subject. In other words, if the scores that my project get are drastically lower from the award-winning project, then it shows that photographers do ignore some other social identities of the immigrant mother; if my scores are drastically higher, then it shows that photographers pay special attention to the variety of subject's social identities.

I will be able to calculate values that represent participants' satisfactions about visual elements, quantities of necessary visual elements, and participants' emotional variation range. I would expect that the main of the accumulated scores to be around:

Mean	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
4.075	4	4	1.618

Participant's Score
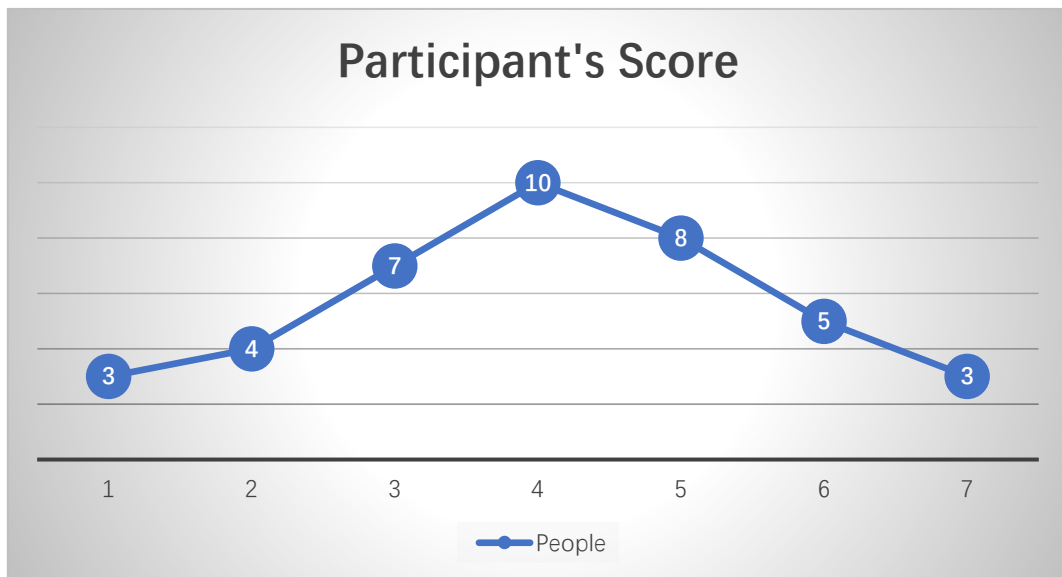
Based on these expectations, I would collect the real data next semester, and then write the article to compare these two sets of information: expectations versus real explorations. I will talk about what I have found and what kind of things surprised me during the research. For example, if I get a relatively large number (more than 3.5) for the standard deviation, that means participants' emotional experiences are more polarized than I expected. Also, I will share the flaws that I found according to the design of the study and talk about how to make the whole structure more logical.

III.   Timeline (From Fall 2020)

- December 10th -11th, 2020: Project proposal defense.

- December 11th-January 15th: Finding the main subject for the photo project.

- January 19th – March 1st: Making the photo project and preparing for the research materials.

    ➢ January 19th -January 31st: The first stage of photographing and photo selecting; focusing on building a relationship with the subject and getting to know the subject.

    ➢ February 1st – February 15th: Second stage of photographing and photo selecting;

looking for research participants and getting numbers settled down.

- ➤ February 15th-Febuary 25th: The third stage of photographing; do a photo review with chair and committee members; and start on the editing/photobook designing process.

- ➤ February 21st – March 1st: Fourth stage of photographing; have prints ready and have the photo book first inner-page design ready.

- March 1st - March 30th: move on to the research stage; hand in final products to my chair:

  - ➤ March 1st -March 3rd: review the research questions and survey designs with my committee; get participants to complete the research process and collect raw data; go over the data and research process with my committee. Begin to show completed components to my Chair, Jackie Bell.

  - ➤ March 3rd-March 30th: finish collecting all questionnaires; hand in photobook (design and printing), filed notes, introduction, and keywords to my chair.

  - ➤ April 1st -April 8th: Finish the final report and the research article; show components to my Chair as they are completed; get ready for committee to review.

- April 8th – April 12th: Get final edits and feedback from my chair; make necessary editing and schedule the final project defense meeting after Chair approval.

- April 13st-April 17th: Project defense.

(* I will submit my Blog to my committee for field notes posting before the Spring 2021 semester starts and I will keep posting my field notes once every week for my committee to check on my progress. For all the additional meetings that I must have with my committee which I have mentioned in the timeline, I will schedule them one week ahead with my committee.)

IV.   Equipment and Budget

My own equipment includes a DSLR camera, and two lenses (18-55mm and 70-300mm). I also have microphones prepared for the interviews. My recording equipment includes a wire-lavalier mic and a Zoom recorder.

Budget:

1) General equipment:

> ➤ A NIKON 24-85mm F/3.5-4.5G ED VR AF-S Nikkor Lens $496

> ➤ A NIKON LED ring flash $30

2) Programs and software for research:

> ➤ Survey making system $150 ($75/month*2) SurveyMonkey

> ➤ Storage+ Memory cards $60

3) Others:

> ➤ Gas and Transportation $200

> ➤ Paper-based printing and Photo Printing $150

> ➤ Photobook (100*2) $200

Total: $1,336

V.   Methodology

5.1 RQ Design Method

First, I want to discuss how I determined my research question. As a photojournalist, I want to explore the relationship between an immigrant mother and her child, and how she performs her social roles while taking care of her offspring. I have realized that mothers from different countries and different social backgrounds carry different ideologies when presenting their

identities as mothers and identities as caretakers. However, I have also learned that photojournalists tend to depict only one side of the story from the preferred aspect. This is a phenomenal occurrence for me. In the book Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, chapter 7, the author mentioned that " a phenomenological example is 'What is it like for a mother to live with a teenage child who is dying of cancer?...In ground theory, the questions may be directed toward generating a theory of some process, such as the exploration of a process as to how caregivers and patients interact in a hospital setting." (Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. 2017, p.133) I took this approach to discover the direct relationship between two specific units: mother and children. Then, since I have pre-assumed that photographers are neglecting the other roles that immigrant mothers are performing, I took the nondirectional hypothesis while customizing my RQ as well. " The non-directional hypothesis---a prediction is made, but the exact form of difference (e.g. higher, lower, more, less) is not specified because the researcher does not know what can be predicted from past literature." (Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. 2017, p.138) For my research specifically, I don't know how much (to a degree) that immigrant mothers' diversity of roles has been neglected, so I incorporated this approach as well. Overall, my final RQ is: to what extent do photographers perceive that immigrant women's role as mothers is clearly communicated , while ignoring or not ignoring other aspects of their roles in society? (other aspects of their roles includes their jobs, relationships with others, appearances outside of families and workplaces, etc.)

I also specified what I mean by using the term "other aspects of the roles" in my RQ, but the project won't be limited to the roles that I listed above.

5.2 Likert-Scale Survey Method:

This the process in which I turn the participants' subjective views into perceivable data. I am going to use a 7-point Likert-scale survey because it not only gives participants more options, but also specifies their emotions. "The 7-point scale provides varieties of options which in turn increase the probability of meeting the objective reality of people. As a 7-point scale reveals more description about the motif and thus appeals practically to the faculty of reason of the participants" (Joshi, A., Kale, S., Chandel, S., & Pal, D. K. 2015).

Since my enquiry (subject) is an immigrant female, I would follow the major psychological procedures of analyzing a mother's behavior promoted by Professor Elizabeth Laney. She mentioned that there are three overarching stages which help women to recognize and construct their identities while being mothers: "The first theme is in which women lost themselves for a time while incorporating their children into their identities and reforming their identities. The second theme is the expansion of the self insofar as women incorporated children into their identities and self-boundaries. The third theme explores ways that women felt that mothering and the close relationships with their children intensified their personalities and identities" (Elizabeth K. Laney & M. Elizabeth L. 2015). Based on these points, my survey will focus on these following points:

1. Interactions between mother and children.

2. Mother's personality.

3. Clear self-boundaries.

4. Expression of other social identities (such as a daughter, a wife, or a colleague)

Since my samples are going to be photography-industry workers, I will follow the theory

brought up by Dr. Greenwood and Dr. Thomson in 2016 to customize my survey instruments. In the article *Beyond Framing: Influences of subject-photographer interactions on visual journalism,* Dr. Greenwood and Dr. Thomson pointed that: "Photographers and subjects jointly influence 13 of the variables in the subject–photographer interaction" (T. J, T & Keith, G 2017). The major partial control variables which will influence my research include location, photographer's knowledge, subject-photographer interface, time, and vantage point. By following the guide of the variables which I have listed above, this survey will be designed to have the participants consider the visual-selecting judgements made by photographers. By doing so, I can discover the thoughts of professional photographers when they analyze the pure relationship between subject and photographer. "Only through interaction can deep and comprehensive context be obtained and interwoven into the journalism so that it is more authentic and genuine" (T. J, T & Keith, G 2017).

And finally, my survey will collect data (raw scores) and follow the "suggested data analysis procedure for Likert-scale data" (Boone, H. N., & Boone, D. A. 2012):

	Likert-Type Data	**Likert Scale Data**
Central Tendency	Median or mode	Mean
Variability	Frequencies	Standard deviation
Associations	Kendall tau B or C	Pearson's *r*
Other Statistics	Chi-square	ANOVA, t-test, regression

5.3 Sampling Method

The sampling method which I am going to use is the **non-probability sampling methods.** In a non-probability sample, individuals (participants) are selected based on non-random criteria. This is a more direct and simple way of selecting appropriate samples since I am going to focus

on photographers in particular. I will select 30-40 samples and they will be professional photographers, photojournalists, and freelancers. Ideally, my participants would be selected fairly from different social groups and they should be representing different voices from all social dynamics:

- About 10 females: 5 white females and 5 females with color.

- About 10 males: 5 white males and 5 males with color.

- About 10 photojournalists who are actively working in a newsroom (no more than 5 students or interns), keeping diversity in mind.

- About 10 professional photographers and freelancers who have different focus areas, keeping diversity in mind.

I will try to find local samples as many as possible and I will make sure that they can represent different groups of photographers who work in various ways. It is possible for me to find participants in other states if I can make the online version of my survey to work remotely. I am going to use convenience-sampling which includes the individuals who "happen to be most accessible to the researcher (me)".

Convenience sample

VI. Theoretical Framework

For my project, I chose the social identity theory to support my research and theoretical views. Social theory is based on the inquiry of the subject's identity and their inner/outer relationships. "Social identity theory is an interactionist social psychological theory of the role of self-conception and associated cognitive processes and social beliefs in group processes and intergroup relations" (Hogg, M. A. 2016). Furthermore, it focuses on the self-positing process of the subject while he/she is having any form of relationship with society. Indeed, extensions of social identity theory are including but not limited to "self-enhancement and uncertainty reduction motivations, deindividuation and collective behavior, social mobilization and protest, and marginalization and deviance within groups" (Hogg, M. A. 2016).

Since my project is going to focus on the external relationships that the mother has with other social aspects, I will be using the theory part which emphasizes the "self-enhancement and uncertainty reduction motivations" to see how my subject would chooses to develop herself while coping with complicated social interactions.

From a micro perspective of how women fit in society, social identity theory defines a subject's emotional phases. According to Tajfel and Turner, there are three mental processes for evaluating someone's social identity. These stages are: "social categorization, social identification, and social comparison" (1979). For an immigrant mother, she might be more sensitive to these stages because she had to experience two types of culture and experience a transitional period. It is also highly possible for them to experience identity variations among different groups and communities. "in social identity theory the group membership is not

something foreign or artificial which is attached to the person, it is a real, true and vital part of the person… it is crucial to remember in-groups are groups you identify with, and out-groups are ones that we don't identify with, and may discriminate against" (McLeod, S. 2008).

Indeed, the social identity theory of women specifies women's general performance in different social groups and predicts how their actions and behaviors can possibly change the represented group. "There is, however, a reason to consider the possibility that certain facets of social identity carry differential meaning or importance in certain contexts. For example, women's cognitive centrality of gender—the amount of time spent thinking about being a group member—appears to be a particularly important predictor of group consciousness and the perception of collective disadvantage (Cameron, J. E. 2001).

From a macro perspective, social identity theory helps to explain the structural connections between individuals, groups, and even large social components. "Society is seen as a mosaic of relatively durable patterned inter-actions and relationships, differentiated yet organized, embedded in an array of groups, organizations, communities, and institutions, and intersected by crosscutting boundaries of class, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, and other variables. In addition, persons are seen as living their lives in relatively small and specialized networks of social relationships, through roles that support their participation in such networks" (Stryker, S., & Burke, P. 2000). Stryker's explanation of the specialized networks of social relationships supports my approach to this project because it emphasized the importance of analyzing an immigrant mother's performance among different social networks.

Overall, social identity theory allows me to focus on the subject's inner and outer

relationships with her communities, and with herself. Practically speaking, there are specific aspects to be aware of when applying this theory: "(1) Is identity viewed primarily as a personal, relational, or collective phenomenon? (2) Is identity viewed as relatively stable, or as fluid and constantly changing? (3) Is identity viewed as discovered, personally constructed, or socially constructed? (4) Should identity be researched using quantitative or qualitative methods? (Schwartz, S. J., Luyckx, K., & Vignoles, V. L. (Eds.). 2011)." I have demonstrated that I will use both qualitative and quantitative methods for the project, and the theory applies to both methods.

VII. Literature Review

Clearly, the major concepts in my research question are immigrant mothers, motherhood, and the social identity of immigrant women. Before I step into the theory that I am using, I shall do some literature reviews about these concepts to enhance my RQ and my own interpretations.

First and foremost, it is crucial for photographers to realize the significance of documenting stories about immigrant families and individuals in those family units. From the family progressions and culture integration point of view, scholars pointed out that "transnational lifestyles challenges that demand new analytic frames for understanding family relationships and devising interventions. Work with immigrants requires better integration of cultural and sociopolitical approaches with foundational aspects of the family field (Falicov, C. J. 2007)." With considerations of the difficulties of working with this special family unit, indeed, the process of photographing an immigrant is far beyond showing what she does and who she likes. Falicov also proclaimed that "families who maintain emotional and economic connections

across continents challenge family theorists to grapple with the types of family ties that develop when family members live in different ecologies and languages, peer relationships, work settings, or political systems" (Falicov, C. J. 2007). As a photographer, I am responsible to fairly and objectively cover the family relations, work settings, family culture, and beliefs. These provide challenges for me because female subjects are usually more aware of their appearances in photo stories.

According to the research that I did on "photographing female subjects", I realized that women usually have expectations about how they will be portrayed and if their identical features in the photos were natural and non-intentional. For example, a photo-elicitation project done by the Arizona State University about Hispanic women's physical activity showed that "the traditional role as caregiver and center of the family motivated and provided opportunities for physical activity. Participants shared photographs of family members who motivated them to stay active; younger women particularly emphasized the importance of their children. Overall, women valued their roles as mother and caregiver, and felt that they needed to stay healthy and able to care for their children and husbands, and participate actively in their lives" (Fleury, J., Keller, C., & Perez, A. 2009).

Photographers have to care not only about how to depict the subject but also how to communicate with the subject. It is important for subjects to understand what the purposes are of participating in such and such stories, and they have felt comfortable in front of the camera. "This is a valuable reminder that in conceptualizing photography and migrant cultural minority voices, we also need to take into account the broader process of multicultural dialogue" (Cabañes, J. V. A. 2017).

VIII. Publications

I will have a printed photobook and a professional analysis after I finish this project. My goal is to publish the photo book and the analysis together. If necessary, I can also publish them individually.

Here are some of the potential publications that would be interested in my project:

- **Photobook Publishers Network (PPN):** brings together independent publishers of photo books with the goal of supporting documentary photographers and publishers of humanitarian photography.

- **The Photographic Journal (TPJ)**: TPJ was established to serve as a platform where photographers of all levels could explore the medium they love, to publish boundary-pushing images that would make people feel more connected on a human level, and to help the creative community better serve each other as mutual sources of inspiration.

- **Inquiries Journal:** INQUIRIES Journal, formerly Student Pulse, is an open-access academic journal that highlights the work of students at the undergraduate level and above. The journal publishes work across a range of academic disciplines with a particular focus on the social sciences, arts, and humanities.

- **Journal of Student Research:** Journal of Student Research is devoted to the Rapid Dissemination of current student research. The journal uses an automated process from manuscript submission to publication. Manuscript submission, peer review, and publication are all handled online, and the journal automates all clerical steps during peer review. JSR accepts submissions from Undergraduate, Graduate, and Post-graduate level

students.

- **F-STOP MAGAZINE:** is an online photography magazine featuring contemporary photography from established and emerging photographers from around the world

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