

Survey Participants

- Ages 27-54
- Highly educated, 79% have masters degrees
- 64% married or partnered
- 57% are parents
- live throughout Thailand, India, Canada, the U.S., and Switzerland
- work in fields of communication, media, consulting, teaching, finance, writing, technology, and engineering



Third Culture Kids 20 Years Later

Alice Wu, Cornell University

A Study In Several Parts

In 1994, 16 Cornell students participated in video discussions and conferences. In 2001, 22 students from 6 colleges were interviewed, and in 2014, 12 at Cornell. **In 2022, fourteen former students from all three videos shared insights and updates on their lives in an online survey and zoom calls. Here are some of the findings.**

Life Choices

Career: "I have chosen to work internationally and my GN background has made it easy for m to adapt and set up offices in multiple countries."

Spouse/Partner: "I don't think I could live in the same place for 20+ years. I definitely looked for a partner who would be interested in moving across the country and potentially the globe."

Children: "We are a very multicultural family and they are comfortable with their mixed identity. My son happily carries four flags on his backpack."

Challenges and Benefits

Benefits: globalized perspective, adaptability, empathy, flexibility

Challenges: difficulty feeling complete belonging to a group, lack of stable life-long relationships

"I think the biggest advantage is also the biggest disadvantage. You become different and hard to pin down in a single box. You learn the ability to fit in everywhere and nowhere at the same time. You bring an outside perspective that many centrally cultured people lack. The rest of the world becomes real to you instead of a construct of otherness."



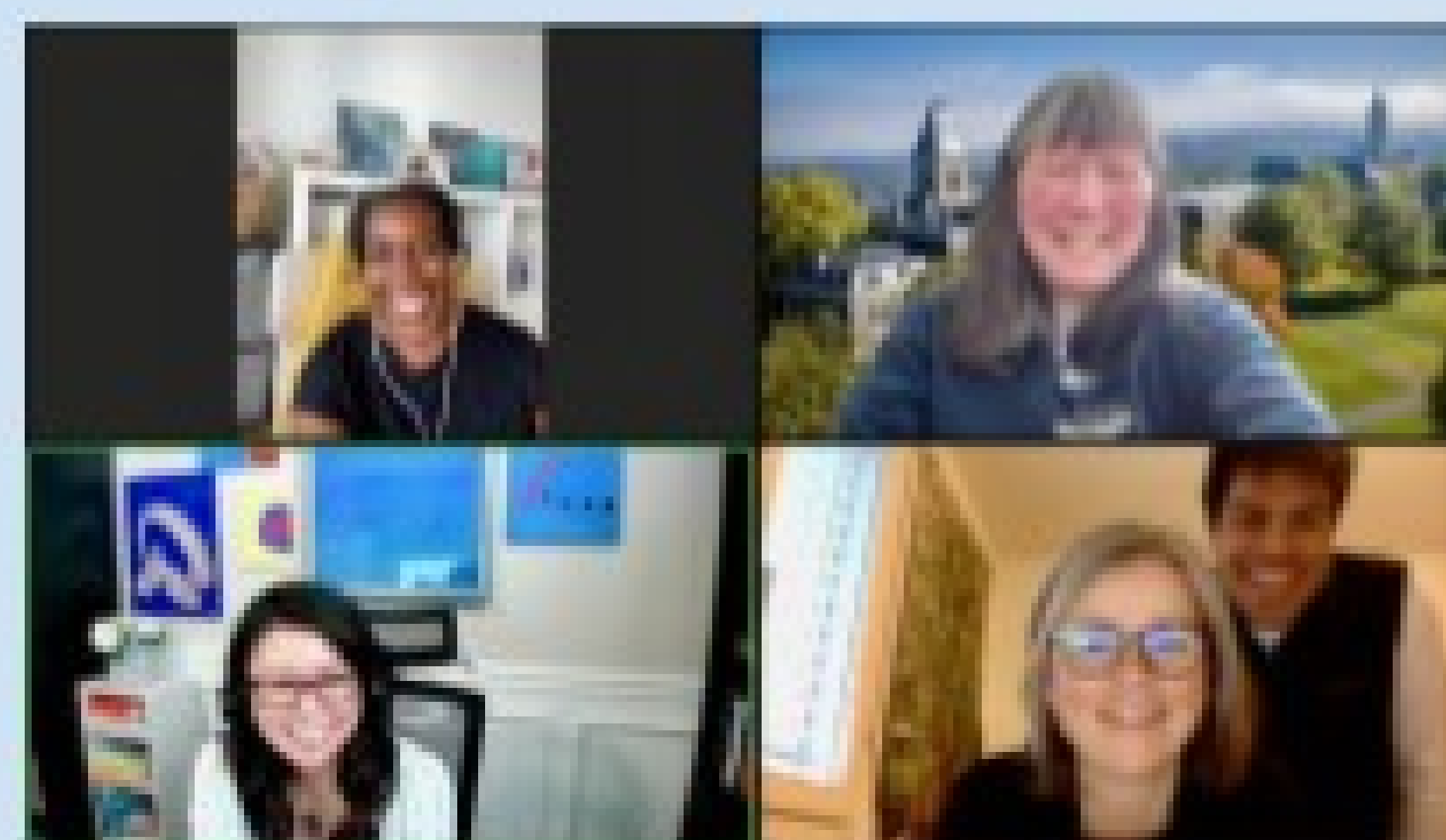
Survey Topics/Clear results

- Does your TCK/GN background affect your life choices? How so?
- Choice of study/career - 93% Yes
- Choice of spouse/partner -100% Yes
- Choice of how to raise children -86% Yes
- Benefits/Challenges -Very similar views

"I'm amazed at the common underlying patterns even though we've been in completely different places and fields."

Where Do We Go From Here? Advice from Participants on Communicating Effectively Across Cultures

- Look for and actively participate in cross-cultural activities and organizations
- Learn and reinforce foreign languages
- Travel outside of your home country
- Work with storytelling to connect across different peoples' experiences
- **Don't presume anything when meeting someone.** Listen first and share your own personal experiences to build a stronger connection with one another



Countries lived in before (left) and after (right) 18 years old: totalling 22

