

Assessment 1

**Concept
Proposal**

01 Problem Statement

For the past decade, new technological advances for community engagement have brought up issues from marginalised demographic groups that are unable to access or benefit from these technologies. **Immigrants in Australia** are an example of one such marginalised group that are negatively impacted by issues leading to potential mental health issues. Immigrants share a common issue of having to lose their identity or sense of belonging, **especially amongst teenagers and young adults**. Culture is the beliefs and value systems of a society that we learn and pass on, whereas identity is the perception of one's own self as unique and different from others. **Cultural identity** is significant because it is the basis of who we are as individuals, it creates a sense of belonging within ourselves.

The loss of identity or sense of belonging is particularly prominent during adolescence, when individuals form their own self identity that is distinct from their parents, background, and social roles. (Goodenow, 1993). During this period, contact with a dominant community can lead to assimilation, rejection, integration, or deculturation (Bhugra, 2005). This makes it harder for individuals to open up about themselves or their issues to others, in fear of feeling unaccepted or judged from a community. When individuals build up their pent-up feelings, they are increasing the chance of bursting out at a sudden time and in a way that is inappropriate or embarrassing (Talking through problems, n.d.).



02 Problem Statement

FOCUS Adolescent and young adult immigrants who share a common problem of having to question their identity (losing their identity).

GOAL To help young immigrants embrace and protect their own cultural identity, whether it be their birth, or chosen, culture.

HOW By helping them understand and feel more comfortable with themselves, allowing them to form communities and connections.

Thus, our group will propose a meaningful digital solution with the goal of

empowering adolescent and young adult immigrants by helping them embrace themselves and their personal cultural identity.

We would do this by **connecting them together**, thereby **allowing them to create a sense of community using culture as the foundation**. Secondary research on the topic of immigrants' sense of identity in a new country followed by interviews to the target market will be conducted for background research. Storyboards and sketches will be done to test our concepts. The final concept will be presented after a thorough selection process of each initial concept.

03 Background Research

Problem Area

Immigration or the process of coming to live in a foreign country has caused mental health problems to numerous individuals. Some of the most common mental health problems that immigrants face include local society's attitudes towards them, stresses of unemployment, financial hardships, inequality in laws and policies, poor housing and a general lack of opportunities for advancement. It is important to know that there are three major transitions in migration (Bhugra, 2005):

- 1. Changes in personal ties and social networks**
- 2. Shift from one socio-economic system to another**
- 3. Shift from one culture to another**

For this project, we will bring our focus to the changes in cultural identity, which is part of the third major transition. Components that make up cultural identity include religion, rites of passage, language, dietary habits and leisure activities (Bhugra, 2005). Cultural identity can change as an individual goes through development, but migration and acculturation can cause major impacts on the person's cultural identity. When in contact with a dominant culture, an individual may go through a process of acculturation – "a process that may be voluntary or forced, requires contact between culturally divergent groups of people and results in the assimilation of cultural values, customs, beliefs and language by a minority group within a majority community (Bhugra, 2005)." During the process of acculturation, an individual's cultural identity may be lost as he or she moves within the host society. Apart from mental health issues, this cultural domination may lead to deculturation, which is a process in which the minority group experiences a cultural loss or destruction (Bhugra & Ayonrinde, 2004). This loss of culture can further lead to ethnocide, where the minority group is denied the right to enjoy, develop and transmit its own culture and its own language, whether collectively or individually. In extreme cases, the immigrant, or the minority group can withdraw from the majority group and may lead to apartheid or segregation (Bhugra & Becker, 2005).

04 Background Research

Target Market Research

Our target market for this project is teenagers and young adult immigrants. At this age – typically ages 16 through 24 – individuals often face identity crises and dilemmas with the self. This inevitably influences the individual’s identity development process by forming an identity that is in some ways distinct from that of parents, background, and ascribed roles.

The struggles of living in a foreign country are more than just language barriers. Everyday phenomena such as interpreting what is meant by others’ gestures and actions, deciding whom to trust, making choices, and becoming accustomed to different food, clothing, and rhythms of life may all be difficult. According to Goodenow & Espin (1993), “the identity formation process involves forming new allegiances with peers as a way of gaining independence from parents”.



Furthermore, the choice for non acculturation is unlikely for teenagers compared to those who are able to stay at home, such as unemployed mothers or elderly grandparents. Thus, avoiding acculturation is almost inevitable due to the lifestyle of the young people. To guide individuals in a healthy identity development process for those who come in contact with a dominant culture, it is crucial that they get connected with others who have the same values and cultural experiences so that the individual does not feel forced or required to give up their country of origin’s culture. By having others who are going through the same process, individuals would feel reassured that it is okay to be different from the dominant culture.

05

Background Research

Current Solutions

There are multiple platforms in the market that have made it possible for immigrants to voice their problems. To consider some competitors, a table of existing solutions is made. The table shows multiple platforms and mediums that help immigrants feel empowered and able to connect with their community.

We examined existing social media apps: **Facebook**, **Reddit**, and **Twitter**, as well as the **VR Family Reunions Project**, and broke each platform down to their individual strengths, weaknesses, and possible opportunities it presents to us. Most of these services allowed for people to connect with each other, but in the case of immigrants, they were all too broad and had too large a scope. They aren't tailored to a specific audience, but try to capture as large a user base as possible. Furthermore, although the **VR Family Reunions Project** does have good intentions, it ultimately is not largely accessible due virtual reality not being a widely available technology. Further analysis of these competitors can be found in the appendix.

Looking at these, it can be concluded that there isn't any specific platform or solution that can connect these immigrants with a shared problem. Reddit is the closest to However, we can learn from these existing projects and apps that enable individuals to share their thoughts and connect with others to build a more tailored platform that allows immigrants to feel safe and comfortable with their current living situation while also being kept reminded of their home country. We can capitalise on the deficiencies of each platform, thereby leading to a design that satisfies all user and market needs.

05 Background Research

Market Analysis

Family Reunions Project (VR) – Helping Latinos reconnect with their roots. Immigrants apply to become part of its project via their website. The participants can watch a 360-degree video footage of their hometown and their family and loved ones using a VR headset.

	Analysis
Strength	Help “humanise” the polarising issue of immigration in the U.S. while bringing joy to the lives of immigrants themselves
Weakness	The participants can’t interact with their family members live, the platform doesn’t connect immigrants with each other or encourage them to speak about their problems. Not accessible technology.
Opportunities	Create a virtual space where people can meet and interact with family members, e.g. VRChat. Creates shared space for them to exist and interact despite physical distance.

Table 1: Family Reunions Project Analysis

Reddit – Reddit is a network of communities where people can dive into their interests, hobbies and passions. There’s a community for whatever you’re interested in or whatever issues you are facing, including immigrants.

	Analysis
Strength	Help immigrants to voice their issues and find others of similar upbringing and connect with them.
Weakness	The platform is not specific enough or not tailored to a particular audience, can be too distracting for immigrants and push them away from their initial motive, which is connecting with people with the same issue.
Opportunities	Create a platform that allows for the discussion of particular topics or issues that specific cultural groups face, as well as just general forum space for questions and discussions.

Table 2: Reddit Analysis

06 Background Research

Twitter - Twitter is a microblogging community site that allows users to connect with each other using “tweets”. Users can post, like, repost, and follow each other. Furthermore, people create communities by following people that belong to a particular subset group. Users can send messages to each other and connect on a person-to-person level.

	Analysis
Strength	Grants immigrants a voice to share their experiences. Can follow other people within their community and allows them to forge connections through private messaging.
Weakness	Too broad in scope. It’s hard to find users around very specific groups. Although larger groups are easier to find, those smaller, more intimate communities are harder to reach. Furthermore, there is no way to search by group, only by user.
Opportunities	Create an easy way to search for people and groups that would be impossible to find. Possibly search by specific location or search by specific place of origin?

Table 3: Twitter Analysis

Facebook - A social media platform that allows users to create personalised profiles, and share information. Furthermore, users can create and share groups based around particular interests.

	Analysis
Strength	Immigrants can form groups and vet members to create a safe space for users. Users can tag each other in content appropriate for them, creating a fun environment for everyone.
Weakness	A distinct lack of moderation by Facebook as a whole. A lot of misinformation can be spread freely, leading to hate and harmful propaganda.
Opportunities	Create a more curated platform that is aimed purely for groups, at connecting people of similar backgrounds and educating them.

Table 4: Facebook Analysis

07 Background Research

Market Analysis Conclusion

Inspirational References

The difficulties each immigrant confronts currently are not new, except their stories. To better understand the situation, the voices of immigrants present honest insights into the triumphs and tribulations at all phases of their journey in transitioning to a new life in a foreign country. Since statistics cannot share the experience of immigration, it's critical to instead broaden the research into investing in people's stories to encapsulate one's psychological and emotional sequence. The stories collected indicate a recurring pattern that challenges one's preconceived notions of lack in cultural identity and sense of belonging which inevitably follows levels of stress or pressure may shape an unhealthy or negative mental state.

It's becoming increasingly strenuous to ignore the most repeated emotional issue experienced by an immigrant is feeling like an outsider. The individual's thoughts are still in an anxious frame of mind by forcing them to fit in rather than portraying an authentic self. The true story of twins Brizzia and Maria Munoz is an example of undocumented immigrants that originated from Mexico, at the age of 5 years old, were told to memorise fake names growing up in the United States (Shaughnessy, 2015). The immense struggles the twins encountered was the unfamiliarity of being surrounded by culture shock, language barriers and opposed social values. The twins had the constant reminder to model an identity towards social expectations as Maria stated, **"It's a burden that you have to cover up who you really are"**, exemplifying her exhausted sentiment enforcement to hide a meaningful cultural engagement.

08 Background Research

Identity disclosure is further enhanced by the vulnerability of microaggressions in social contexts as it reports conflicts of psychological adjustment of stress, anxiety and disengagement (Huynh, Devos & Smalarz, 2011). Motivated by this recognition, individuals consciously classify others into social groups. However, not all are positive aspects as the twins elucidate, “sadness when people made cruel jokes about immigrants...cross country runner said they should be good at jumping walls and running”, illustrating regular pejorative remarks and insinuating harmful stereotypes the women faced.

However, the twins gained the sense of a community in self-acceptance and fulfilment of empowerment, being welcomed to Notre Dame University. The women were open about being immigrants to the faculty members and were embraced, initiating the realisation, **“we’re not illegal aliens...we’re humans”** allowing comfortability to play a pivotal role in empowering self-discoveries with the emotional relief of withdrawing identity secrecy. Ultimately, the findings address the issues of cultural identity, lack of belonging, along with **the inspiration to overcome this** by **creating an inclusive and empowering social environment** which can reveal significant digital opportunities.



09 Background Research

Background Research Summary

Cultural identity is an important part of an individual's personal and social development in a foreign country, and it needs to be protected to prevent issues, which in extreme cases, can lead to ethnocide, segregation and apartheid from the host society (Bhugra, 2005). It is something that our society should not look away from, and instead help **empower these individuals to feel accepted and comfortable with their living situations**. The target market for this project is teenagers and young adult immigrants, who are most prone to feeling alienated or alone in a foreign country. These groups are forced quickly to acculturation, causing one to drop or lose their culture of origin and take on the dominant culture. To combat this issue, **having trustful companions who share the same experiences is crucial in embracing their cultural identity and having a sense of belonging**.

Current digital solutions mainly include social media apps such as Facebook that allows users to create groups, Reddit, a discussion forum that has a variety of topics, and Twitter, a microblogging community that allows users to communicate with each other using "tweets". **The problem** with these solutions is that they are not tailored to a particular audience, or are too broad to scope. It can also be too distracting for immigrants and push them away from their initial motive—connecting people who are going through the same issues. From these prominent social media apps, we found **opportunities** in creating a more curated platform that is aimed purely for immigrants, effortlessly connects people of similar backgrounds and allows them to have discussions of particular topics or issues. Apart from these social media apps, the Family Reunions Project (VR) is a solution that involves VR technology to help immigrants feel at home or simulate the experience of being at home, but it lacks the social aspect. From this, we found the opportunity to create a virtual space where people can meet and interact with family members despite physical distance. **Overall**, there has yet to be a curated solution that cultivates this tailored social experience for young immigrants whilst being able to empower them. This will be the key gap that we will be exploring further in our concept development.

10 Research Methods

Interviews

To give a good grounding to our concepts or solutions, several interviews to our target market were conducted that involved five young adult immigrants who currently live in Australia, each with different background and cultural belief (appendix page 1-16). Interviews were done to “discern background information about [our] problem area”, leading us to “deep insight[s] into the experiences of users and develop empathy with the people we are designing for (Tomitsch et al, 2018, p78).” By directly hearing their stories, we could better understand the needs and goals of our potential users. Additionally, having a one-on-one interview allowed honest testimonies from the participants. From the interviews, we found several similar findings amongst the participants, which helped us to extract insights from our analysis (shown in Table 5).



Key Findings and Insights

Findings	Insights
Almost all of the participants find it “natural” or “easy” meeting people from the same culture especially when they both speak the same language.	Meeting the same person from the same culture as them gives them a feeling of comfort. What people are looking for is a sense of comfort and a feeling of home.
Most of the participants find it easier to relate to people of their own culture due to the shared understanding they have and shared cultural values and experiences	Finding commonalities opens a way to link people together. It becomes a tool/ medium that can bring them closer to a deeper level by sharing a commonality.
There’s a common trend between the participants about feeling as though they are part of a “third culture” , meaning people of mixed heritage create their own culture in themselves. They felt like they didn’t belong in the host culture nor their own culture.	Participants’ concerns were more drawn to the fact that they couldn’t fit into either one of the cultures (their previous culture or their new culture) rather than acknowledging the emergence of this new “third culture” and learning to embrace this new culture

<p>Interviewees had to be independent from their country of origin's culture. Then, they found a new community that matches them and one that they could fit in.</p>	<p>Interviewees had to understand and find their own individual identity before fitting into a new community. By understanding who they are as an individual person, they get to know what they like, what they don't like, who they can get along with, etc.</p>
<p>Most of the participants find it hard to leave their families as they felt alone and isolated at first. Thus, meeting or creating a strong support network of like-minded people helped them settle in and not feel isolated.</p>	<p>Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs states the five human needs, and that the basic needs at the bottom of the pyramid have to be met before the needs that are higher up the pyramid can be met. Love, which includes affection and belongingness, sits in the middle of the pyramid (Kenrick, 2010). When this need is lacking, it may affect an individual's need for esteem and self-actualisation, as they would put their focus more on fulfilling this need first.</p>
<p>Although family ties have been marked as an important aspect of the interviewees' lives, most of the participants expressed that they could essentially survive without their family.</p>	<p>As long as they have a community of people who can provide the same emotional and mental support, people can live without their families.</p>
<p>One of the participants said that she felt isolated from Australians growing up, and now she feels isolated from those back home; including family. She now wishes there was a way that she could've known it was ok to be different, thereby allowing her to maintain parts of her cultural background</p>	<p>People just want to be accepted for who they are as a person along with their own cultural beliefs and backgrounds. They crave meeting others and feel empowered to say that "it's okay to be different." They also find it helpful being supported by like-minded people so as to not feel alienated.</p>

Table 5: Interview Findings & Insights, Analysis can be found in appendix page 20-25

12 User Persona

Personas

User personas were created by synthesising the data from the interview to communicate user needs within the design team (Figure 1 and 2). The persona uses storytelling to “thread people’s motivation, attitudes and behaviors into a unified character” (Tomitsch et al, 2018, p100).

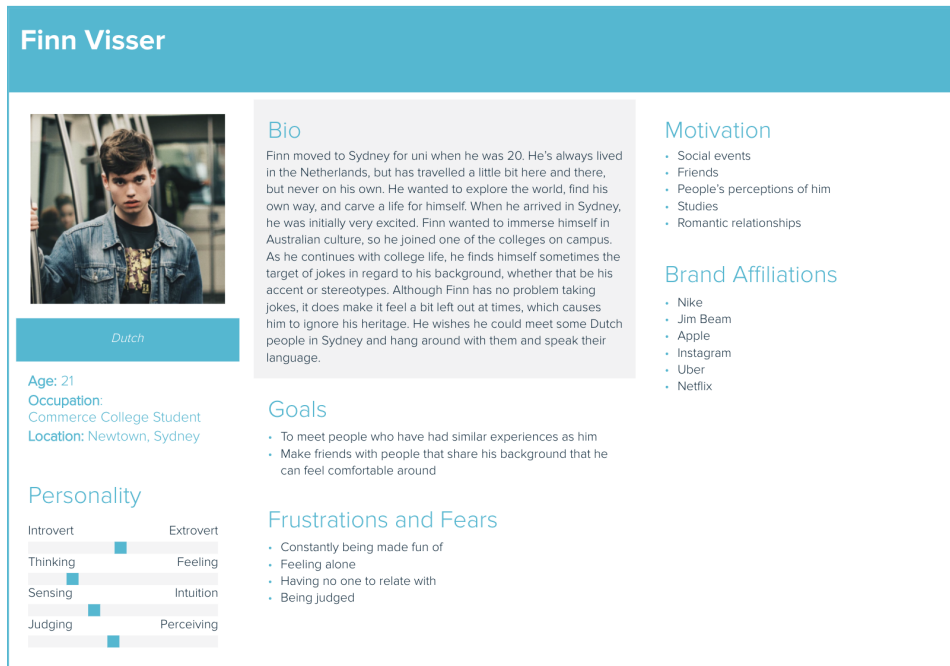


Figure 1: User persona 1

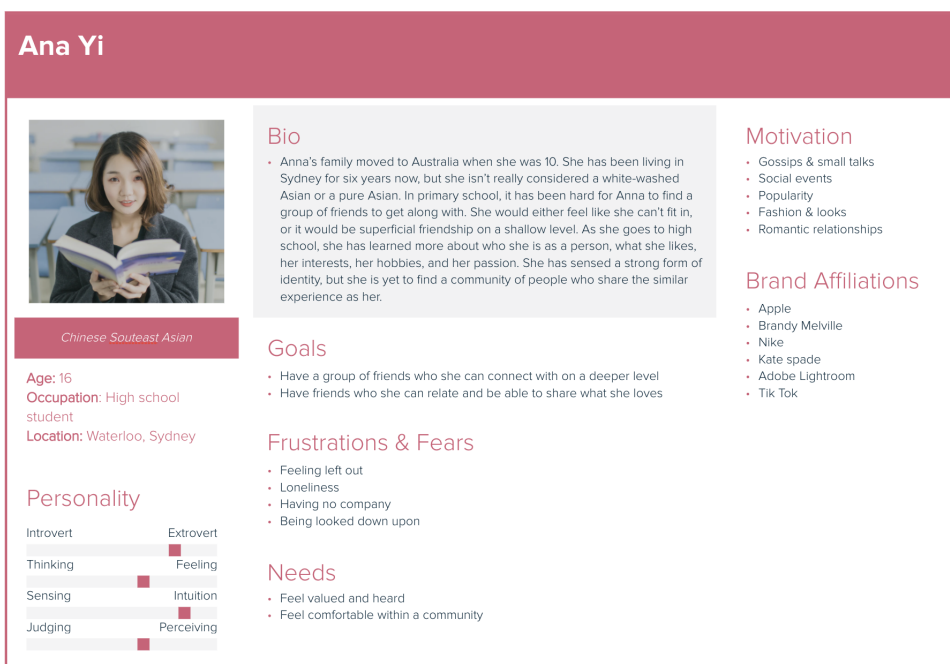


Figure 2: User persona 2

13 Concept Generations

Concept 1: Cultura

The first solution is Cultura, an app that enables people from specific cultures to **connect and share their experiences** with one another.

The word Cultura means "to grow" as we believe that it can help the audience to grow with the app both culturally and personally as they share experiences with one another.

The app creates a sense of belonging and a sense of comfort. By connecting and sharing with each other culturally, they feel happy, which leads to a positive self image. Compared to its competitors such as Facebook and Reddit, the app offers a more curated experience towards immigrant ventures in foreign countries.

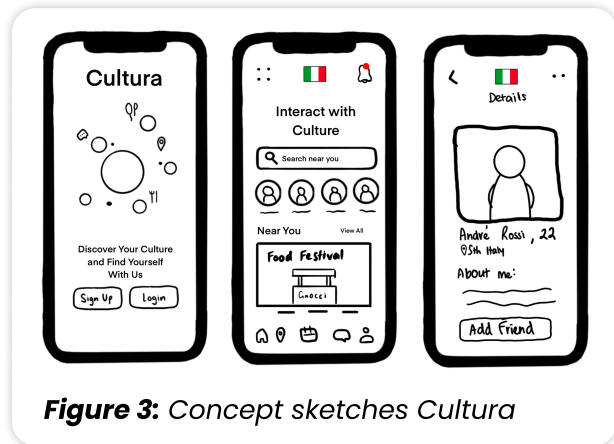


Figure 3: Concept sketches Cultura

Concept Test

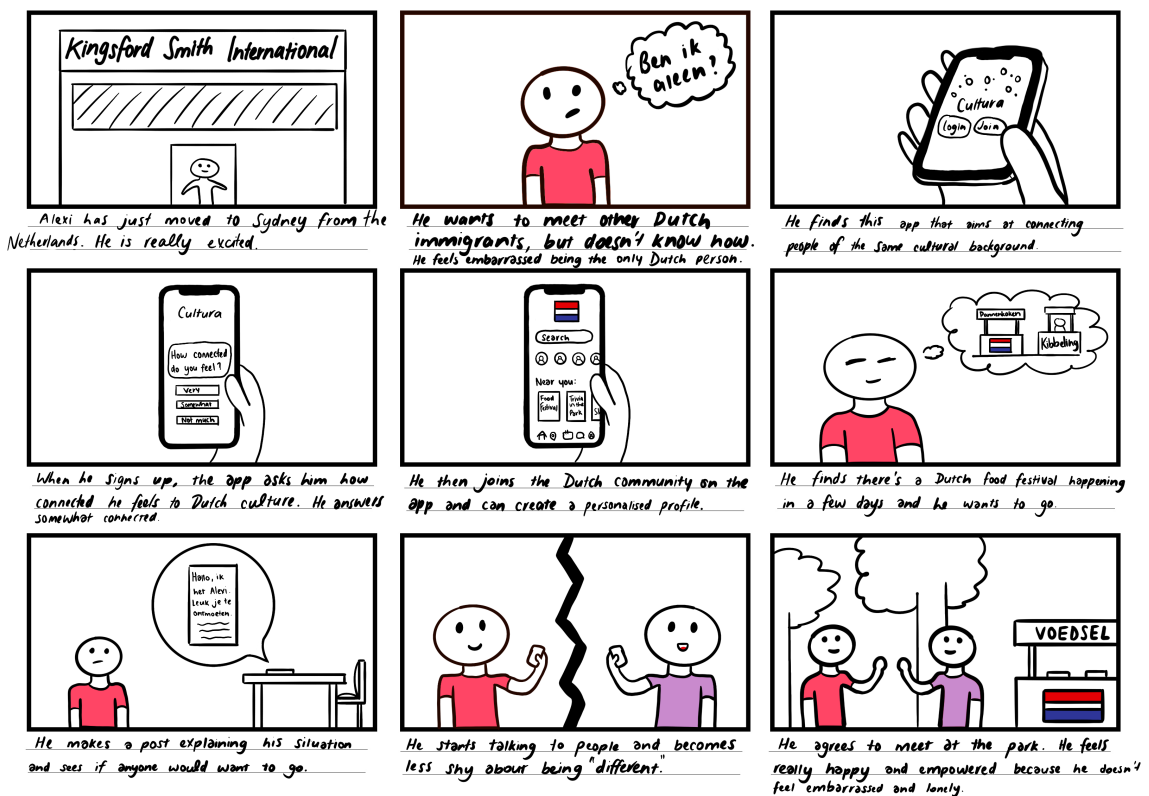


Figure 4: Storyboard Cultura

14 Concept Generations

Concept 2: Indue

We define empowerment as an initiative to act that comes from within, not outside. One of the six key messages to guide action within the European Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases is that people should be **empowered to promote their own health** ("User empowerment in mental health – a statement by the WHO Regional Office for Europe", 2021). This gave us the idea that

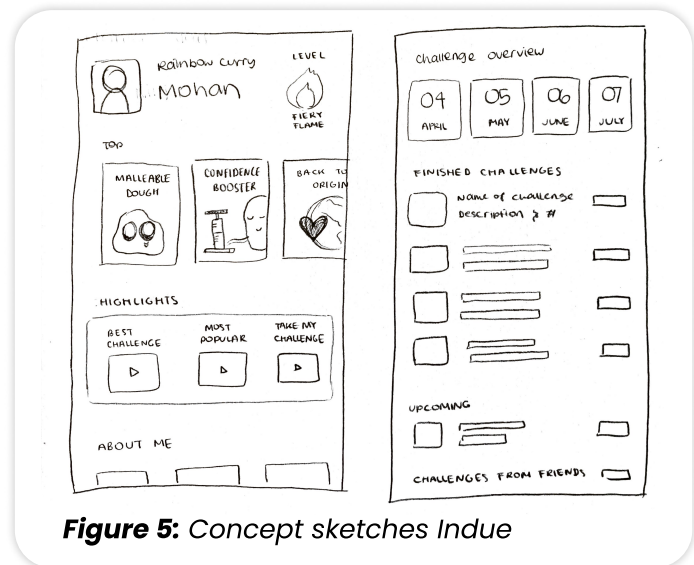


Figure 5: Concept sketches Indue

people shouldn't be told what to do, instead we should help them to be active and promote themselves. With this in mind, we propose Indue, a self-care platform where you get daily creative challenges to empower yourself (e.g. share a sweet moment when someone local did a good act of service that made your day, what is one thing that you're most proud of your culture?). The focus is that in this community, everyone is an individual who is unique on their own.

Concept Test

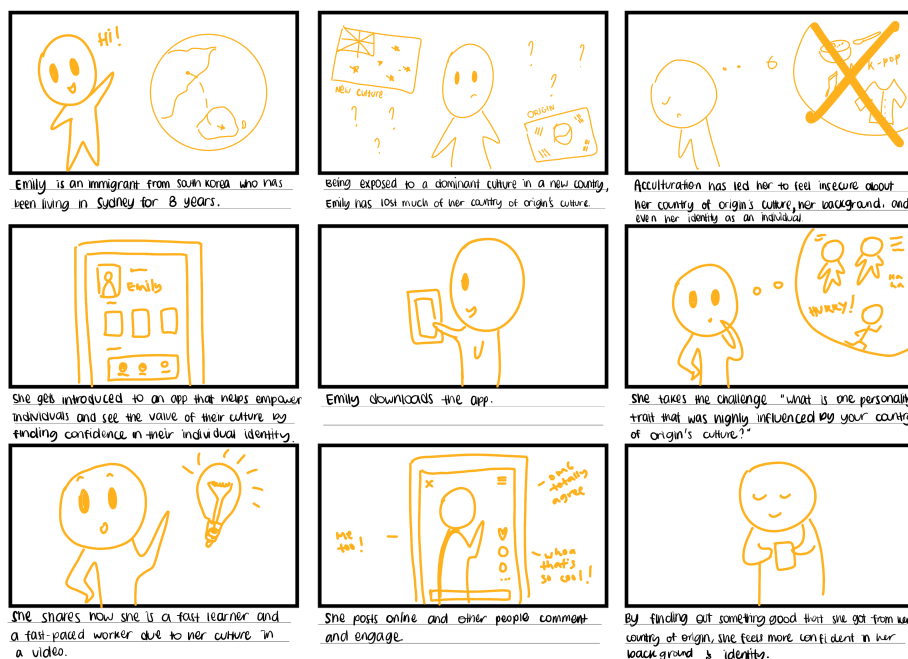


Figure 6: Storyboard Indue

15 Concept Generations

Concept 3: Bond Pond

Bond Pond is an app that uses AI to **automatically match** individuals with the same culture and interests. The concept enables users to have a **social empowerment approach** whilst getting to know someone with similar immigrant encounters, eventually building a long lasting and supportive friendship when learning about their own culture together.

The app allows users to choose from a series of their own cultural activities to better **enhance their knowledge** which both users will meet up and complete together. Users are then guided through an activity chosen with the help of Bond Pond app by text, photos, videos and can communicate to ask a question using voice control. This enables users to gain **self confidence** in themselves and embrace developing their **true cultural identity** as a unity.

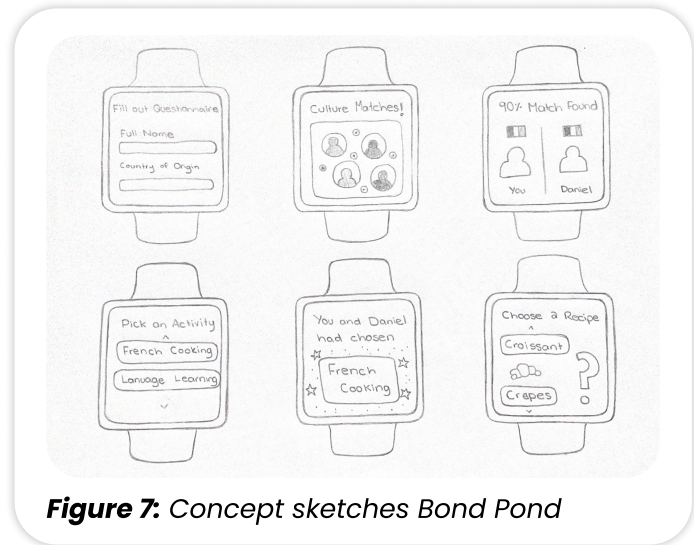


Figure 7: Concept sketches Bond Pond

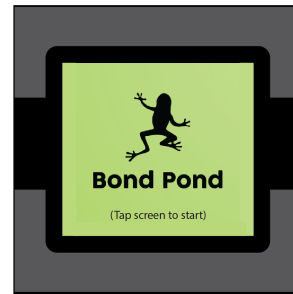
Concept Test



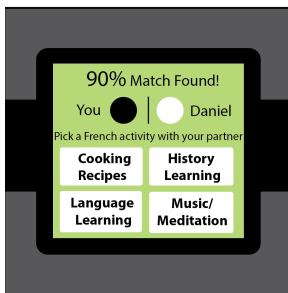
Jessica is feeling lonely and lost about not knowing anything about her French culture since moving to Australia.



Jessica decides to help her lack of cultural confidence and knowledge by using the smartwatch app, 'Bond Pond'.



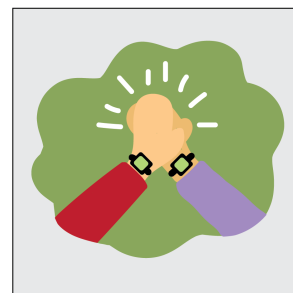
The app allows for community engagement by scrolling through profiles with the same culture and interest/s to match.



Jessica goes on the app and finds a match. Both users will be able to choose from a series of activities that are guided by the app from their culture such as history learning or cooking recipes.



Both users then decide to meet up and chose a French cooking recipe found on the app. Users are completing the apps series of steps using photos and can communicate with the apps voice control.



Both Jessica and Dan learned more about their culture as well as themselves. The users felt a sense of comfort with each other and had earned points on their profile so they can see self progression.

Figure 8: Storyboard Bond Pond

16 User Testing

User Feedback

To gather some initial feedback on these concepts and to better understand what possible issues might arise with these concepts, these concepts were shown to friends and peers who are mostly immigrants using interviews (appendix page 17-19). Interviews are a good way to “gauge users’ opinions about concepts, or collect detailed feedback about new concept” (Tomitsch et al, 2018, p78). They were given a detailed description of the concept and some sketches and storyboard to illustrate how the concept would work. Then, they were asked what they think of the app in terms of its **usefulness, innovation, potential issues, and how it can be improved.**

Concepts	Pros	Cons	Opportunities
Cultra	Participants find the app useful for immigrants in terms of connecting with others, especially remotely. The app is also thought to be innovative by some participants. Furthermore, getting to know experiences from people with the same culture can allow the users to embrace new perspectives.	The app can potentially lead to immigrants having less interactions with locals. Also, language barrier can become a problem as it can potentially sweep away a portion of the demographic (e.g. the app has no option for Hindu, Spanish, or Indonesian).	Foods and events would be a good way to start a thread about experiences as people love going out as a way to connect with each other. More topics can be added according to what is needed by the audience.
Indue	Participants found that the intention or the goal of the app was good.	The participants don't find this concept interesting or there's no novelty compared to its competitors such as Tiktok. There isn't really a strong connection between the fun challenges and the diversity of cultures or the social aspect. The idea of having to share videos and photos may lead to a toxic "clout" culture.	Finding that uniqueness that will differentiate the app amongst its competitors.

Bond Pond	The app is useful in terms of connecting people with ease.	Most of the participants find the app to be similar to Bumble and other existing platforms that can offer much more than a friendship between cultures. Furthermore if the goal of the app is to make platonic relationships, it's going to be difficult as people will always find a way to make it non-platonic.	Instead of matching in pairs, the app can allow for bigger group settings such as 3 or 4 people to meet up.
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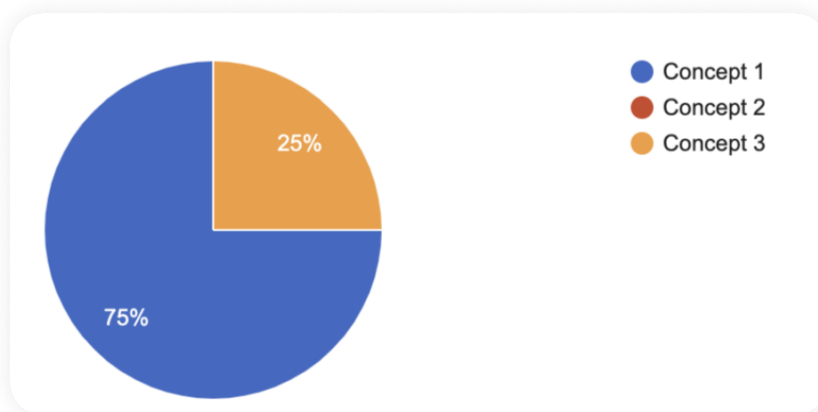


Figure 9: Poll for the best concept with concept 1: Cultura, concept 2: Indue, and concept 3: Bond Pond

Amongst the three concepts, Cultura stood out the most. The participants thought the app to be useful and innovative and they also found a lot of opportunities to improve the app. Compared to Indue and Bond Pond, the participants did not compare the app to its competitors, which is a good indicator that the idea is new and innovative. Furthermore, **a poll was conducted** using a questionnaire amongst the participants on which concept they like the most (shown in Figure 9). The questionnaire was used because it is composed of simple questions such as determining which concept is the best (Tomitsch et al, 2018, p102). **As Cultura was voted first amongst the participants and has the most opportunities amongst the other two, it was chosen to be the final concept.**

18 Final Concept

Cultura

Most users indicated that ***Cultura*** in particular would be useful for connecting immigrants, especially remotely. Many found the app to be innovative and unique, especially when compared to other concepts, as not many social media platforms are particularly tailored for immigrants. Furthermore, many stated that they believe learning from other people's experiences within their same cultural group can allow them to see their culture from different perspectives that they can learn from.

Users can interact with the app from their phone, whether it be Apple or Android. It aims to connect immigrants and give them a voice within their community, so they can take agency of their own lives. Most of the app functions are located within the bottom navigation bar. These options include, ***Home, Near You, Calendar, Ideas, Messages,*** and ***Profile.*** Pressing on any of these options will take users to different screens.

Our app will be easy to use and navigate, making accessible for all ages. However, we are **primarily targeting younger immigrants** between adolescence to young adulthood.

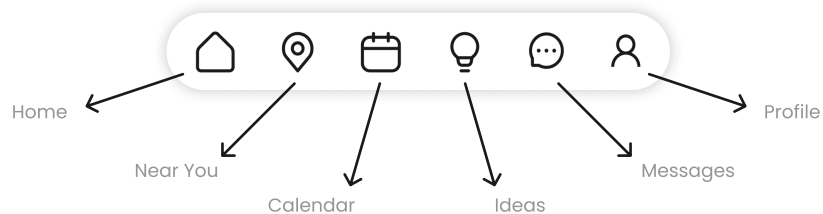
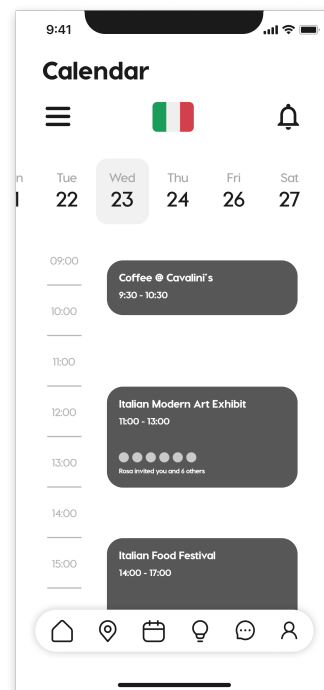
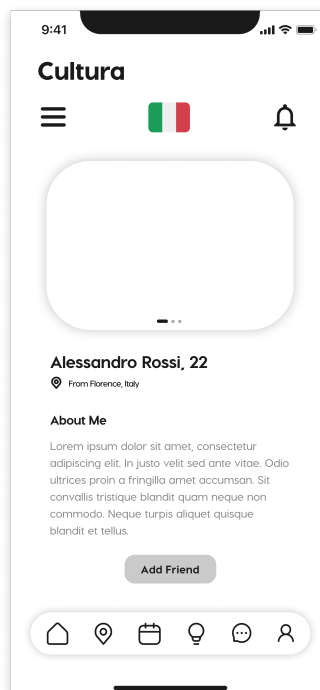
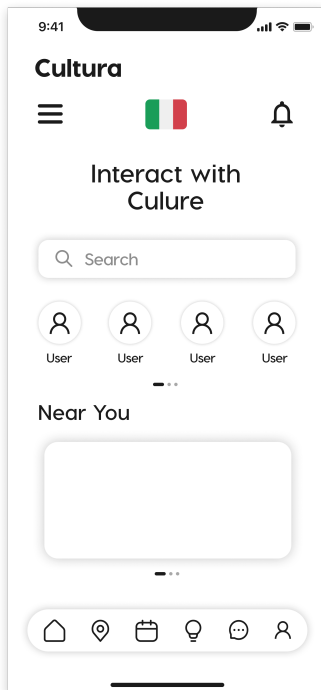
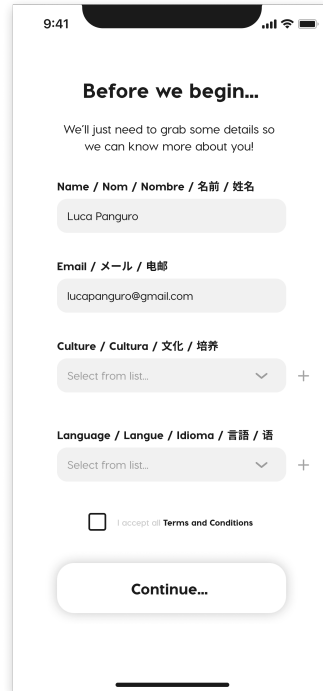
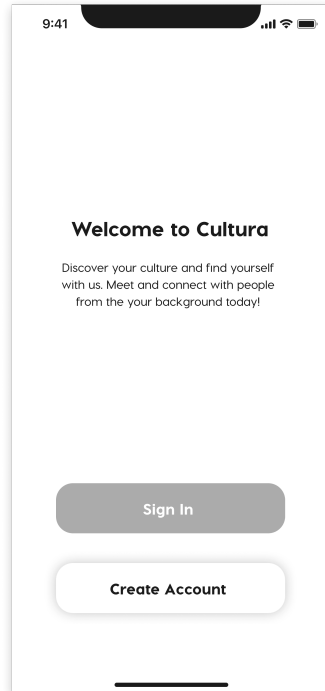
Iteration

The feedback gathered proved to be particularly useful when it came to further iterating on the design, particularly in terms of **accessibility**. Users indicated that language may be an issue, so when signing up, we added a scroll down menu where users can pick and choose the language that they want. Menus on this screen are also displayed in multiple languages. They can even pick multiple languages if they want to go between them. We also added an option to select more than one culture so that multiracial people may feel represented and acknowledged.

Users also indicated that a message board / forum space would be particularly good for sharing their experiences. We have incorporated that into the ***Ideas*** tab in the bottom nav bar. The ***Near You*** page shows users any events, restaurants, or locations of interest pertaining to their culture in a particular radius, as well as user reviews.. ***Calendar*** has a view of all users upcoming events/outings. ***Messages*** and ***Profile*** are self-explanatory, and are no different from most other social media services. Users can also select other user's profiles, read their bio and location of origin, and see any posts they've made. They can then become friends, private message, and connect.

19 Final Concpet

Renders



20 Group Charter

Group Members

Luisa Hadinata	Conducting and compiling background research, conducting market research, conducting interviews, designing personas, writing out concept idea descriptions, user testing
Marissa Maglis	Conducting background research, compiling inspirational references, analysing interview transcripts, generating concept #3, user testing
Thomas White	Conducting background research, compiling market research analysis, analysing interview transcripts, creating a persona, generating concept #1, user testing, creating the final concept
Valencia Yun	Conducting background research, conducting interviews, finding key insights from interview analysis, creating a persona, generating concept #2, user testing

Performance Reflection

Everyone was assigned equal amount work with a set deadline. Every studio class, we would come together and set tasks for everyone to finish until our next group call, which was usually towards the end of the week. During the call, we would check and see where everyone is at and decide what else we should do next. We would delegate tasks again and see how far we go until our next studio class. We did this for all our weeks, and it has helped us be on top of our tasks that we assigned ourselves.

Risk Analysis

Lack of Understanding with the Design Brief

We came to realise that we needed user testing, which usually takes the longest time in the design process. We weren't sure how in-depth the analysis needed to be, or how in-depth we needed to go with our concept ideation, since we would be doing all the way to creating mockups as well. We asked the tutors on Slack to get a clearer understanding of what specific things we had to do for user testing and at what stage of our design process we need to do it.

Time Management

After realising that we needed to conduct user testing and interviews, we weren't sure if we could do all of them in time. We tried to simplify the user testing process by conducting it earlier on in our design process by asking for feedback on our sketches rather than on our final prototype. We split our work interviews by having two people conduct the interviews and two people work on analysing the interview transcripts.

Report Format Misunderstanding/Confusion

Formatting of the report brought confusion to the group. Three of the teammates thought it would be a word document report, while one thought it was supposed to be a visual report. It was not clear that the report should be an in-between of a word document and a visual report. This was cleared up when one teammate pointed out the report formatting style that is listed on Canvas and also by asking our tutor during the weekly studio consultation.

Appendix

Appendix: Interview 1

Name: Stephanie

Age: 19

Gender: Female

Occupation: Undergraduate student

Country of origin: Indonesia

L: Hi Stephanie, can you tell me about yourself? What is your country of origin?

S: Oh, I'm from Indonesia.

L: Do you feel a strong relationship between yourself and your culture?

S: Yes i do

L: Are you proud of your country's culture? What are you most proud of?

S: Yes, I'm most proud of our cuisine. There's just so much good Indonesian food.

L: How long have you been living in your new country?

S: 3 years now.

L: When did you leave your country of origin?

S: In 2019

L: Did you leave your country of origin with any of your blood-related family members or relatives? Who was with you when you left?

S: No, I came alone.

L: Did you feel at home in your country of origin? Do you feel any connection with your origin country?

S: Yes, I was very comfortable in my home country.

L: What was the hardest thing to let go of when you left your country? Had any attachments that you had to say goodbye to?

S: I guess my family and the comfort of having to eat Indonesian food. I also felt very homesick because I came here without my family. Everything was new to me.

L: What were you excited about when you moved to a new country?

S: I was excited to explore the cities because there's so many new things to do and interact with the local people.

L: What were you most worried about when you moved?

S: I was scared that I wouldn't fit in.

L: Do you sometimes feel as though you are culturally confused / have no cultural identity?

S: Yeah, sometimes.

L: Do you find it easy to meet people of the same culture as you?

S: Yes, I think it's very natural. Most of my friends here are Indonesian as well.

Appendix: Interview 1

L: How does it make you feel to meet people of the same culture as you?

S: I feel comfortable and it's easy to open up because we speak the same language.

L: What are the things that made you feel different from the local people? (e.g. living situation, accent, looks, etc)

S: I guess the way we look is just too different and our overall mindset as well. We think differently than them.

L: How does being around people who don't look or speak like you feel?

S: It feels quite uncomfortable because I tend to notice our differences

L: What made you feel at home in your new country?

S: Definitely Indonesian food and the Indonesian community. I feel grateful that I can meet these people.

L: What made you feel NOT at home in your new country?

S: The way local people carry and present themselves are significantly different as compared with the people from my origin country.

L: Are there anything that you miss from your country of origin?

S: I really miss my family and there are some Indonesian foods that I miss because I can't have it here.

L: Do you celebrate holidays or events in the country that you temporarily live in?

S: Yes I do. I celebrate public holidays and such.

L: Who do you lean on when you're going through tough times?

S: My friends

L: Have you ever thought of going back to your country of origin for good?

S: Yes, I once thought of going back to my home country because I was afraid of not getting a job here.

L: How important do you think it is to be living in the same country as your family members?

S: I think it's quite important but to an extent. If you have supportive friends that you can rely on during tough times, I feel like I can get through anything.

Appendix: Interview 2

Name: Ezra

Age: 21

Gender: Male

Occupation: Undergraduate student

Country of origin: Indonesia

L: Hi Ezra, can you tell me about yourself? What is your country of origin?

E: Indonesia

L: Do you feel a strong relationship between yourself and your culture?

E: Not really

L: Why is that?

E: because I have been living in a very global environment. My whole life I've been surrounded with friends from different countries because I went to an international school back in Indonesia.

L: Did you feel at home in your country of origin? Do you feel any connection with your origin country?

E: Wdym can you repeat?

L: Did you feel at home back in Indonesia?

E: Yes, sometimes.

L: Does the culture of your origin country interest you?

E: Not really

L: Do you find it easy to meet people of the same culture as you?

E: Yes, very much. Because I know the language.

L: How does it make you feel to meet people of the same culture as you?

E: Pretty normal. Like, just cool. Okay, alright.

L: How long have you been living in this country for?

E: Uh, you mean how many years?

L: Yes

E: 3 years

L: When did you leave your country of origin?

E: 2018

L: Did you leave your country of origin with any of your blood-related family members or relatives? Who were with you when you left?

E: My mom , but she left after like five days sadly.

Appendix: Interview 2

L: What was the hardest thing to let go of when you left your country? Had any attachments that you had to say goodbye to?

E: Yes, my cats

L: What was it like when you first arrived in another country?

E: It was freezing and it was weird. It was a new place and I was forced to live here for 4 years without my family. It was pretty weird for me.

L: What was it like when you first arrived in another country? What was your first impression?

E: Cool, like you know...it's a western country. White people. I was like wow, white people. Even though there were many white people in my school in Indo, I've never seen so many at a time.

L: Was there anything helpful in getting settled in?

E: Yeah, finding new friends. That's like the first priority. Or you will die mentally and emotionally.

L: How has moving into another country changed you?

E: It opened my perspective in life and made me independent. Controversially it also made me a bit more introverted and appreciate the small things in life such as cleaning, taking care of yourself because my parents are not there.

L: What excited you about moving to a new country?

E: The fact that everything is more accessible. The fact that it's a first world country and also being able to do whatever I want such as going to clubs.

L: What were you most worried about moving to a new country? / What was the most difficult part of living in another country?

E: Making your first few buddies you know. Finding the right friend group which I luckily did. But I wouldn't say it was easy.

L: Have you ever felt culturally isolated?

E: I mean who doesn't.

L: Do you sometimes feel as though you are culturally confused / have no cultural identity?

E: Yes, very much

L: Do you feel as though you "fit-in" in your new country? If not, what made you NOT "fit-in"?

E: Yes, I do fit in. I'm pretty much fit in

L: Do you celebrate holidays or events in the country that you temporarily live in?

E: Yes

E: I don't really talk abt my tough times to people. But if I have to say, my friends.

Appendix: Interview 2

L: Have you ever thought of going back to your country of origin for good?

E: No, hell nah. Only if it's forced then yes. There's just so many things to do here compared to Indo. The government here is actually helpful unlike Indo.

L: How important do you think it is to be living in the same country as your family members?

E: Umm not very important as long as their Line or messaging app is working I'm fine with living in a different country.

Appendix: Interview 3

Name: Chloe Chen

Background Info: Valencia's roommate

Age: 20

Gender: Female

Country of Origin: Taiwan

Occupation: Currently doing an internship, studies commerce

Lived in Taiwan till 15 - Moved to NZ when 15 and lived for 4 years - Moved to Australia when 19 and has been living for 2 years

V: What is your country of origin?

C: Taiwan

V: Do you feel a strong relationship between yourself and your culture?

C: I wouldn't say yes completely bc i was born and raised there for 15 years and moved to NZ which is a completely diff culture so there is a disconnection between me and my taiwanese culture.

V: Did you feel at home in your country of origin? Do you feel any connection with your origin country?

C: Yes. I would still say Taiwan is still my home. The major reason is because my parents are there and where my parents are is my home. So if my parents are somewhere else in the world, I wouldn't say Taiwan is my home.

V: Does the culture of your origin country interest you?

C: Yeah. I do appreciate some aspects of it. I quite like the reserved part of the asian culture and I like how it's less impulsive and reckless compared to westernized... White culture...? I'm not sure if I'm stereotyping it, but I feel like for asian culture, you kind of stay more organized and it's more like you think before you act. But from my perspective... I don't know how should I put this... I feel like sometimes in western culture, it's just more communicative and creative and open-minded, but then that results in a consequence of... A lack of reservedness and like... thinking before you act in a certain way. That's just my opinion.

V: Do you find it easy to meet people of the same culture as you?

C: Yeah. But i can't classify myself as a fully taiwanese cultured girl but neither a white-washed girl so i do appreciate it if i meet someone that's in the middle ground... when you have a little bit of both cultures. That's when I feel the most comfortable.

V: How does it make you feel to meet people of the same culture?

C: I feel like it's easier to communicate and open up because we might have similar experiences and values. They could be more understanding of the decisions I make and I feel more connected and I feel more related to them.

V: How long have you been living in this country (Australia)?

C: Almost 2 years

Appendix: Interview 3

V: How many countries have you lived in and for how long?

C: Taiwan - 15 years, New Zealand - 4 years, Australia - 2 years

V: When did you leave your country of origin?

C: When I was 15. (Moved to NZ when she was 15)

V: Did you leave your country of origin with any of your blood-related family members or relatives? Who was with you when you left?

C: No, I left by myself. But I had my cousins who were in NZ with me. I guess when I was in NZ, I still had my blood-related family members.

V: What was the hardest thing to let go of when you left your country? Had any attachments that you had to say goodbye to?

C: I would definitely say family. My parents because I was still at such a young age and 15 is the age where you still need your parents the most to be your support and even emotionally. Mental support [as well]. I feel like that's quite important. Every time at the airport, it was hard to say goodbye to my parents. The rest was fine. I don't really care about the food or anything. It was more like family relationships.

V: What was it like when you first arrived in another country?

C: NZ

The first 3 months were very new and I was literally so happy and curious about everything that surrounded me. After the first initial period, I started to feel homesick and I kinda just missed everyone. I think I was missing my parents and my family more than the country itself because you're like leaving the shelter that you grew up in and suddenly you don't have that support everyday with you. So yeah, thinking back, I don't think I missed the food or anything in particular in Taiwan because I think I'm quite adaptive to physical things like food and language. I didn't feel like language was the big barrier for me. For sure my English wasn't good, but I just feel like that wasn't the major challenge for me. Because if I move to a new environment, I try to put myself out there and try to adjust myself to the new environment. Like everything was okay. It's just that at such a young age, you still feel attached to your original family.

Australia

Felt even worse bc in NZ, at least i had my cousins and knew she was going to take care of me. I literally knew no one here in Australia. It's a completely new env and I definitely felt overwhelmed. Stressed and anxious. I just didn't know how things would go.

Worried about: making friends, uni, other little things

Overwhelmed about a lot of little things and details

First 2 months I still missed NZ. I feel like I've been going everywhere when I was young, so I just wanted to settle down. So when I moved to a new country, i just got an anxiety attack so I missed my previous country. It's funny how when I first arrived in Australia, the country that I missed was not Taiwan but rather NZ.

Appendix: Interview 3

V: How has moving into another country changed you?

C: In a lot of ways, because i moved at a teenage period, which is when ur developing your own character, it definitely changed the way I think. It changed my mindset, the communication style, like i'm no longer that shy asian girl who will just bear everything and not talk at all. But now the western culture made me more talkative and communicative. More brave to communicate my thoughts. No longer can vibe with people who are so asian and are so monocultured and only have that reserved asian stereotyping culture anymore.

V: Do you know anyone else who arrived in the same country as you?

C: Yeah my cousins.

V: What excited you about moving to a new country? (if they moved at a young age and don't know, then ask what is the most exciting thing about living in a different country than the country of your origin?)

C: NZ -

It was an impulsive decision. Bc i wasn't planning to move to NZ at all. It was more like I stayed there for a while and I kind of liked it, so I decided to stay there.

I enjoyed the short schooling time. The more interesting education... rather than going to asia and just studying everyday. School was the thing that made me think hmm i wanna stay here and finish the rest of my high school. So... Education.

Australia -

I felt like I could have a new life here. I can leave everything else behind. I feel like if i come here and have a better education, i can have a better future. I just had the mindset that if i stay in Auckland, i wouldnt be that successful than if i were to come here to Australia.

V: What were you most worried about moving to a new country? / What was the most difficult part of living in another country?

C: NZ -

Making friends.

That was the main thing i tried to focus on in NZ bc in high school, it's all about making friends and stuff. Yeah, I was struggling making friends in the initial period! I was trying to find my own group. Oh wait, now I remember. I tried to join diff friend groups. I tried to join in this Chinese FOB rich girls group, and then I realized I don't vibe with them. They always speak Chinese and never want to improve their English. The topic they talked about was just not what I found interesting. Then, I moved to this other friend group where it was a mix of white ppl and asians, but i still felt like i couldn't 100% vibe with the white girls, so i eventually settled in with ppl who were similar to me... like half-cultured. My friend group was half international and half local, but we speak English, and I just felt connected to them because they had both asian culture and white culture. They're asian, but they're open-minded. So yeah.

Australia -

Failing uni. Cuz I was just overwhelmed because this is a high ranked uni and I was stressed and thought I would fail. I thought I would fail and would have to go back to Auckland when I first came here.

Appendix: Interview 3

V: Have you ever felt culturally isolated?

C: Not really bc i feel like i lived with ppl who have the similar culture and experience as me.

V: Do you sometimes feel as though you are culturally confused / have no cultural identity?

C: No. i feel like i create my own culture. I feel like this is a third culture that we create. We're not fully asian or white. So I wouldn't feel like I don't belong to anyone . I just belong in the middle ground and I think that's also a culture.

V: Do you feel as though you "fit-in" in your new country? If not, what made you NOT "fit-in"?

C: Yes. After a few months. I do feel like english is such a big thing bc if u don't speak and u don't improve, then you cant blablablabla

V: Who do you celebrate special days with like New Years' Eve?

C: I would celebrate with my close friends since my family members are not here.

V: Who do you lean on when you're going through tough times?

C: Friends from church, my parents

V: Have you ever thought of going back to your country of origin for good?

C: No. never. In fact, that's the last place I want to go.

V: How important do you think it is to be living in the same country as your family members?

C: Wow. Hmmm

Because I'm a full-grown adult, and I am 20, I am less emotionally dependent on my mom and my parents. I now can be on my own, even though that sounds a little bit selfish... but I can still be okay without actually living with them. It's just that the need for emotional support is not as strong as that of a 15 year old me.

So, I don't think it's so important to be honest.

Bc the reason why I wanted to live with them [in the past] is because I needed that support, but now I'm okay just by myself.

V: That is the end of the interview. Is there anything you would like to add?

C: I feel like everyone should appreciate their own culture. Whether it be asian or western, you should just be appreciative of where you came from. Everyone has their own culture because everyone's journey and story is different. You might be born in one place but grow up in a different place. And that adds onto your own culture because everyone has a unique identity. You don't have to belong anywhere. You can just be yourself and that is a culture itself. And definitely it's more comfortable and you feel more connected with people who have similar backgrounds and experiences.

Appendix: Interview 4

Interviewee: Doo Young Yun

Background Info: Valencia's Older Sister

Age: 24

Gender: Female

Country of Origin: Korea

Occupation: Working currently at UNSW Children's Cancer Research, studied Bio Engineering

Lived in Korea till she was 8. Moved to Indonesia when she was 8 and lived 11.5 years there. Moved to Australia when she was 18 and has been living here for 5 years.

V: What is your country of origin?

D: South korea

V: Do you feel a strong relationship between yourself and your culture?

D: Not really. I've lived abroad for too long, so I don't think I'm culturally Korean. In the things that I do, I think I would still classify myself as having a korean culture. But I think I have a mixture of cultures. I can't distinguish one culture from the other, although sometimes I do feel "oh this is definitely my Korean culture."

V: Did you feel at home in your country of origin? Do you feel any connection with your origin country?

D: No. not really. I've lived away from my country of origin for so long and I feel like I'm a foreigner there. I am not culturally the same as them and I don't know a lot of ppl there and the living environment is quite different.

V: Does the culture of your origin country interest you?

D: Not really. I'm not really a fan of the culture of my origin country. I think it's lacking diversity. Of course there are pros in it too, but yeah.

V: Do you find it easy to meet people of the same culture as you?

D: No. I'm not korean. Ahahhahahaha

Sometimes I think it's about the mindset. We all develop diff mindsets, and I don't think I think the way they think.

V: How does it make you feel to meet people of the same culture?

D: Scared. Bc im korean but i am not. Hahahahaha

And I feel like their characters are quite strong. If they don't like something, they usually just verbalize that or show it off from their attitude. Hahah this is so terrible LOL but I feel that. So sometimes I get scared.

They also say so much about being polite and being polite to elders. But I don't think that culture is really there. It's all like... really fake. NOO don't write this down. Don't you think so too? Like it's fake. In Western countries, they kinda care less. So it's respect in general. And it's just basic human rights.

Appendix: Interview 4

D: But in Korea, it's missing basic human rights and culturally you have to respect your elders who are unwilling to do that. It's not respecting elders that you should do, you should respect every human being. And so I feel like it's quite fake.

V: How long have you been living in this country for (i.e. Australia)?

D: Five years.

V: How many countries have you lived in and for how long?

D: Korea – 8 years, Indonesia – 11.5 years, Australia – 5 years

V: When did you leave your country of origin?

D: 2005 (when she was 8 years old) Because my parents moved.

V: Did you leave your country of origin with any of your blood-related family members or relatives?

D: Indonesia – Yes, my family. Mom, dad, and sister. Australia – By myself

V: What was the hardest thing to let go of when you left your country? Had any attachments that you had to say goodbye to?

D: Indonesia, Mom and dad, Australia, Living in your comfort zone. Gotta adapt to a new environment and make new friends.

V: What was it like when you first arrived in another country?

D: I was like "Are they speaking english?? I don't understand their language."

V: Follow-up: Were you fluent in English?

D: I was extremely fluent in English. Their Australian English accent made it hard for me to understand them. Also their vocabulary was different from American English.

V: Was there anything helpful in getting settled in?

D: Church friends, Parents' financial support, Attitude. I think I really wanted to leave Indonesia so I was very willing to go to a new environment and open a new chapter of my life.

V: How has moving into another country changed you?

D: More of an extrovert, Be more flexible, How to be independent, Learn more about myself. Because when ur under ur mom, what she says is what u do. But now u gotta make ur own choices and u find out what u like and dislike
U get more responsibilities on what you choose and consequences as well

V: Do you know anyone else who arrived in the same country as you?

D: No. That made me feel scared.

V: What excited you about moving to a new country? (if they moved at a young age and don't know, then ask what is the most exciting thing about living in a different country than the country of your origin?)

D: New life.

Appendix: Interview 4

V: Follow-up: Did you not like the life that you had?

D: LOL maybe a tiny bit. I guess the difference. I think I wanted to be independent. I was excited to study what I wanted to study and not study everything in general like in high school. And I knew I could make new friends.

V: What were you most worried about moving to a new country?

D: No mum.

V: What was the most difficult part of living in another country?

D: No mum.

V: Have you ever felt culturally isolated?

D: No.

V: Do you sometimes feel as though you are culturally confused / have no cultural identity?

D: Yeah. Especially when someone asks "where is home?" I just can't relate to that question.

Also, there is no specific culture that I feel like I belong to. There is no culture I think I distinguish myself to.

V: Do you feel as though you "fit-in" in your new country?

D: Yes. My extremely wonderful adaptation skills. Church friends.

V: Do you celebrate holidays or events in the country that you live in?

D: Yes. Shuang. She is my church friend.

V: Who do you lean on when you're going through tough times?

D: Jesus. Church friends or siblings.

V: Have you ever thought of going back to your country of origin for good?

D: Yes. Grandma and parents and medicare bank statements and to live as not a foreigner

Because you don't need to worry about visas. It feels like you're not settled. You know you're eventually going to go somewhere. This is like a temporary home.

V: How important do you think it is to be living in the same country as your family members?

D: I guess it is quite important. But you know what, you can make a family where you live. LOL. But half of my family is here.

Appendix: Interview 5

Interviewee: Odelia Tham

Background Info: Valencia's roommate

Age:19

Country of Origin: Malaysian

Occupation: Currently doing internships and stuff, studies law and journalism

Lived in Malaysia till 8 - Moved to Canberra and lived till 17 - Came to Sydney when she was 17 (Been living in Sydney for 2 years) Chinese/Malaysian background

V: What is your country of origin?

O: Malaysia

V: Do you feel a strong relationship between yourself and your culture?

O: No, not at all. I moved to Au at a very young age (8). It was predominantly white the state that I moved to. So I wanted to fit in, so I didn't really appreciate my culture and I felt like an outsider. Because of that, now I feel distant from my culture.

V: Did you feel at home in your country of origin?

O: No. I wouldn't say home. I would say my childhood was there but it's not just a place where I would ever go back. The country itself is not a great place to live, and experiencing the western way of living and i guess the freedom of expression and creativity in the schooling system and i think the western world has a lot of privileges that the asian countries don't. I just don't see myself living myself in there again. I also revoke my past. hahah

V: Does the culture of your origin country interest you?

O: Mmmm.... I wouldn't say it's interesting. I would like to know more about it because it's where i'm from. Yeah... but i think i've just grown more detached from that culture that it's getting a little hard to appreciate the interesting parts. It's just a part of who i am where i don't think i find that much interest.

V: Do you find it easy to meet people of the same culture as you?

O: Yeah. I feel like there are quite a lot of malay chinese people around. I actually met one from my orchestra at uni and it's interesting how i felt easily connected to them. Some sort of long lost sibling kind of vibe.

V: How does it make you feel to meet people of the same culture?

O: It feels familiar. We have some sort of unspoken bond. Where we grew up from the same place I guess.

V: How long have you been living in this country for?

O: Ever since I was 8 or 9. We came in 2011. So ten years.

V: How many countries have you lived in and for how long?

O: Only lived in two countries.

V: When did you leave your country of origin? Did you leave your country of origin with any of your blood-related family members relatives? Who was with you when you left?

Appendix: Interview 5

O: I came with my mom, dad, and brother.

V: What was the hardest thing to let go of when you left your country? Had any attachments that you had to say goodbye to?

O: I guess my friends. My childhood friends. But I didn't have that many attachments. You can't really have that many attachments as a 9-year-old kid so...

V: What was it like when you first arrived in another country?

O: I remember it being really cold haha cuz it was winter. The transition was quite smooth. My relatives and my auntie were in Sydney so we spent a bit of time there. We didn't have a house yet so we stayed at a motel for a little bit. I remember being taught the diff states of australia and i was also watching this AZ tv show called trap and that was my first exposure to weird aussie tv shows. It wasn't until I started school that I realized that I was the only asian person in school.

V: Was there anything helpful in getting settled in?

O: My family. It's just comfort that you're with your family and you're not doing things by yourself. It was nice having my cousins there because I grew up with them. They would keep me company when I didn't know what to do. And then i actually had this korean bff in primary school and i felt really close to her because she was basically the only other asian person in school.

V: How has moving into another country changed you?

O: It completely shaped who I am today. My thinking, attitude, and outlook on life. My career aspirations, personality, basically everything if i didn't move to a western country, i would be a completely diff person today.

V: In what way?

O: I would be very slow to develop. In Australia, I was exposed to a lot of diff things at a young age. Like what my friends were doing like make up, tv shows, yeah... like outfits, how i dress. Just overall, my personality would be diff. I wouldn't be as right brained. Cuz i think the way they do their education [in asia] is very repetitive like memorising things and doing math questions. Here I explored my love for lit, writing, and now I'm studying law with a media degree. I wouldn't have made that move if it wasn't for my [western education]

V: Do you know anyone else who arrived in the same country as you? What excited you about moving to a new country? (if they moved at a young age and don't know, then ask what is the most exciting thing about living in a different country than the country of your origin?)

O: I was just kinda naive and went along with what my parents did. I didn't really have any expectations. I just went with the flow.

V: What were you most worried about moving to a new country? / What was the most difficult part of living in another country?

O: Can't remember being worried. I was just upset that I had to leave my friends.

Appendix: Interview 5

V: Have you ever felt culturally isolated?

O: Yes. initially, at the start. But I did my best to eliminate that by trying not to be asian or trying to fit in.

V: What made you feel culturally isolated?

O: I think all asian kids. Dumplings had chives and I opened and it would smell and everyone was like what is that smell? It smells so bad. Nobody really understands what my culture is like. From that day I was like mom, you have to make sandwiches. It was literally on subtle asian traits

V: Do you sometimes feel as though you are culturally confused / have no cultural identity?

O: Mmm... a little bit. I used to be able to speak Chinese fluently, but moving here and trying to fit in, I completely disregarded that aspect of my life and I can't speak now. Now i'm not entirely Australian cuz i wasn't born here, but i also am not entirely chinese bc i can't even speak.

V: Do you feel as though you "fit-in" in your new country? If not, what made you NOT "fit-in"?

O: I think so. I think i have established myself enough with diff friends. Australia itself doesn't have much of its culture anyway. Multiculturalism is australia. Ppl from diff countries come to australia and Still manage to find their footing here. So yeah...

V: Do you celebrate holidays or events in the country that you live in?

O: Not really. I don't celebrate holidays. Friends and family.

V: Who do you lean on when you're going through tough times?

O: My dad. My friends. The Lord.

V: Have you ever thought of going back to your country of origin for good?

O: Nope.

V: How important do you think it is to be living in the same country with your family members?

O: I don't think it's that important because it really depends on your family circumstances. Like obv your parents have the need to take care of you, then there is a need for you to stay. If they need help, then you should stay and help them. But my parents are well prepared for retirement, so what they just want us to do is leave their nest but I'm sure I will eventually come back and live close to my parents. My dad is an Australian citizen but my mom is not, and in Malaysia you can't have a dual passport, so it's a little bit weird travelling with her cuz we gotta go on diff lines. Kinda feels like I'm being separated from my own mom and feels like we have two diff identities.

I did visit Malaysia in 2016 with my mom. Going back was another culture shock because I was walking to the old places I used to walk with my family. But i was like uh oh why does it smell and look so gross. But being young, that was normal. I never got used to the weather either. But I did enjoy the trip. The food was really good. I love my culture for the food.

Appendix: Interview 5

V: What would've helped?

O: I would've liked a group of friends or close friends to not make me feel so isolated. That it's okay to embrace your culture. But I guess that's how kids are when they're young. But it would've been nice to retain some of my background like the ability to speak chinese. And I guess be closer to my cousins. Because of the loss of that ability, I can't speak to my grandparents or my auntie. Like someone who would have told me that it's ok to be diff.

Moving from Canberra to Sydney helped me re-establish some of my cultural heritage bc im more surrounded by Asians like my taste buds have changed. I eat more asian food and cook more asian food. It's also nice in uni when u see friends who kinda have been in the same found. But I still feel distinguished from them because they were in Sydney and they were able to have asian friends and still retain that identity of theirs.

Appendix: Concept 1 – Interviews

Concept 1: Feedback on how you think of the idea (does it sound useful/helpful? what is good about the idea? what is bad about the idea? is the idea innovative/new? would you use it if this idea were to be implemented to life? how can we improve this idea?)

Response 1

Very good for newly arrived immigrants since they'd want to feel at home naturally but it could lead to less social interaction with the locals which consequently poses problems of its own (lack of integration, less diversity in groups etc). Execution is extremely important as a mistake could potentially sweep away a chunk of the demographic (e.g your app has languages for English, Chinese, and Spanish but no option for Hindu, Indonesian, Filipino).

Response 2

Yes, it sounds useful for people who are interested and cooking and sharing their ideas and recipes with others. The bad thing is, will people actually go on the application and interact with other people rather than just searching the recipe up on google? Yes the idea is innovative. I would give it a try yes. Maybe consider adding something like a reel function since more people are enjoying short videos nowadays.

Response 3

I think it's a great idea! I feel like people are always looking for authentic places that sell the foods, drinks and even entertainment of their cultures so I think that feature could be super useful! I think considering the purpose of your app a bit more will help refine it. Right now it seems like it's meant to be kinda like a community space (reddit vibes) but it's got elements of instagram and facebook as well as like google maps/ food reviewing platforms. I personally wouldn't use the app but I know a lot of older and younger generation immigrants would definitely benefit from this online community platform - especially right now! I guess implementing a language feature could be useful so people can use the app in their preferred language.

Response 4

I think it's a cool idea cos I get to make friends with similar culture of mine. In terms of food would be really convenient cos we tend to eat my culture's food most of the time. Events nearby is interesting as it creates an environment where gathering ppl with similar background which is easier for them to open up and make friends.

Appendix: Concept 2 – Interviews

Concept 2: Feedback on how you think of the idea (does it sound useful/helpful? what is good about the idea? what is bad about the idea? is the idea innovative/new? would you use it if this idea were to be implemented to life? how can we improve this idea?)

Response 1

The challenges could cause disinterest after initial downloads as they are pretty generic and nothing spectacular. Tide Pod challenges were nonsensical, and potentially lethal but young people worldwide were doing it because it gives them major clout and attention. If concept 2 can gear its challenges into something new, it can be a success.

Response 2

The concept itself sounds quite fun but what issue does it solve? The good part is people get to enjoy a fun game. The bad part I think is the target audience because I feel that there isn't much connection between some sort of fun challenges and the diversify culture. I could give it a try. To improve this idea, perhaps consider adding some sort of rewarding feature?

Response 3

I'm not sure how this app idea will necessarily help people with diverse cultural backgrounds! I think a lot of it overlaps with tiktok in a sense? I think it might need some more unique features!

Response 4

I don't really get this so they post their completed challenges or videos in the community? I don't know how to connect with people with diversity in this aspect. This feels like a fun social media app not really spotlighting the culture part to me.

Appendix: Concept 3 – Interviews

Concept 3: Feedback on how you think of the idea (does it sound useful/helpful? what is good about the idea? what is bad about the idea? is the idea innovative/new? would you use it if this idea were to be implemented to life? how can we improve this idea?)

Response 1

It's going to be difficult to keep it platonic if that's the main goal of the app. People will always find a way to make it non-platonic. Maybe forgo personal 1-on-1 activities and make it into a group adventure (?). It would definitely make it less Tinder-y.

Response 2

It does sound useful for people who wants to match up with others. The good thing about this idea is people get to know more people around the world. The bad thing about this idea is it sounds very similar to a lot of other dating apps and what if you are matched with a person that you don't want, can you unfriend the person? I would give it a try. Can improve this idea by selecting categories that people can choose.

Response 3

I think this app is really similar to bumble and other existing culture sharing platforms! Bumble has a friends, business and dating streams and I feel like that is already an existing, well used platform for this kind of cultural friendship. I also think that immigrants don't necessarily need to connect with people from their own culture - sometimes they just need someone who has a similar experience as them to share their stories and maybe even their struggles with.

Response 4

This feels like a dating app LOL but in a friendly way which is also cool

Interview Analysis

Key points for interview 1:

- Feels a strong relationship between her and her Indonesian culture
- Proud of her Indonesian cuisine
- Came alone
- Left in 2019, been in Australia for 3 years
- Comfortable in her home country
- The struggle of not being with her family, feeling homesick, not having the comfort of Indonesian food and everything felt new to her
- Excited to explore cities, new things to do and interact with locals.
- Scared she wouldn't fit in
- Sometimes feel culturally confused or no culture identity
- Feels 'natural' meeting people from the same culture
- Most of her friends are Indonesian
- Meeting people with the same culture feels comfortable and easy to open up to especially when they both speak the same language
- Mentions the way she looks is different, her overall mindset and just thinks differently in comparison to the local people.
- Being around people who don't look or speak like her, makes her feel uncomfortable because she notices differences.
- She feels at home in her new country with Indonesian food and community. Grateful for those people.
- Doesn't feel at home in her new country with the way local people carry and present themselves, is different in comparison to people in her origin country.
- Misses her family and some Indonesian food.
- She celebrates public holidays in her temporary country
- She leans on her friends during tough times
- Once thought of going back to her home country because she was afraid of not getting a job in her temporary country.
- She thinks it's quite important but to an extent living in the same country as her family members. She says "if you have supportive friends that you can rely on during tough times, I feel like I can get through anything."

Interview Analysis

Key points for Interview 2:

- Doesn't feel a strong relationship between him and his Indonesian culture
- No relationship with him and his culture "because I have been living in a very global environment. My whole life I've been surrounded with friends from different countries because I went to an international school back in Indonesia."
- Sometimes feels at home/connected in his country of origin
- The culture of his origin country doesn't interest him
- Finds it easy to meet people of the same culture because he knows the language
- Feels, "pretty normal. Like, just cool. Okay, alright" when meeting people of the same culture
- Left in 2018, been in Australia for 3 years
- Came here with his mum, but she left five days after
- Hardest thing to let go from his country of origin was his cats
- Arriving in another country he had felt like the weather was "freezing and it was weird. It was a new place and I was forced to live here for years without my family. It was pretty weird for me."
- First impressions arriving in another country, "I was like wow, white people." "Even Though there were many white people in my school in Indo, I've never seen so many at a time."
- Finding new friends helped him get settled in otherwise he would "die mentally and emotionally."
- Moving into another country has changed him, "...opened my perspective in life and made me independent. Controversially it also made me a bit more introverted and appreciate the small things in life such as cleaning, taking care of yourself because my parents are not there."
- Excited about how, "everything is more accessible" in the new country and having the freedom of choosing what you want to do such as going out to clubs.
- The most difficult part of living in another country was making new friends, hoping to choose the right friend group which wasn't easy.
- Has indeed felt culturally isolated.
- Definitely feels culturally confused or has no cultural identity.
- Feels like he fits in his new country.

Interview Analysis

- He does celebrate holidays or events in the new country
- Never thought about going back to his own country for good unless it's forced. Reason being is there are "so many things to do here" and claims the government is helpful compared to Indonesia.
- Doesn't feel like it's very important to live with your family members in a new country "as their Line or messaging app is working I'm fine"

Interview Analysis

Key points for Interview 3:

- She can feel there is a distinct disconnection between herself and her home culture.
- Despite this, she still feels as though Taiwan is her “home”. This is due to the familial connections that tie her down
- HOME IS WHEREVER FAMILY IS
- Acknowledges the distinct difference between Eastern and Western culture, wherein Western culture is a bit more free and emphasises self-expression and communication, Eastern culture is far more reserved and respectful, albeit less communicative. She takes the best parts of all her cultures and countries she’s lived in and puts that into herself.
- She doesn’t feel Taiwanese, but she doesn’t feel white either. A disconnection between her two cultures, lack of belonging.
- Can easily relate to people of her own culture due to the shared understanding they have and shared cultural values and experiences.
- Again, family was the hardest thing to let go. All interviewees have expressed this.
- Upon leaving, she initially felt happy and excited. However, after that excitement wore off, she began to feel nervous and alone / homesick. She didn’t miss the physical things (food, ect..), but missed the people and the connections.
- A challenging aspect for her was language and communication. She didn’t feel confident enough in her English, and therefore struggled to connect with others. Due to the lack of connections, she felt more alone. The more she began to speak, the more “at home” she felt. She wanted to fit in.
- Similar to other interviewees, she adopted parts of Western culture. She can no longer relate to people who adhere to the Asian stereotype.
- She struggled to form connections with people who were of one culture or the other (i.e. Eastern or Western). She felt closest with “mixed / half” people, who form their own culture based on their personal experiences of being mixed race - third culture.
- She creates her own culture, and that has led to her not feeling overly culturally isolated.
- She doesn’t want to go back to Taiwan.
- She believes everyone should appreciate where they came from, but to also create your own cultural identity. You shouldn’t adhere to one specific thing, but live your life according to how you want to live and who you want to be.
- However, she still believes that it’s easier to form connections with people of a similar background

Interview Analysis

Key points for Interview 4:

- She does not culturally identify as Korean, despite being of Korean descent. This can be attributed to the fact that she'd been away for so long.
- In saying that, she still classifies herself as Koren (perhaps an underlying desire?)
- She doesn't feel like she can't relate / fit in to Korea, despite being Korean. She feels like a foreigner (common trend)
- Does not really like her home culture due to a lack of diversity (which is very prevalent in East Asian cultures), especially when compared to Western society
- Sometimes intimidated when meeting people of her own culture. Compared the "fakeness" / the facade of Western politeness to the respect of Korean culture (despite it sometimes being one sided)
- Most difficult thing to leave behind was parents and family (a common trend?) She felt a bit scared
- What helped her settle in and feel more comfortable was creating a strong support network of like minded people.
- Moving from an Eastern to Western culture influenced her personality (i.e. becoming more extroverted and independent and learning more about herself - self discovery). In doing that, she created a sense of belonging for herself.
- Does not feel culturally isolated, but doesn't feel like she has a "home". She doesn't fit into any prescribed culture and can't relate to some questions / topics.
- Has a desire to go back to her home country. This has led to her feeling like Australia is just a "temporary home". Almost sounds like she doesn't think she belongs.
- All interviewees say that they have developed their own thinking (that is independent/different from their parents'). Because they no longer have a sense of belonging due to their disconnection with their community, they feel that they should become independent of their previous community they were in and also become flexible enough to fit into a new community. With maturity (and growing) comes flexibility.

Interview Analysis

Key points for interview 5:

- Interviewee desired to fit into her new culture. In doing so, she denied her heritage. Due to this, there was a distinct lack of cultural identity as she continued to grow up.
- She wanted to avoid judgement from peers, so she westernised herself, basically eliminated all her culture. Outside of appearance (appearance does not determined culture), she is "Australian"
- Does not place much value in her original culture
- She has an entirely different outlook than she would have had she stayed in Malaysia. The standard of living and individual expectations are polar opposite.
- Familial ties played a big part in making her feel more comfortable when moving. She had people who had already lived here to help her become more accustomed to her new life.
- She felt isolated from Australians growing up, and now she feels isolated from those back home; including family. She now wishes there was a way that she could've known it was ok to be different, thereby allowing her to maintain parts of her cultural background.
- She felt connected to someone of the same cultural background, or even just from the same general appearance, despite not knowing them. This is due to their shared experiences of growing up "different".
- She still feels someone different from others who moved to Australia, as they managed to retain their heritage, while she lost all of hers.
- The friends she made actually made her feel closer to her original culture, and she began to embrace that a lot more the older she became.
- In saying all that, she still does not feel like she truly can say she is Australian, as she wasn't born here. But she also isn't fully Asian either, as she retains nothing from that outside of appearance. Seems as though as though no place of true belonging.
- Perhaps she fits more into a "third culture", whereby people of mixed heritage create their own culture in themselves? (common trend with interview participants)

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