



FIGT Connections

Where Research Comes to Life

Families in Global Transition

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Issue: 14

March 13, 2013

Families in Global Transition leads the worldwide community in empowering families and those who serve them in global transition. FIGT is the premier advocate and educational resource for families, organizations and service providers.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CLOSES TODAY

2013 FIGT Annual Conference
March 22-23 at the Silver Spring Civic Building

Registration closes TODAY, so [register now](#) and secure your spot!

Remember, FIGT members save \$100 on the new low cost of conference registration. Not a member, [learn more](#) today. [Click here](#) to learn about your local transportation options.

Unable to register today? No problem, just contact Maureen Gelwicks at migelwicks@figt.org to make registration arrangements.

Become an FIGT Member Today!

In March 2012, FIGT launched a new membership program, [click here](#) to learn more or join today!

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FIGT SURVEY - WE NEED YOUR INPUT

We are inviting you to share your experience with, and thoughts and ideas about, FIGT membership by taking a few minutes to answer our brief survey. Please note, you do not need to be an FIGT member to participate.

The purpose of the survey is to allow YOU, our members and supporters to express your views of FIGT, propose membership benefits and express your ideas for the future.

To participate in the survey, simply [click on this link](#) and answer the questions. It should not take you more than 10 minutes. The survey is confidential and you will remain anonymous, however, if you wish to disclose your contact information you may do so at the end of the survey.

We ask that you complete the survey by Friday, 15 March 2013.

FIGT ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF ITS NEW RESOURCE CENTER

FIGT is proud to announce the launch of its [new Resource Center](#). This online Resource Center features lots of new content which is organized by topic. Here is a list of the topics:

- Careers Resources
- Family Support Resources
- Intercultural Resources
- TCK/CCK Resources
- Education

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- STARS Spouses Travelling and Relocating Successfully (aka trailing spouses and accompanying partners)
- Country Specific Resources
- FIGT Connections Archives
- FIGT blog
- Member press Releases

All entries within each category include enhanced descriptions in order to make it easier to find what you are looking for. In addition, the site is searchable making navigation much easier!

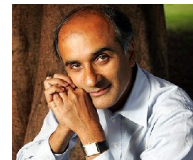
The Resource Center is regularly updated with new material. FIGT encourages its members to contribute to the Resource Center's content. In order to contribute, click on the 'Resource Center Form' option on the navigation menu on the left side of the page.

FIGT hopes that you enjoy the Resource Center and that it proves to be extremely useful no matter the purpose of use! If you have any feedback about the Resource Center or would like to make an inquiry, email Maureen Gelwicks at mgelwicks@figt.org.

FORUM FOR WRITERS AT THE 2013 FIGT CONFERENCE



Join Pico Iyer and Apple Gidley for a lively discussion on writing and the creative process, while drawing on the experiences of their nomadic upbringing. This will be an informal session on the evening of Thursday, 21st March which will be open to attendee participation.



THIRD CULTURE KIDS: EXPERIENCES OF IDENTITY FORMATION

JOANNA WITHERS

In a world where migration is common some might wonder if the Third Culture Kid (TCK) identity is still relevant. To examine this we must return to Pollock and VanReken's (2009) now classic definition: A TCK is a person who has spent a significant part of their developmental years in a culture other than their parents' culture.

For those familiar with this definition they might note that I have cut it somewhat shorter than usual, and quite deliberately so because what Pollock and VanReken (2009) proceed to talk about are the consequences of the TCK lifestyle such as feeling at home in multiple cultures and defining their sense of belonging in relationship to those who have had similar experiences to themselves rather than a geographical location. Consider these characteristics alongside the notion that every home for a TCK is transitory we can conclude that the TCK identity is one which remains distinct from that of migrants.

Having lived abroad and met many TCK's I am fascinated by their process of identity mediation. A few qualitative studies have considered issues of identity and belonging amongst TCK's, however significant gaps remain in the research (Fail, Thomson, & Walker, 2004; Lyttle, Barker, & Cornwell, 2011; Walters & Auton-Cuff, 2009). Most of the qualitative research takes a retrospective approach asking Adult Third Culture Kids (ATCK's) to look back at their experiences. Studies vary in the age of participants, but for some they are looking back up to fifty years on their TCK childhood. Whilst as Fail (2004) acknowledges such a retrospective approach can be beneficial in encouraging present-day international school students it cannot adequately explore the phenomenon of the transient TCK lifestyle and the implications transition has on their process of identity mediation. To continue reading, please [click here](#).

A TASTE OF WHAT'S TO COME...

Been searching for an original recipe lately? The FIGT Cookbook, Where is Home? will be officially launched at the FIGT Conference in one week! All proceeds from the cookbook will go to the Pollock Scholarship Fund. The Pollock Scholars are an integral part of the annual conference and help ensure the FIGT flame is carried forward to those new to expatriation and the relocation industry.

FIGT would like to thank International Professional Relationships, Inc. for their sponsorship of the cookbook. Their generous contribution will enable FIGT to offer more scholarships to those applying for this prestigious award.

Here is a teaser recipe from the cookbook to try out as you await its arrival:

LEMON SYLLABUB

Submitted by Kathy Smith

1/2 pint or 300 ml double cream
Grated rind and juice of 2 lemons
6 fl oz of 175 ml fresh orange

Directions: Lightly whisk cream. Mix fruit juices gradually into sugar and then beat gently into cream a little at a time whisking throughout until it is thick but not stiff. Add lemon rind. Pour into 4 wineglasses. Allow to set in fridge for 2 hours. Decorate with mint.

GLOBAL MINDSET AND ATCK RESEARCH

Patricia Stokke, EdD Candidate Drexel University, and Pollock Scholar

In an effort to learn more about the unique experience of growing up in a country different from one's passport country, I am exploring Adult Third Culture Kids (ATCKs) as potential global leaders with global mindset. I am conducting this research in partial fulfillment of my doctoral degree requirements through Drexel University.

If you are over the age of 25 and lived a minimum of one year between 7 and 18 years of age in a country different from your passport country, and returned to your passport country by your 19th birthday you qualify to participate in this important study.

The purpose of this study is to assess the global mindset of ATCKs, and explore their experiences and perceptions of that experience as it may have shaped their thinking and approach to the world, and specifically to the workplace. This research may contribute to the fields of third culture kids, human resource development, education, and business development. It also may help ATCKs in identifying strengths developed in their unique childhood experience that may contribute to success in their careers.

This research is comprised of two parts. The first part is an online survey, the Global Mindset Inventory, developed by the Najafi Global Mindset Institute at the Thunderbird School of Global Management. The second part consists of one on one interviews conducted through online with me, Patricia Stokke, who is the researcher. Most participants will only complete the online survey. If you are interested in being interviewed, please indicate your interest in your email to me.

The Global Mindset Inventory should take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete. The information from this survey will be kept strictly confidential, as will the information from the interviews. Without exception, individual responses will not be released to anyone. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You can refuse to be in the study at any time and there will be no negative consequences if you decide to do so. In any publication or presentation of research results, your identity will be kept strictly confidential.

Please contact me at Patricia.A.Stokke@drexel.edu to participate in this research study. I will forward survey participant email addresses to the Najafi Global Mindset Institute at the Thunderbird School of Global Management, who will administer the survey. Participants will receive a link to the Global Mindset Inventory directly from the Najafi Global Mindset Institute, surveys@performanceprograms.com. Your email address will remain private; it will only be used to email the Global Mindset Inventory to you.

If you have questions about this research, please contact Patricia Stokke at Patricia.A.Stokke@drexel.edu, pastokke@comcast.net, or (831) 818-1683.

Thank you for contributing to this important research on ATCKs.