



SYSTEMS PLUS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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Stigma, Discrimination, Bias & Socioeconomic Risk Less for Lighter Skinned Military Filipina Amerasians “Amerasian Paradox” Hypothesis Paper Claims

SYDNEY, Australia -- The results of a multiple-case “pilot study” empirical paper presented here electronically by two Philippine Amerasian Research Center (PARC) research partners March 29-31, 2013 at a worldwide on-line conference sponsored by the Australian International Cultural and Educational Institute (AIECI – Website: www.auaicei.com) strongly suggests that lighter skin and Caucasian physical features among Filipina Amerasian females actually helps them escape or avoid stigma, discrimination and socioeconomic isolation often faced by many counterpart African and Anglo Amerasians. The study examined the profiles of five late adolescent and early adult female military Amerasians purposively selected from middle class backgrounds who told the researchers they believed their paler skin color, Anglicized complexions and brown or lighter natural hair color and facial features have aided them by enhancing their social life, increasing their chances of finding better employment opportunities and otherwise improving their lifelong economic and emotional outlook.

P.C. Kutschera, PhD, PARC Director, who conducted the six-month long, September, 2012-February, 2013 study along with Professor Jose Maria G. Pelayo III, Deputy PARC Director and a psychology professor at Systems Plus College Foundation (SPCF), said the phenomena has been long observed or suspected. The idea that Anglo women appeared to be benefitting socially and economically from fair, Caucasian features, especially when compared to African Amerasians who were known to be heavily discriminated against, originally surfaced empirically in the study entitled *Filipino Amerasians: Living in the Margins* (1999) sponsored by the Pearl S. Buck Foundation and the University of the Philippines-Diliman Women’s Studies Department. It was co-authored by Dr. Carolyn I. Sobritchea, PhD, Senior Faculty at the Asian Center, UP-Diliman. Dr. Kutschera said the pilot study “corroborates the observations and findings by Gastardo-Conaco and Sobritchea. We named our finding the ‘Anglo Amerasian Paradox’ since it represents a distinct aberration or departure from the norm - that is that it deviates from the statuses of the majority of both African and many Anglo Filipino Amerasians who have encountered stigma and discrimination in the form of intense name-calling, both gender and sexual harassment, low socioeconomic life outcomes and social isolation over the course of their lives. This is primarily because of differential physical features unlike those of mainstream,

lowlander Filipino and it is coupled with the notion that many Amerasians are burdened with the stereotype and absolutely unscientifically examined or proven notion their mothers were predominantly prostituted women or sex laborers, and thus all Amerasians are flawed or tainted from this stigma.””

The majority of the participants in the Amerasian Paradox pilot survey confirmed they also were harassed in elementary or high school because of the near universal belief that their mothers were sex laborers; that notion seemed to diminish or disappear altogether as they approached puberty or late adolescence and as the young women entered young adulthood. Professor Pelayo conducted the interviews with the subjects drawn from the Angeles, Pampanga region, site of the former Clark U.S. air force base, and which included several students and employees or former employees of SPCF College. He said the preponderance of participants “revealed they are living relatively happy, stress free lives, and not burdened with the economic distress and emotional turmoil so often encountered among military Amerasians living inside the AMO (Angeles, Metro Manila, Olongapo) Amerasian Triangle.”

The authors recommended that “a wider scope and large study sample (be used) to investigate solid evidence of the Anglo Amerasian Paradox. Ideally, a number of the following characteristics should be included: (a) a larger numerical range of 200 to 300 participants drawn from various locations inside and around the AMO Amerasian Triangle and other outlying provinces of the Philippine, (b) a probability study sample using mixed-methodology features including a narrative instrument with statistical analysis features, (c) a similar study comprised of male Anglo Amerasians given there is likelihood similar human scenarios could be duplicated among Anglo male counterparts, and (d) performing a third study among second generation Anglo Amerasians to address aspects of stigma similar to those endured by first generation cohorts.

PARC’s Amerasian Paradox research rendering was one from scores of scholars from several continents participating in the *2013 International Online Conference on Multidisciplinary Social Sciences* sponsored by the Sydney, AU-based AICEI. In addition to filing a research paper, participants presented power point slide summary presentations of their work which were posted on the Conference website (www.auaicei.com/online_conference) March 29-31, 2013 when participants could communicate interactively and critique the content of their and colleague’s papers. Broad subject areas included culture and society, education, communications, psychology, population study and the social sciences among other disciplines.

Dr. Yvette Y. Yue, AICEI’s Executive Director, said the Anglo Paradox article was specially selected to be featured in a forthcoming issue of the *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Social Sciences* published by the *Australian International Cultural and Educational Institute*. Dr. Yue praised the work being currently conducted in Angeles, Pampanga and the U.S. by Dr. Kutschera and the SPCF-PARC research center in Angeles, Pampanga, Luzon. “The vital research being conducted by Dr. Kutschera and his PARC associates is on the cutting edge. We believe that in the coming years this work will help open a much needed dialogue on the Amerasian human dilemma among the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) nations.”

News, media representatives researchers and the public may access “The Amerasian Paradox” paper for free on www.AmerasianResearch.org/paradox or the ERIC OnLine Document Service at

http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/recordDetails.jsp?ERICExtSearch_SearchValue_0=ED542472&searchtype=keyword&ERICExtSearch_SearchType_0=no&_pageLabel=RecordDetails&accno=ED542472&_nfls=false&source=ae