

BSA Decolonising Families and Relationships Event

BRIONY CAMPBELL

'Love in Translation' (a photography and film project which tells the stories of African/British families living in African countries)

Abstract

Love in Translation is a photography and film project which tells the stories of African/British families living in African countries. The project explores themes of otherness and assimilation, colonial inheritance, cultural expectations and intercultural love. See: [Love in Translation](#) where you will find photo stories and a video 'teaser'.

The catalyst for the project was my own experience of being a white girl in Africa. Aged nineteen, I fell for a Zanzibari boy while on a teaching placement on his island. With no shared map of how a relationship might work, ours was clumsy and unpredictable but thrilling and formative.

I recognised that all my interactions in Zanzibar were influenced by my unearned status as a white woman and symbol of wealth. This colonial inheritance is experienced widely but rarely addressed. My work looks to explore this dynamic from the intimate perspectives of African-British families.

The stereotype of romances between Africans and outsiders is usually one of exploitation, however, less in focus are the relationships between locals and outsiders who build families and navigate cultural differences with determination and sensitivity. These partnerships intertwine two perspectives on questions of otherness and cultural assimilation. Their children embody these cultural differences and live simultaneously as insiders and outsiders in their dual heritage 'homes'.

I'd like to propose a visual presentation for your webinar. I will describe the social context of the project, introduce 4 different African/ British families through photos and share short video clips from the project (6 mins).

Bio

Briony Campbell's creative practice spans creative documentary filmmaking, photography, education and social research.

She holds an MA in documentary photography, from The University of the Arts London. During her masters 'The Dad Project'; the story of losing her dad, became a formative chapter for her personally and professionally. The Project was exhibited, published and awarded internationally.

Briony's main areas of interest are; multiculturalism, grief, belief and participatory practice. Recent academic collaborations include: A Birmingham University, AHRC funded project, in which Briony supported terminally ill people to make films; a collaboration with Kent University's research study Understanding Unbelief; and a current project funded by UCL Culture exploring autistic people's relationships.

Briony's work is included in the curricula of institutions such as Central St Martin's, University for Creative Arts and Coventry University. She is a regular guest lecturer and has delivered workshops from London to Lagos.