

# Appendix C

## Identity Status Interview: Adult Form

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### General Opening

Where are you from originally?

And where are you living now?

How do you feel about living in \_\_\_\_\_?

If I may ask, how old are you?

Are both of your parents still living?

[If not:] At what age were you when your (father) (mother) died?

Have your parents ever been separated or divorced?

[If yes:] At what age were you when your parents separated?

[If appropriate:] Whom did you live with then?

[If appropriate:] Has either of your parents remarried?

[If yes:] What age were you at that time?

Can you tell me something about your father's educational background?

And what type of work (does) (did) he do?

And your mother, what was her educational background?

And has (had) she been employed outside of the home?

[If appropriate:] What type of work does (did) she do?

Do you have any brothers or sisters?

[If yes:] What are their ages?

What have you done about continued schooling, work, and marriage since you left high school?

[If married, inquire into the educational and employment background of the spouse, and the presence of children in the family.]

## Vocational Activities

How did you come to work for \_\_\_\_\_ (name of company)?

And how did you come to choose to do \_\_\_\_\_ (the type of work described)?

[If unemployed:] What type of work would you like to do?

How are you going about trying to obtain employment?

[For all Respondents:] When did you first become interested in \_\_\_\_\_?

What do you find attractive about the work you are (doing) (seeking) now?

What drawbacks do you see about your (present) (sought) work?

How would you describe your feelings while you are engaged in these work activities?

Why do you think you feel that way?

Have there been other types of work that you have pursued?

[If yes:] What did they involve?

[As appropriate:] How long were you engaged in each of those types of work?

[As appropriate:] What did you see as attractive and as drawbacks to \_\_\_\_\_? [Ask for each type of work.]

When you were deciding on employment, were there any other fields or types of work you were considering?

[If appropriate, ask "attractive" and "drawbacks" questions about each field mentioned.]

[If appropriate:] Why did you decide *not* to pursue that (those) careers?

[If Respondent attended college or other type of postsecondary school:]  
How did you come to decide on attending \_\_\_\_\_?

What was your major?

Did you have a minor? [If yes:] What was it?

How did you come to decide on \_\_\_\_\_ as a major?

When did you first become interested in \_\_\_\_\_?

What did you find attractive about this field?

What drawbacks did you see about the field?

What did you plan to do with this major after you graduated from college?

While in college, did you think about any other majors besides \_\_\_\_\_?

[If yes:] What else did you consider?

When did you first become interested in \_\_\_\_\_?

What did you find attractive about \_\_\_\_\_?

What drawbacks did you see to this field?

Why did you decide not to pursue this field?

Was this a difficult decision to make?

What do you think influenced your choice?

[Repeat for each possible major mentioned.]

How about when you were in high school, what was your thinking about your future vocational plans?

[Repeat cycle of questions above for each field mentioned that has not been previously discussed.]

[If not already evident:] Was there ever a time when you were trying to decide between two very different directions for your life—the work you wished to pursue?

[If yes:] What were your alternatives then?

Was that a difficult decision to make?

What influenced your decision here?

Most parents have plans for their (sons) (daughters), things they'd like to see them go into, things they'd like to see them do. Did your folks have any plans like that for you?

Do you think your parents may have had a preference for one field over another, although they would never have tried to pressure you about it?

[If necessary:] How did your parents feel about your plans to go into \_\_\_\_\_ [Respondent's current career activities]?

[If married:] How does your spouse feel about your current career activities?

How willing do you think you'd be to change your plans from \_\_\_\_\_ [Respondent's current career activities], if something better came along?

[If asked: "What do you mean by better?" Respond: "Whatever might be better by your standards."]

[If Respondent indicates the possibility of change:] What might you change to?

What might cause you to make such a change?

How likely do you think it is that you will make some change?

On a 7-point scale, how important do you see your vocation as being to you in your life, where 7 means "extremely important" and 1 means "not at all important"?

## Marriage and the Role of Spouse

Do you remember what your thoughts about marriage were like when you were a student in high school (and in college)?

[If necessary:] Can you describe your thinking?

[If married:] What were your thoughts about marriage leading up to the time when you married?

What did you think would be a good time for you to marry?

What kind of person did you want to marry?

How did you picture what marriage might be like for you?

What did you see as your role as a (husband) (wife)?

[If never married:] Have you ever thought about the idea of marriage?

[If not planning to marry:] Why do you think you preferred not to marry?

[If planning to marry:] Why do you think you would prefer to marry?

What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of being single versus being married?

Has your decision about (marrying) (not marrying) come easily to you, or has it been a difficult decision to make?

Why?

Who may have been a factor in your decision?

[If divorced and not remarried:] Have you ever thought about the idea of marrying again?

[If not planning to remarry:] Why do you think you preferred not to remarry?

[If planning to remarry:] Why do you think you would prefer to remarry?

What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of being single versus being married again? [If only one side is presented, ask about the other.]

Has your decision about (remarrying) (not remarrying) come easily to you, or has it been a difficult decision to make?

Why?

Who may have been a factor in your decision?

[For every Respondent:] Have you ever gone through an important change in your thinking about marriage for yourself?

[If yes:] Please describe that change.

What started you thinking about these questions?

Who may have been a factor in your thinking?

How would you compare your ideas about marriage with those of your (father) (mother)? [Make comparison with the parent of the same gender as the Respondent.]

How would you describe your parents' marriage?

What do you think of the marriage your parents (have) (had)?

Would you like your (marriage) (remarriage) to be similar to theirs?

How do your parents feel about your ideas on marriage?

[If parents do not know:] How do you think they would feel about them if they did know?

[If married or in a romantic relationship:] How does your (spouse) romantic partner) feel about your ideas on marriage?

How do your ideas about marriage compare with (his) (hers)?

As you think about the activities involved in marriage and your role as a (husband) (wife), what would you say (has been) (you anticipate to be) most satisfying or rewarding for you?

Is there anything about these activities that (has been) (you anticipate will be) a source of dissatisfaction to you?

How willing would you be to change your ideas about marriage?

[If appropriate:] What would it take to change your ideas about marriage?

Do you anticipate that you might reexamine your decision at some time in the future?

[If yes:] When? Why then?

On a 7-point scale, how important do you see marriage and the role of a spouse as being to you in your life? Again, 7 means "extremely important" and 1 means "not at all important."

## The Role of Parent

Do you remember what your thoughts about parenting were like when you were a student in high school (and in college)? [If necessary:] Can you describe your thinking?

[If a parent:] What were your thoughts about parenting leading up to the time when you became a (father) (mother)?

What did you think would be a good time for you to start a family?

How did you picture what parenting might be like for you?

What (do) (did) you see as your role as a (father) (mother)?

What type of behavior in your child (gives) (gave) you pleasure?

What role do you think your spouse **should** have in parenting with you?

What role **does** your spouse have in parenting with you?

[If any difference is mentioned:] Why?

[If never a parent:] Have you ever thought seriously about the idea of parenting?

[If not planning to become a parent:] Why do you think you preferred not to be a parent?

[If planning to become a parent at some time in the future:] Why do you think you would like to be a parent?

When do you think would be a good time in your life to start parenting?

How do you picture your role in parenting?

What type of behavior in your child would give you pleasure?

If you do become a parent, what role do you think your spouse **should** have in parenting with you?

What role do you anticipate your spouse **will** have in parenting with you?

[If any difference is mentioned:] Why?

[For every Respondent:] What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of being a parent?

[If only one side is presented, ask about the other.] Has your decision about (parenting) (not parenting) come easily to you, or has it been a difficult decision to make?

Why?

Who may have been a factor in your decision?

Have you ever gone through an important change in your thinking about parenting?

[If yes:] Please describe that change.

What started you thinking about these questions?

Who may have been a factor in your thinking?

How would you compare your ideas about parenting with those of your parents? [Ask for a comparison with the parent of the same gender as the Respondent, if not provided.]

How would you describe your parents' parenting?

What do you think of the parenting you had?

Would you like your parenting to be similar to theirs?

How do your parents feel about your ideas on parenting?

[If parents do not know:] How do you think they would feel about them if they did know?

[If married:] How does your spouse feel about your ideas on parenting?

How do your ideas about parenting compare with (his) (hers)?

[For all Respondents:] Do you believe your ideas about parenting are now fairly well worked out, or do you feel you are still working out your thinking about parenting?

[If still working out ideas:] What questions are you still thinking about?

What are you doing now to work out your thinking about these questions?

How willing would you be to change your ideas about parenting?

[If appropriate:] What would it take to change your ideas about parenting?

Do you anticipate that you might reexamine your decision at some time in the future?

[If yes:] When? Why then?

What do you think might influence your decision?

On a 7-point scale, how important do you see the role of parent as being to you in your life? Again, 7 means “extremely important” and 1 means “not at all important.”

## Family and Career Priorities

Looking over your previous responses, I notice that you rated career \_\_\_\_\_, in importance, marriage \_\_\_\_\_, and parenting \_\_\_\_\_, which seems to suggest that you value (\_\_\_\_\_ more) (each area about equally). How do you feel about that?

I would like you to share with me the types of conflicts you feel have developed or could develop as a result of your pursuit of a career and a marriage, specifically with your role as a (husband) (wife).

How much had you thought about **marriage** and career conflicts earlier in your life?

Have you ever gone through an important change in your thinking about marriage and career conflicts for yourself?

[If yes:] Please describe that change.

What started you thinking about such questions?



Who may have been a factor in your thinking?

How would you compare your ideas about handling spouse and career conflicts with those of your parents?

How would you describe your parents' own behavior in their marriage in such potential conflicts?

Did their position influence you? How?

Would you like your handling of spouse and career conflicts to be similar to theirs?

[If married:] What similarities and differences are there between your ideas about spouse and career conflicts and those of your spouse?

How does your spouse feel about your ideas on handling spouse and career conflicts?

How much do you worry now about conflicts between spouse and career roles?

[If little or none:] Do you anticipate its becoming a serious question for you in the future?

[If yes:] At what time in your life?

[If no:] Why not?

[If not previously addressed concretely:] If you were confronted with a conflict between your work responsibilities and your responsibilities as a (husband) (wife), which would you give priority to? Why?

Now I would like you to elaborate on possible conflicts you feel have developed or could develop as a result of pursuing your career and parenting.

How much had you thought about **parenting** and career conflicts earlier in your life?

Have you ever gone through an important change in your thinking about parenting and career conflicts for yourself?

[If yes:] Please describe that change.

What started you thinking about these questions?

Who may have been a factor in your thinking?

How would you compare your ideas about parenting and career conflicts with those of your parents?

How would you describe your parents' own handling of such conflicts?

Would you like your handling of parenting and career conflicts to be similar to theirs?

[If married:] What similarities and differences are there between your ideas about parenting and career conflicts and those of your spouse?

How does your spouse feel about your ideas on handling parenting and career conflicts?

How much do you worry now about parenting and career conflicts?

[If little or none:] Do you anticipate its becoming a serious question for you in the future?

[If yes:] At what time in your life?

[If no:] Why not?

[If not previously addressed concretely:] If you were confronted with a conflict between your work responsibilities and your responsibilities as a parent, which would you give priority to? Why?

What do you think are the likely consequences of making \_\_\_\_\_ your priority?

Have you given much thought to (or experienced) such consequences?

What kind(s) of control(s) do you feel you have over such consequences?

## Religious Beliefs

Do you have any religious preference?

How about your parents—do (did) they have any religious preference?

Were both of your parents reared \_\_\_\_\_?

How important would you say religion (is) (was) to your parents?

Have you ever been active in church or church groups [Adapt for Jews and others.]

Since you were in (high school) (college), have your activities with respect to religion increased or decreased or remained about the same?

[If not already evident:] Do you currently attend religious services?

[If yes:] What are your reasons for attending services?

How do you feel while you are engaged in activities related to your religion?

Why do you think you feel that way?

[If no:] Did you ever attend religious services with any frequency?

[If appropriate:] What has led your attendance at services to fall off?

Do you find yourself getting into religious discussions?

[If yes:] What point of view do you express in these discussions?

I'd like to find out something about your ideas in the area of religion, for example on such questions as the existence of God, and the importance of organized religion. What are your ideas?

[If Roman Catholic:] How about the matter of the infallibility of the Pope?

[Ask about other religious questions as these appear appropriate.]

Was there ever a time when you came to question, to doubt, or perhaps to change your religious beliefs?

[If yes:] What types of things did you question or change?

What started you thinking about these questions?

[If not already evident:] How old were you at the time?

How serious were these questions for you?

Do you feel that you've resolved these questions for yourself, or are you still working on them?

[If resolved:] What has helped you to answer these questions?

[If not resolved:] How are you going about trying to answer these questions?

[If married:] Does your spouse have any religious preference?

Was your spouse reared \_\_\_\_\_?

How important would you say religion is to your spouse?

How does your spouse feel about your ideas on religion?

How (do) (did) your parents feel about your religious beliefs?

[If parents don't know:] How do you think they would feel about them if they did know?

Are there any important differences between your beliefs and those of your spouse and/or your parents?

[If yes:] How do you deal with them?

At this time, how well worked out do you think your ideas on religion are?

Do you think your ideas in this area are likely to remain stable, or do you believe they may very well change in the future?

[If they may change:] In what direction do you think your beliefs might change?

What might bring about such a change?

How likely is it that such a change might occur?

[If you see evidence of continued thought being given to religious questions:] How important is it to you to work out your ideas in the area of religion?

Are you actively trying to work out your beliefs now, or are you more concerned with other things?

On a 7-point scale, how important do you see your religious beliefs as being to you in your life? Again, 7 means "extremely important" and 1 means "not at all important."

[For agnostics and atheists, the last question in this domain should be phrased thus:] On a 7-point scale, how important do you see your ideas about (agnosticism) (atheism) as being to you in your life? Again, 7 means "extremely important" and 1 means "not at all important."

## Political Beliefs

Do you have any political preference?

Do you belong to, or do you see yourself as associated with, any political party?

Where would you describe yourself as falling on a scale from liberal through moderate to conservative?

Do your parents have any political preferences?

[If appropriate:] Do they belong to any political party?

[If appropriate:] Where would you say they fall on a scale from liberal through moderate to conservative?

[If necessary, ask separately for both father and mother.] How important would you say political matters are to your parents?

Are there any political or social issues that you feel pretty strongly about?

[If asked "Such as?" Respond: "Whatever might be important issues for you." If asked again, suggest such issues as the economy, how much weaponry is needed for defense, foreign policy, etc.]

What would you like to see done about \_\_\_\_\_?

[Repeat for each issue raised.]

Are there other issues that you have views about?

What would you like to see done about \_\_\_\_\_?

[Repeat for each issue mentioned.]

Have you ever taken any political actions, like joining groups, participating in election campaigns, writing letters to government or other political leaders, signing petitions, participating in demonstrations?

[If yes, elicit a description of each, if necessary.]

What were the circumstances of your becoming involved in these activities?

[Repeat for several of the activities mentioned.]

How do you feel while you are engaged in activities related to your political beliefs?

Why do you think you feel that way?

[If no issues or activities were discussed:] Do you feel that you are actively trying to arrive at a set of political beliefs, or do you feel that the area of politics isn't very important to you at present?

[If trying to work out ideas:] Can you tell me something about the types of things you are thinking about?

How are you going about getting the information you need to make a decision?

How important is it for you to work out these ideas?

Was there ever a time when you found your political ideas undergoing change, when you believed one thing on an issue and then, months or years later, you found you had very different ideas on the same issue?

[If yes:] Please describe the circumstances.

What led you to make that type of change?

Was there anyone who may have been a factor in your thinking at the time?

[If married:] Does your spouse have any political preferences?

[If appropriate:] Does (he) (she) belong to any political party?

[If appropriate:] Where does (he) (she) fall on a scale from liberal through moderate to conservative?

How important would you say political questions are to your spouse?

How does your spouse feel about your ideas on politics?

How (do) (did) your parents feel about your political beliefs?

[If parents don't know:] How do you think they would feel about them if they did know?

Are there any important differences between your beliefs and those of your spouse and/or your parents?

How do you deal with them?

At this time do you believe your political beliefs are likely to remain stable for some time, or do you feel that they may very well change in the future?

[If they may change:] In what direction do you think your beliefs might change?

What might bring about such a change?

How likely is it that such a change might occur?

[If appropriate:] Do you feel these changes would occur just on specific issues, or might there be a change in your general political philosophy?

On a 7-point scale, how important do you see your political beliefs as being to you in your life? Again, 7 means "extremely important" and 1 means "not at all important."

## Sex-Role Attitudes

Changing topics again, I'd like to talk with you about your perceptions of men's and women's roles in society today.

What advantages and disadvantages do you see associated with the roles of men and women in today's society?

[Make sure advantages **and** disadvantages are addressed for **both** genders.]

How do you think things **should** be in terms of what women are supposed to be like and what men are supposed to be like?

If you could have chosen to be a man or a woman in today's society, which would you be?

Why?

As you think about your activities as a (man) (woman) in today's society, what would you say is most satisfying or rewarding for you yourself?

Is there anything about these activities that you would consider a source of dissatisfaction?

How would you describe your feelings while you are engaged in activities related to your (masculinity) (femininity)?

Why do you think you feel that way?

How did you come to learn what it means to be a (man) (woman) in today's society?

Do you feel this is something that came naturally for you, or were there times when you were uncertain how you should act?

[If there were uncertainties:] Can you describe the circumstances for me?

How did you go about working out what you should do?

Who may have been a factor in your thinking at the time?

Was there ever a time when you came to question, to doubt, or perhaps to change your ideas, expectations, and/or behavior about your roles as a (woman) (man) in this society?

[If yes:] What types of things did you question or change?

What started you thinking about these questions?

[If not already evident:] How old were you at the time?

How serious were these questions for you?

Do you feel that you've resolved these questions for yourself, or are you still working on them?

[If resolved:] What has helped you to answer these questions?

[If not resolved:] How are you going about trying to answer these questions?

How (do) (had) your mother and father express(ed) their female and male roles, respectively?

How were your ideas, expectations, and behaviors in this area influenced by your parents?

Are there any important similarities and/or differences between the ideas, expectations, and behaviors with which you and your (father) (mother) express the role of a (man) (woman) in today's society?

[If appropriate:] How about the effects your brothers or sisters may have had on your ideas, expectations, and behaviors?

Are there any important differences between their ideas, expectations, and behaviors and yours on men's and women's roles in society?

[If married:] What are your spouse's ideas, expectations, and behaviors about men's and women's roles in society today?

How are they similar to and different from yours?

How does your spouse feel about your ideas, expectations, and behaviors on your role as a (man) (woman) in today's society?

How has your spouse's perspective influenced yours?

How (do) (did) your parents feel about your ideas, expectations, and behaviors on your role as a (man) (woman) in today's society?

[If parents don't know:] How do you think they would feel about them if they did know?

Do you see your ideas about the roles of men and women in today's society remaining stable, or do you see your ideas as possibly changing in the future?

[If ideas may change:] In what direction might your ideas change?

What do you think might cause such a change?

How likely is it that such a change might occur?

[If you see evidence of continued thought being given to these questions:] How important is it to you to work out your ideas in this area?

Are you actively trying to work out your beliefs, expectations, and/or behaviors now, or are you more concerned with other things?

On a 7-point scale, how important do you see your beliefs, expectations, and behaviors defined by your role as a (man) (woman) as being to you in your life? Again, 7 means "extremely important" and 1 means "not at all important."