**Interview Guide**

This is a guide only. It will be necessary to adjust questions, depending on the participant and the way the interview proceeds. It is important that the interaction with participants take the form of ordinary conversation; the person should not feel he or she is being interviewed and should do most of the talking. In other words, we are encouraging the participants to speak naturally about themselves and their experiences. The idea is to guide them to talk about the kinds of things we are interested in in a natural, appropriate manner using conversational norms. The domain column below contains our statements of information we are seeking. The Possible Questions/Text column contains ordinary conversational utterances that can encourage the participant to talk about his or her experience in the domain of interest. The Notes column contains any relevant information about the domain and questions.

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| **Domain** | **Possible Questions/Text** | **Notes** |
| **Opening** | Thank you for agreeing to talk to me today. As you know, this is part of a research project about the experiences of people like you who came to Australia from South Sudan. We are interested in how you feel about Australia and your life here and hope you can help us understand what it is like to be a person from South Sudan who has been in Australia for a number of years and is living in Sydney/Melbourne.  Our conversation today will help me learn about your experiences and will be used as part of this research project. I have some questions I would like to ask you. You can answer them any way you like. If there are questions you don’t want to answer, you can just say, “I would rather not talk about that.” No one will know what you and I have talked about, and your name will not be used.  If it’s alright with you, let’s get started. I’d like to record our conversation today and also take notes. Is that OK? If you want to stop talking at any time, all you have to do is tell me. Also, if you decide you no longer want to take part in this study, you can withdraw at any time. | It is important that the opening be presented in ordinary language that gives the person the information they need but puts them at ease. It is very important that they immediately get the impression this is just ordinary social interaction with the interviewer. For this reason, the opening should be presented without jargon or technical terms and should not overburden the participant with information that is not relevant. At this point, participants have already agreed to participate so they have some idea what the project is about and have seen the paperwork. |
| **Background** | 1. How long have you been in Australia? Where do you come from? 2. How long have you been here? 3. Do you have family here? 4. Where do you work? | We are trying to get the person to explain various aspects of his or her life. We do not want a one-word answer. For example, we do not really care where specifically the person is from, but we do want to know something about how they go here. The aim of these questions is to get them to start talking about themselves by asking things that are easy to answer. The more the person talks, about anything, the better.  It is not necessary to ask everyone all the sample questions. Which ones will depend on what the person says and how the conversation proceeds. These are just ideas about the kind of things that can be asked to elicit the information in the domains of interest. |
| **How does the participants identify him/herself in Australia?** | 1. How do you see yourself in terms of where you come from? 2. What do you say when someone asks where you are from? 3. You’ve been here some time now. Do you feel you are Australian? 4. Do you know a lot of other people from South Sudan? 5. How do you recognize someone from South Sudan? 6. Can people recognize you as being from South Sudan? How? | One of the most interesting aspects of identity is the way(s) people recognize others of the same background. It is desirable to elicit this information from participants. |
| **What makes the participant feel South Sudanese or Australian?** | 1. Are there times that you feel more Australian? 2. Are there times that you feel more South Sudanese? 3. What makes you feel Australian/South Sudanese? 4. Is it important to you to be from South Sudan? 5. How do you (or would you) want your children to see themselves? 6. What makes a person South Sudanese/Australian? 7. [If the person has children] Do you feel your children are like you? In what ways? 8. Do you or would you) want your children to be Australian? 9. Do you feel different about being from South Sudan now compared to how you felt when you first arrived in Australia? 10. How have your feelings changed? Why? | The aim here is to get the participant to think about and discuss different aspects of his or her life. We want the participants to talk as much as possible about this, not just give a list.  The aim of asking them about their children (or hypothetical children) is that this is often a question that elicits a person’s deeper feelings about the issue (as opposed to giving the answer that reflects how they know they are supposed to feel).  In guiding the conversation, it is important to tailor the questions in each section to the answers the participant gave before. For example, if the participant said something about language being an important aspect of South Sudanese identity, you might ask them how they would feel if their children did not speak that language well or only spoke English. If a participant said that participation in certain cultural activities was a sign of identity, you might ask them how they would feel if their children did not want to take part in these activities. |
| **What was the participant’s experience settling in Australia?** | 1. How did you feel when you first got to Australia? 2. Do you still feel like that? 3. What was the hardest thing about coming to Australia? 4. How do you feel about your life here? 5. If you could change something about your life in Australia, what would that be? 6. Do you think Australia is a good place for people from South Sudan? 7. Do you like living here? | Again, we need to get the participants to talk about their deeper feelings. Everyone knows they are “supposed to” feel a certain way about their resettlement in a new country. However, we want to know how they really feel and whether it matches this socially approved view.  Questions like this, while not sensitive, may be too personal for some participants to feel comfortable with. For this reason, it is completely acceptable to ask about other people, as in “Do you think Australia is a good place for people from South Sudan?” This allows the participants to respond generally but what he or she says will undoubtedly reflect his or her own experience and feelings. |
| **What is the participant’s social life in Australia like?** | 1. Do you have friends who are also from South Sudan? 2. Do you have friends who are from other places? 3. Who are your closest friends? 4. Who do you (or would you) want your children to be friends with? 5. Do you work with other people from South Sudan? What is that like? 6. What language do you use when you are with your friends? 7. What kinds of things do you do with your friends? | As above, the reason for asking about the participant’s children (actual or hypothetical) is to get some insight into how important the person feels cultural transmission is as a part of their identity. People often have very different ideas and behaviour when it is them, as opposed to what they hope for from children. |
| **How does the participant understand the position of people from South Sudan in Australian society?** | 1. Do you think people in Australia know a lot about South Sudan? 2. What do people think about people from South Sudan? 3. Why do you think they think these things? 4. Is what people think true? | It is very important that questions on this topic be phrased as neutrally as possible and also in such a way as to allow the participant the widest latitude to answer in his or her own way. In other words, it is very important for the interviewer to avoid introducing bias or anticipating how the participant might feel. We tend to have a lot of fixed ideas about other people’s experiences (both good and bad), so one very important aspect of this project may be to show how the participants really feel. |
| **How has the participant’s experience in Australia changed over time?** | 1. What are the most important things that have happened to you in Australia? 2. Overall, how is your life in Australia? 3. What do you like about living here? 4. What don’t you like about living here? 5. What is the best part of living in Australia? 6. What is the worst part of living in Australia? | The idea here is to encourage the participant to think about the whole span of time he or she has been in Australia. These questions can be tailored to the participant’s earlier responses but, as above, should be carefully phrased not to anticipate any specific response. |
| **How does the participant see his or her own quality of life in Australia as well as that of people from South Sudan in general?** | 1. Do you think people from South Sudan have a good life in Australia? 2. Do you think people from South Sudan are happy here? 3. What do people need to be happy in life? 4. Are you happier now than you were when you first came to Australia? 5. What would make you happier now? | It is often best to ask this kind of question in terms of other people, as in the first three questions. If the person answers readily, it is then possible to ask about them personally. Some people don’t like this kind of question though, so it is better to ask them about others with the understanding that it says something about their own experience. In addition to depersonalizing the issue, this is often very informative because many people are very attuned to the happiness of those around them and have considerable insight into this issue.  These questions can also be tailored to the individual participant’s situation. For example, if the participant has mentioned that he or she has an older relative in Australia, the interviewer could ask about whether the participant feels that person is happy here. |
| **Are there other things that may be relevant?** | 1. Is there anything else you’d like to tell me or that we haven’t talked about? | This is a very important part of the interview because participants may recognize that there is something important that we have not asked them about. They may also see connections between aspects of their experience that we do not perceive. |
| **Closing** | I want to thank you for talking to me today. If there are other things you think of later that you would like to add, please feel free to contact me. The information you have given me is very important to this project, and we are very grateful that you took the time to help us. We would like to thank you by giving you a voucher you can use to shop at [whatever place we get the vouchers from].  If you have any questions about this project at any time in the future, you can always contact us at the phone numbers or email addresses on the information sheet you were given. | It is VERY important that we acquit the vouchers correctly because the University views them like cash. Ideally, the participant needs to sign the register when he or she receives the voucher. If someone does not want to sign, we need to follow the instructions for anonymous participants. These transactions are audited and have to be done according to the template (see Gift Card Fact Sheet for reference). |