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PART 3
TWELVE CONCEPTS DRAWN FROM LIFE
EXPERIENCES USEFUL FOR STUDENTS
OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Cynthia Tse Kimberlin*

Abstract

A list is given of twelve observations generated by the author's remarks made in Parts 1 and 2 that might prove useful in management discussions. A list of references and other resources follows.

1. Life experiences can be adapted as useful teaching tools to understand how management strategies operate within various work environments.
2. The transnational and conceptual should be added to geographical and ethnic group categories in evaluating seemingly disparate entities, the results of which may also reveal shared commonalities.
3. Geography can be thought of as one's destiny as each time one moves to a different locale, one can choose to recast one's own sense of self.
4. An advantage of the perennial outsider and a peripatetic being makes for a more observant individual.
5. The art of being observant can be honed through reading where education and literacy open windows to the world beyond oneself.
6. Navigating unfamiliar geographical and cultural environments where one has never been with no signposts as guides, forces one to trust and depend on strangers for assistance. Working and living in such environments prepares one physically and mentally, and over time enables one to better adapt to new situations. Honing one's negotiating skills in such situations can lead to gaining confidence in one's ability to mediate.
7. Taking risks, embracing the unknown, and learning from failure are useful management tools. Chance, and the related concepts of luck and accident, can play as powerful a role in decision making as choice. Although the examples I described are about conducting fieldwork, they are also

applicable in management related issues.

8. Political correctness, a peculiarly North American phenomenon, is ideological and dogmatic and can either help or hinder one's efforts, depending on what political forces are in vogue at the time and where on the political continuum one is situated. Overt and covert discrimination against Asians still exist although their outward manifestations may have changed.
9. *The Encyclopedia of the Chinese Overseas* by Lynn Pan in 1999 offers a "home" to all individuals of Chinese ancestry who live outside China; it is the author's mission to document the contributions of the Chinese Diaspora worldwide. This concept of diaspora can be applied to other groups.
10. Persistence in following one's intuition coupled with compiling and analyzing hard data, and imagination can lead to fruitful results.
11. Gender roles (culturally defined) and a person's sex (biologically defined) can play a part in how one is treated and influence the choices one makes.
12. Mentors contribute by providing advice, lifelong access, and contacts.

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