Chapter Four
Methodology

4.1 Research strategy

The research project was firmly based upon the presumed availability of 130 suitable informants who would be willing to participate in detailed interview, to gather the necessary information required for the project\textsuperscript{212}. One of the major limitations encountered by the researcher was the total lack of any suitable lists of return immigrants. Neither in Australia nor Greece was the researcher able to secure any archival material that would have listed Hellenes who had emigrated twice from Hellas. Additionally, the lack of published and relevant material on the subject of return migration prevented the author from having a reference point. Such lack of information impeded the research twofold: the non-existence of lists of return immigrants severely limited the selection process of informants, and the lack of previously published studies into return migration hampered a comparison of the findings.

All Greek-language material (books, articles, newspapers, and live radio and television programs) necessitated translation into English, with all translations being performed by the researcher\textsuperscript{213}. This necessitated a considerable amount of time for the collation and archiving of all relevant data. The researcher acknowledges that media reports, where they are cited, are not necessarily reflective of accuracy or of literary value and should be accepted only as the writer’s or author’s personal opinions.

Qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis were used since it was perceived that they were complementary to each other (Patton 2002). The

\textsuperscript{212} It was decided by the researcher that the adoption of a face-to-face survey (rather than telephonic or mail surveys) would result in a quicker completion rate due to the presence of the researcher; it would also lead to more valid responses, because the researcher could explain complicated questions or unfamiliar terms. Further, the presence of the researcher would lead to a higher response rate and also, most importantly, the researcher could gather additional information aside from responses to interview questions (e.g. respondents’ demeanour, aspects of physical environment, apparent economic wellbeing, etc). Although face-to-face was much more costly, both in real terms and time, it was felt that it would lead to a higher quality of responses.

\textsuperscript{213} Where translation from other than Greek was required, the researcher made use of Internet automatic translations services.
quantitative method enabled the forming and tabulating of relevant data, in a coherent and logical manner, while the qualitative approach, in assessing the raw data collected through formal interviewing, enabled the researcher to achieve the following: utilize the subjective data collected towards eliciting more detailed information from the informants, provide for a more systematic research of thematic matters, and allowed for the discovery of clearer aims and themes through the categorization of responses.

Qualitative research methods often receive criticism as not being scientifically adequate. Whereas quantitative research is subject to reliability, validity, and objectivity tests, qualitative research is sometimes seen as being unable to match quantitative research standards. Sandelowski (1986) believes that the four most essential elements of qualitative research are credibility, fittingness, auditability, and confirmability. The strategies that the researcher engaged in to ensure credibility included the accurate transcription of all relevant data personally. Initially the questionnaire and notes made during interview were read a number of times, so as to ensure that during transcription there was no loss or change of meaning, when the need to use SPSS-compatible application was necessary. This required that the researcher devoted his thoughts and energies exclusively within a single informant’s comments at a time. Auditability is achieved when a researcher’s analytical process can be replicated by another researcher, with the aim of reaching the same conclusions. According to Leininger (1990: 40-51) and Yonge & Stewin (1988: 61), rigorosity in qualitative research is assessed against confirmability rather than objectivity. The researcher, in order to assure confirmability, would resort to the use of additional questions, so as to secure clarification on any dubious point.

It is of some importance to state that there are divergent opinions about the efficacy of employing qualitative and quantitative strategies in social research, since some social researchers maintain that the simultaneous employment of quantitative and qualitative research to be incompatible (Schwandt 1989 & 2001, Lincoln and Guba 1985), while others take an opposite viewpoint by declaring the coexistence and symbiotic nature of both methods (Patton 2002, Cook and Reichardt 1979). The researcher believes that the adoption of both methods, in interpreting the subjective raw data collected,
is complimentary and supportive of each other (Firestone 1987). It was the adoption of this method that enabled the researcher to better explore and understand the multiple, and often interwoven, factors that affected the informants’ responses.

4.1.1 Documentation procedure

The initial step was the creation of an appropriate Questionnaire. The researcher freely admits that he had no prior experience with the prescribed programs involved in analysing social research data, and neither did he possess any statistical knowledge. This questionnaire had to contain questions that reflected the basic elements of the research: the need for the informants to have migrated to Australia, to have repatriated, and to then have re-migrated to Australia\textsuperscript{214}. The questionnaire was divided into four parts: part A deals with the informants’ life prior to migrating for the first time, part B deals with the informants’ life in Australia after emigrating for the first time, part C deals with the experiences that the informants underwent after repatriating, and part D reflects the informants’ experiences and thoughts after re-emigrating.

An examination of the four parts of the questionnaire will reveal the following:

- **Part A** – it sought to establish the main biographical details for every informant: age, education, occupation, work experience, family background and economic status. Additionally, personal information regarding religion, sociability, aspirations, and need to emigrate were also sought.

- **Part B** – this section elicited all relevant experiences gained by all informants after they had migrated to Australia. In particular, the informants were asked to provide data on the following: accommodation, work, occupational experiences, and also details about acquiring knowledge of English. This part also sought replies to respondents’ thoughts on: their children’s future, the retention or not of their cultural inheritance, their social and recreational activities, their acquisition of Australian citizenship, their country loyalties, and whether they were happy with their decision to

\textsuperscript{214} See Appendix 4.1.
migrate to Australia. Finally, this section deals with respondents’ reasons for wishing to leave Australia and return to Greece.

- **Part C** – here informants were required to describe their expectations of Greece (prior to arrival), their relationships with family members and old friends after returning, their work experiences in Greece, their children’s school experience in Greece, and their expectations about their children’s future. Additionally data was sought on respondents: recreational and social activities, their family situation, reasons for deciding upon re-emigration, and the preparatory steps taken (if any) to ensure a successful re-integration into Australian society.

- **Part D** – this (last) part of the questionnaire sought information regarding respondents’ post re-emigration experiences and attitudes: work, accommodation, entrepreneurship, personal ambition, education, sociability, community involvement, Church’s status, future for self and family, etc. Further, the questionnaire elicited information on: multiculturalism, racism, loyalty, and future intentions. The final question dealt with the matter of where home is – and the meaning of such a term, as perceived by respondents.

The approval by the Ethics Committee of the University of Sydney was sought to conduct the field survey; the Committee approved the proposal subject to:

- Each prospective respondent being given a *Participant Information Sheet*, which detailed the aims and scope of the study, and which every prospective participant was obliged to read\(^{215}\). This sheet invited prospective participants to participate in the study, and assured them of complete confidentiality and privacy.

- Each respondent, upon consenting to participate, was then required to read and sign the *Participant Consent Form*\(^{216}\). All respondents were to be identified by a unique code which provided for gender differentiation but no name or place of residence identification.

\(^{215}\) See Appendix 4.3.

\(^{216}\) See Appendix 4.4.
• That use of a mobile phone number only be made\textsuperscript{217}.

• That stringent security measures be undertaken to safeguard the completed interview forms.

• That a printed version of all interviews be lodged with Sydney University Archives.

• That all written data be returned to the University’s safekeeping at the end of the study.

As the \textit{Participant Information Sheet} and the \textit{Participant Consent Form} were written in English, it was often necessary for the researcher to translate their contents to many of the respondents. Particular emphasis was placed upon the right of any participant to withdraw from participation, at any stage of the interview without being required to provide a reason\textsuperscript{218}.

The approval of the application to conduct the survey also granted permission for the use of audio recording apparatus during the interviews. It soon became apparent, however, that every interview would take a number of hours\textsuperscript{219} and any recording would be of dubious nature because of the limitations of such devices. Further, there was a degree of demureness from the very start, by many respondents who were unsure of the absolute confidentiality promised and guaranteed by the University and the researcher\textsuperscript{220}. The researcher found it difficult to completely reassure all respondents that the use of an audio-recording device was only for his own use – many respondents were openly sceptical and fearful, and the researcher decided to abandon the suggestion, after having destroyed the few recording made, in front of the interested respondents, to assuage their preoccupation about confidentiality.

\textsuperscript{217} The requirement that only a mobile telephone number be made available for contact posed some problems for the researcher; many eventual participants lamented the availability of a landline phone number, since they viewed the use of a mobile phone as too expensive while some of them were incapable of leaving messages on a mobile phone due to language problems. The researcher failed to understand this provision on the part of the Ethics Committee’s approval of the application.

\textsuperscript{218} Not a single respondent chose to withdraw from active participation once the interview stage had been reached.

\textsuperscript{219} Instead of the 2 hours that had initially been contemplated.

\textsuperscript{220} It was made clear to the researcher that old habits and attitudes die hard as many of the respondents simply refused to believe that any Authority would uphold its pledge of absolute confidentiality. Most of the respondents spoke freely after getting to know the researcher better; they often confided personal matters of an extremely sensitive nature which, in the researcher’s opinion, would not have been the case had recordings been made of all interviews.
Since audio-recording was not possible, the researcher resorted to heavy use of detailed note-taking during the interviews. It soon became evident that the informants' answers far exceeded the expected answer to a given question and that the questionnaire, as formulated, was inadequate to cope with all the supplementary information furnished by the informants. This increased the need for detailed note-taking – a very time-consuming and tiring process. At the end of each day's interviews (or the following day) the researcher would transcribe the day's interviews onto his computer – making sure to note all detailed notes and any necessary comments. All interviews would be meticulously transcribed and all notes, after transcription, would be destroyed so as to prevent any inadvertent loss. Every informant received a unique identification number which (see Appendices 4.1 & 4.2) provided for gender identification, year of first entry into Australia, repatriation year, re-emigration year, but did not permit respondent identification by name or place of residence.

At the completion of all 130 interviews the researcher, complying with the Ethics Committee's dictum of submitting written records of all interviews, printed all completed interviews. At this stage it was realized that the collation and compilation of data in its current form rendered it impossible to analysis, because of its descriptive nature. What was required was the codification of all questions and answers so as to render the entire process analysable. It was at this stage that the Questionnaire form was redesigned to enable codification of questions and answers. The

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221 For interviewees that were retired from the workforce, it was possible to make arrangements to see them during working hours. For non-retired respondents it was necessary to make after-hours arrangements that often involved finishing close to midnight. Each interview would typically consume about 3-5 hours as most respondents desired to furnish the researcher with light refreshments and sometimes insisted that he partake of a meal with them. The researcher endeavoured to interview a couple on the same day, but this was not always possible for a number of reasons – either personal or professional.

222 The researcher contacted 162 persons before obtaining the desired number of 130 completed interviews: 22 refused an interview, 5 cancelled arranged interviews, and 5 were deemed unsuitable by the researcher.

223 The average number of pages (for each completed interview) per respondent was just over 20; this meant the printing of slightly over 2,600 pages.

224 It was at this juncture that the researcher realized that Sydney University did not offer any specific assistance in making available to suitable postgraduate students courses in social science data management. When the researcher sought assistance from the University, the only forthcoming help was the cost-free availability of SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) software. No tuition in the handling of SPSS was made available by the University; after much argument and effort, the Department of Greek at the University gave aural permission for the researcher to undergo training in SPSS at the University of Western Sydney, at an approximate cost of about $600. The researcher declined this offer because by this time he had made other, personal, arrangements.

225 Compare Appendix 4.1 with Appendix 4.2.
Questionnaire was redesigned using Excel; all data (questions and answers) were further codified for use within the SPSS software requirements. This task required the insertion of over 46,000 individual entries and consumed nine additional months of the researcher’s time. At the completion of the transcription of all data from the printed version into SPSS mode, it was possible to analyse quantitatively and qualitatively all data through tabulation and graphic representation.

4.1.2 Informants’ selection criteria

The people chosen to participate in this study had to meet the following criteria: they had to be of Greek origin and they had to have migrated twice to Australia and to have repatriated between the two migration moves. Demographic factors (geographical location, age, gender, and marital status) were not taken into consideration, due to the lack of any suitable list of return immigrants. Random selection of participants could also not be engaged for the same reason. The researcher was aware that he faced severe problems in locating suitable candidates, due to the lack of any official information by Australian or Greek authorities. The only solution was to seek out non-random informants, using personal contacts, and through the use of Greek media.

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226 It is the researcher’s firm belief that the University ought to freely provide all necessary technical and instructional assistance to all qualified and suitable postgraduate candidates so that no other candidate may have to suffer the frustration, unnecessary loss of valuable time, and utter disappointment felt by this candidate in this matter.

227 The researcher, when analyzing the data collected through the SPSS application software, used only *Descriptive statistics (frequencies and cross-tabulation)* of the array of SPSS analyzing tools available (at the deputy supervisor’s suggestion).

228 Country of origin was immaterial, since they could have migrated from Greece itself or any part of the world-wide Greek Diaspora.

229 There was no age limitation imposed, since it was felt that all prospective participants would be either retired from actively working or would be approaching retirement.


231 The Greek Consul-General’s office in Sydney advised that Greek authorities did not keep records of repatriating migrants or return immigrants.
The researcher recorded radio interviews in Sydney and Melbourne\textsuperscript{232}. These interviews were aired repeatedly on SBS radio and Radio 2000 FM in Sydney, and on Radio 3XY in Melbourne. Bilingual\textsuperscript{233} notices were inserted in the Sydney and Melbourne Greek Press (Sydney: *Hellenic Herald* and *O Kosmos*; Melbourne: *Ta Nea*). The purpose of the radio announcements and the press insertions was to inform the Greek Community of both cities of the importance of the undertaking while, simultaneously, stressing the anonymity and confidentiality of any participation. Greek Associations and Clubs (Greek Orthodox Community of Sydney and NSW, Greek Macedonian Club *Alexander the Great*, Castellorizian Club, Cyprus Community of NSW, Greeks from Egypt Club *Hellenic Hestia*, Greek Sub-Branch RSL) and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia (The Annunciation of our Lady Cathedral at Redfern, Resurrection at Kogarah\textsuperscript{234}, St. George at Rose Bay, St. Michael's at Crows Nest, and St. Stephanos at Hurlstone Park), were asked to append notices in prominent positions within their jurisdictions.

With the sole exception of the Kogarah church, ecclesiastic response was minimal. The multiple attempts through diverse outlets failed to attract many respondents; the Sydney radio campaign failed to procure any informant, while Melbourne's campaign yielded about 10 informants and the press campaign yielded only a single participant\textsuperscript{235}. None of the notices placed within Greek Clubs or Associations yielded any response; the researcher attended Greek Orthodox Community of Sydney and NSW's premises, where he succeeded in securing the participation of two respondent. Many potential respondents

\textsuperscript{232} It had originally been intended to restrict the field survey to residents of the Greater Sydney area; when the required number was not forthcoming, it necessitated the expansion of the research into the Melbourne area of Victoria. The researcher is deeply obliged by the efforts expended on his behalf by the management and staff of EKEME, at LaTrobe University, in Melbourne. Professor A. Tamis (Director) ensured that the researcher was most kindly welcomed, and extended every possible assistance (even ensuring the provision of free accommodation, for the duration of the researcher's stay in Melbourne, within EKEME lodgings). Mr. P. Gogidis (Manager, EKEME Archives) was directly responsible in assembling all those participating respondents (through his personal contacts), with the exception of those that participated as a result of hearing the radio broadcast. The researcher is deeply grateful for such assistance which made possible the completion of the study.

\textsuperscript{233} See Appendix 4.5 for details. The Melbourne insertion underwent minor linguistic changes to conform better to Victorian sensibilities.

\textsuperscript{234} The researcher is grateful to the Reverend John Varvaris who, alone among clerics, not only promised his full co-operation, but actively secured suitable candidates, while other clerics promised much but proved to be ineffective.

\textsuperscript{235} The researcher was contacted by a Greek male residing in the Far North Coast of NSW, who had seen the announcement in the Greek paper; when told again of the criteria, he assured the researcher that he qualified and asked that he be sent a questionnaire to complete – the only time that the researcher did not complete a face-to-face interview, because of the huge distance involved (about 800 kilometres from Sydney).
indicated their enthusiasm for the project but declared personal unavailability because they wanted to retain their privacy and “anyway, everybody knows all these things”. Once a respondent had declared willingness to participate in the survey, a mutually agreeable time and place was arranged for the interview. Of the 130 completed interviews, 129 were administered by the researcher.

Securing the prerequisite number of respondents assumed top priority and the researcher initially used his own contacts of known re-emigrants to establish a list of likely candidates. Once this initial step proved successful participating informants were asked to assist by nominating suitable people who may wish to participate. This broad-sweep approach yielded good results as it directly ensured the availability of over 100 candidates. Extensive travelling was required within the Greater Sydney Metropolitan area (this involved the travelling of over 3,000 kilometres), while a similar mileage was involved in travelling between Sydney and Melbourne and Melbourne’s suburbs.

Due to the personal interaction between researcher and interviewees, respondents had the opportunity to seek amplification of questions and also to receive personal guarantees regarding value of study and confidentiality. It was paramount that the researcher be a good listener and be able to hear and record the exact words of the respondents’ answers. Equally important was the need to capture the prevailing ambience during the interview, and to also understand the context within which the informants perceived their personal experiences within their milieu. Often such interaction led to ancillary benefits, such as the inspection of documents, diaries, prose works in progress, diaries, and many photographs. This led to some particularly truthful and open declarations which often surprised the informants’ own families. Interviewing commenced in May 2003 and finished in October 2003.

236 The number of participants was fixed at 130, at the recommendation of Professor E. Gavaki (Assistant Supervisor).
237 It was as a result of such interaction between researcher and informants that permission was given to use the poem in Appendix 4.5 which reveals the innermost feelings of the informant. This poem was written approximately 40 years after the initial emigration took place, but the sentiments and strength and intensity of feelings of the time are all too-evident as is the very nature of the lament contained within the poem.
238 The declarations varied between admission regarding sexual matters, choice of partner, and desire (accompanied by either lack of determination, lack of economic wherewithal, or fear of potential consequences) to escape from an unattractive relationship. Particularly moving were the honesty and frankness with which some female informants related their loss of innocence at the insistence of their husbands-to-be who demanded conjugal relationship prior to the wedding taking place. One female
4.1.3 Informants’ characteristics

General characteristics of the 130 respondents are as follows:

- **Age groups summary**: the 51-80 age group represented 81.53 percent of all respondents, the 51-60 group 25.38 percent, the 61-70 group 39.23 percent, and the 71-80 group 16.92 percent of all respondents.

- **Childhood recollections**: there was a wide variety of childhood recollections among respondents – but few recalled them with fondness, while many lamented the harshness and inequality that they experienced as young children. Appendix 6.20 contains a catalogue of grouped recollections that are as varied as were the respondents themselves. They vary in character between carefree, happy, joyful, memories and memories with indelible recollections of hardship, misery, poverty, deprivation, and gloom.

- **Duration of first stay in Australia**: Appendix 6.8 portrays full details of respondents’ Australian stay during their first migratory experience. The main stay periods for male respondents revolved around 11-15 years (27.6 percent), 1-5 years (22.4 percent), and 6-10 years (19.0 percent); for female respondents the principal stay periods were 6-10 and 11-15 years (each with 28.1 percent) and 1-5 years (15.6 percent).

- **Economic circumstances at time of initial emigration**: Appendix 6.19 records the full details of the respondents’ families’ economic status prior to the initial emigration. By far the biggest group of respondents came from families with “very poor” economic status (total 58/130, 44.6 percent; male 28/63, 44.44 percent, female 30/67, 44.78 percent) with those of “poor” economic background next with 24.6 percent (32/130; male 14/63, 22.22 percent, female, 18/67, 26.86 percent). There was a preponderance of “poor” or “very poor” number of respondents (90/130, 69.23 percent) whose families in Greece lived at subsistence or slightly better level. Female respondents had a slightly higher percentage of such incidence (48/67, 71.64 percent) than males (42/63, 66.66 percent).

Informant declared to the researcher that she has never forgiven her husband of more than 30 years for having violated her innocence and for not having respected her cultural mores.
• **Educational level at time of first emigration**: the majority of respondents (80/130, 61.54 percent) reached no higher than primary school level. A substantial minority (36/130, 27.69 percent) attained secondary level education, while 7 respondents (5.38 percent) graduated at tertiary level. There were 6 female respondents (4.62 percent) that had no schooling and 1 respondent who attained TEI (TAFE) standard.

• **Employment status at time of initial emigration**: of the 130 respondents, 94 (76.9 percent) were working prior to the first emigration. Of those that worked, 53 (84.1 percent) were male and 41 (61.2 percent) female. Of the remaining 36 respondents, 30 (23.1 percent) did not work, while for the other 6 (4.6 percent) employment did not apply.

• **Expectations about Australia prior to arrival**: improvements in quality of life and better personal prospects were the principal expectations harbouried by the respondents, prior to their initial migration to Australia. Female respondents sought the security that marriage represented for them, while male respondents sought secure and continuous employment.

• **Gender breakdown**: there were 63 male and 67 female respondents covered in the study.

• **Greek family details**: Appendix 6.11 reveals the respondents’ family size according to area of provenance by gender breakdown. The majority of respondents derived from families with 3-4 children (total 55/130, 42.3 percent; male 26/63, 41.3 percent, female 29/67, 43.3 percent); the next most important family size contained 5-6 children (total 35/130, 26.92 percent; male 17/63, 27.0 percent, female 18/67, 26.9 percent). The family size of 3-6 children made up the overwhelming majority of respondents (90/130, 69.92 percent) while those respondents that were an only child (total 8/130, male 4/63, 6.3 percent, female 4/67, 6.0 percent) made up only 6.15 percent of all respondents.

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239 For full details on respondents’ educational level (and reasons for any interruption to their education) see Appendices 6.21 – 6.23.

240 See Appendix 6.25 for respondents’ employment status cross-tabulated with their families’ economic status, and Appendix 6.26 for a cross-tabulation of their employment status with their educational level. Appendix 6.27 displays details regarding respondents’ work-related training, cross-tabulated by gender and educational level, while Appendix 6.28 displays details regarding work satisfaction, cross-tabulated with skill level.

241 For detailed information about the respondents’ expectations prior to initially arriving in Australia see appendix 6.36 where all expectations are contained within group headings.
• **Linguistic ability**: the vast majority of respondents (113/130, 86.9 percent) claimed monoglossia; 4 respondents (3.1 percent) claimed to have spoken only English, while 13 respondents (10.0 percent) claimed polyglossia\textsuperscript{242}.

• **Marital status at time of initial emigration\textsuperscript{243}**: most respondents (94/130, 72.3 percent) initially arrived in Australia married persons; male (46/63, 73.0 percent) and female (48/67, 71.6 percent) respondents arrived in Australia with almost identical marital status.

• **Migration attempts**: complete details are contained in Appendix 6.12 (by gender and provenance); both male and female respondents attempted internal migration to metropolitan areas (Athens and Thessaloniki) in almost identical percentages (male 20/63, 31.7 percent, female 22/67, 32.8 percent) prior to emigrating.

• **Parents’ work status**: of the 130 respondents interviewed, 70 (53.8 percent) reported that both their parents were working at the time of the initial emigration (male 33/63, 52.38 percent; female 37/67, 55.22 percent); there was a much higher percentage of working fathers than of working mothers (fathers: 114/130, 87.69 percent, male 53/63, 84.12 percent, female 61/67, 91.04 percent; mothers: 79/130 60.76, male 36.63, 57.14 percent, female 43/67, 64.18 percent)\textsuperscript{244}. It needs to be remembered that many respondents regarded only paid work as appropriate

• **Provenance**: the majority of respondents (86 out of 130) originated from towns whose population did not exceed 5,000 inhabitants (1-1000 inhabitants 49 respondents, 37.7 percent; 1001-2000 inhabitants 19 respondents, 14.6 percent; and 2001-5000 inhabitants 18 respondents, 13.8 percent). Only 14 respondents (10.8 percent) originated from major provincial towns while 21 respondents (16.2 percent) originated from metropolitan cities\textsuperscript{245}.

\textsuperscript{242} See Appendix 6.24 for details.
\textsuperscript{243} See Appendix 6.35 for respondents’ marital status prior to initial emigration to Australia cross-tabulated with gender and provenance.
\textsuperscript{244} Full details about respondents’ parents’ working status by gender, provenance, and occupational status may be found in Appendices 6.13 – 6.18.
\textsuperscript{245} See appendix 6.10 for details.
• **Reasons for emigrating**\(^{246}\): essentially the principal reasons, why respondents chose emigration, are to be found within the group headings of “family” (33/130, 25.4 percent), “personal” (34/130, 26.2 percent), and “multi-faceted” (25/130, 19.2 percent). On gender-based basis, male and female respondents displayed approximation in their given reasons\(^{247}\). While the majority of female respondents sought an escape from an oppressive family atmosphere and disparity of social status, male respondents sought an improvement to their economic wellbeing and a change in fortune.

• **Religiosity**: religion and church attendance\(^{248}\) proved to be 2 of the most vexed questions that respondents’ tried to answer. There was a discernable diffidence on the part of some respondents to openly express themselves, while others took the opportunity to openly express their frustration. Of the 130 respondents, the vast majority (total 108/130, 83.1 percent, male: 51/63, 80.9 percent, female: 57/67, 85.1 percent) claimed to have regularly attended church services, 19 (14.6 percent) claimed infrequent attendance, and 3 (2.3 percent) claimed never to have attended. 67 respondents (51.5 percent) claimed that attendance was compulsory and that the compulsion was enforced by “family” (29/130, 22.3 percent) and school (38/130, 29.2 percent).

• **Respondents’ age groups** – the respondents fall into five disparate age groups divided as follows:
  
  - In the 31-40 age group there were 5 respondents (male 3, female 2).
  - In the 41-50 age group there were 13 respondents (male 5, female 8)
  - In the 51-60 age group there were 33 respondents (male 10, female 23).

\(^{246}\) See appendix 6.32 for breakdown of reasons for emigration by gender, decision-maker, and provenance; Appendix 6.33 contains details of emigrating reasons by group reasons, gender, and family economic circumstances, and Appendix 6.34 contains detailed reasons per group of reasons.

\(^{247}\) Male respondents: personal (18/63 → 28.6%), family (13/63 → 15.9%), and multi-faceted (11/63 → 17.6%). Female respondents: family (20/67 → 29.9%), personal (16/67 → 23.9%), and multi-faceted (14/67 → 20.9%).

\(^{248}\) See Appendix 6.31 for cross-tabulation of church attendance and compulsion to do so. Based on age groupings at time of first emigration, church attendance was as follows: 1-14 years old → 10/14, 71.4%, 15-18 years old → 12/12, 100.0%, 19-22 years old → 21/24, 87.5%, 23-35 years old → 61/73, 83.6%, and 36 years old & over → 4/7, 57.1%. 
• **Sociability:** rare was the respondent that had not engaged in some social and/or recreational activity\(^{249}\) prior to emigrating. Most social activities revolved around family social traditions (attending weddings, baptisms, namedays, engagements, and feast days), while there was also participation in entertainment by attending cinema, paniyiria, and also taking strolls around the town square.

• **Type of person:** the average age of all informants was 62.28 years – the typical male informant was aged 63.87 years (the youngest aged 33, while the oldest was aged 88), while the typical female informant was aged 60.79 years of age (the youngest aged 32, while the oldest was aged 84).

### 4.2 Interview procedure

With few exceptions, the interviews took place in the respondents’ own home. The researcher, having introduced himself, would explain in detail the nature and purpose of the study, and would invite the informants to participate to the fullest possible extent. The requirements, imposed by Sydney University’s Ethics Committee’s, for the conduct of the interview would be explained at this stage and the researcher would reiterate the absolute right by the participant to withdraw at any stage during the interviewing process. At this stage the *Consent Form* would be signed and witnessed, and the researcher would translate where necessary. Although the questionnaire was written in English, the researcher would translate all questions into Greek (where necessary) and would invite all respondents to use either language when replying. Well over 90 percent of the respondents chose to use Greek when replying. It was discovered that the use of Greek greatly facilitated comprehension – and also made it easier for respondents to reply to questions.

\(^{249}\) Appendix 6.29 contains details (by gender) of respondents’ social activities prior to emigrating for the first time while Appendix 6.30 contains similar details related to entertainment.
where elaboration was required. The use of Greek enabled respondents to feel more confident in that they were able to communicate more effectively – particularly where descriptions of personal aspects of their lives were involved.

The researcher would interview only one respondent at a time, where two interviews took place in the same location. Each question was repeated, where necessary, and respondents’ answers and comments were noted very carefully, as were any lateral comments by the informant’s partner. The only time the researcher refused to elaborate on a meaning for a particular term was the question dealing with *multiculturalism*. This was because the subsequent questions solicited information that may have been prejudiced had the researcher given a meaning to multiculturalism.

4.2.1 Interview constraints

The researcher realised early in the interviewing process the possibility of conflicting opinions when both spouses were present. It rarely occurred that a partner would attempt to intimidate the other partner – but where that did occur, careful annotation was made in the notes. Where a partner felt the need to be alone with the researcher, a separate appointment would be made for the interview to take place in complete privacy and unencumbered with any fear or trepidation of spousal reaction. Some questions were met with incomprehension, as to their meaning\textsuperscript{250}, while on other occasions some female respondents were coy about revealing their age\textsuperscript{251}. The principal restraint during interviews felt was the obligation by the researcher to stay within the bounds of the Ethics Committee’s guidelines and not to inadvertently cause any anguish or concern in the respondents’ minds.

\textsuperscript{250} The question on multiculturalism sometimes would cause some respondents to disclaim any knowledge of the term, and they would then seek the assistance of the researcher as to what the term meant. The researcher, on all such occasions, refrained from giving any advice for fear of compromising the informants’ own opinions.

\textsuperscript{251} On such occasions the current age of the respondent would be calculated by making use of dates already given in various parts of the questionnaire.
4.2.2 Overall scope of interviews

The essential purpose of the interviews was to gather data on the respondents' transformation, through acculturation\(^{252}\), during their stay in Australia, and how this change in their socio-cultural characteristics (through living within different sociocultural parameters, that were different to those previously acquired in their places of birth) has altered their perception of themselves, their attitude towards their children, their expectations of their children, and their ability to conform to traditional, and acceptable, socio-cultural patterns. In order to successfully accomplish this aim, it was necessary to obtain as much relevant personal information as possible that transcended the entire lives of the informants.

4.3 Research limitations

4.3.1 Geographical limitations

It was felt that the greatest potential response would emanate from the two largest Greek Communities (Melbourne and Sydney) in Australia. Primarily for this reason, but also for reasons associated with cost-effectiveness, it was decided to concentrate all efforts in securing the requisite number of respondents within these two catchment pools. The greater metropolitan areas of either city were set as the geographical boundaries for interviews owing to the need for the researcher to personally reach all respondents\(^{253}\), as it was felt that any outlying areas would present too big a logistical and economic problem for the researcher who, owing to the complexity of the questionnaire and the need for sequential questioning to ensure affidability, needed to conduct face-to-face interviews.

\(^{252}\) Georgoyiannis (Georgoyiannis, P. 1985, *The International Encyclopedia of Education*, Vol. I, New York, pf.341; also his 1997 Εκπαίδευση και Διαπολιτισμική Επικοινωνία (Εκπαίδευση και Διαπολιτισμική Επικοινωνία; Education and Intercultural Contact, Gutenberg, Athens, p. 125) translates acculturation as επιπολιτισμός, while the dictionary Αγγλοελληνικό Λεξικό (Agglollieniko Lexiko, English-Greek Dictionary) provides the following meaning: alteration of the cultural characteristics owed to approximation of living among diverse cultures.

\(^{253}\) In the process of undertaking such interviews the researcher covered a distance that exceeded 6,000 kilometres overall.


4.3.2 **Time and place restrictions**

Besides the geographical limitations involved in the study, there were also restrictions due to place and time; the researcher had to accommodate the informants’ own timetable in order to secure any given interview. This often required the researcher to conduct an interview late in the evening or very early in the morning; additionally, some respondents required that their spouses be absent during the interview because they did not feel that they would be able to speak openly within the spouse’s presence. The majority of interviews, however, took place with both spouses being present without any rancour or scepticism.

4.3.3 **General problems encountered during research**

There were distinct areas of research – Australia and Greece. Accessibility and availability were much easier to obtain in Australia than they were in Greece. The research in Greece commenced in September 2002 and was completed by the end of 2002. During this period the researcher contacted appropriate academics in two Universities: Panteio University (Athens: Centre Social Research and Social Anthropology, Department of Social Morphology and Social Policy – KEKMOKOP) and Aristoteleio University (Thessaloniki: School of Philosophy, Department of English Language and Philology). Additionally research was conducted at the Greek National Research Institute (GNRI), National Centre for Social Research (NCSR), and the Greek National Statistical Office (GNSO), and at various publishing houses’ bookshops in Athens. The Australian research was concentrated upon the resources of Sydney University, LaTrobe University, ABS, electronic journals, published works, and personal contacts.

The academics contacted at Aristoteleio University had no particular knowledge of the thesis’ theme, while Panteio University’s KEKMOKOP’s research and published works dealt almost exclusively with Greek repatriates from Pontus and had no direct relevance to other Communities of the Greek Diaspora. The data available at GNSO was limited in nature because of the

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254 The National & Kapodistrian University of Athens was not contacted, because it lacks an appropriate department dealing with immigration issues.
discontinuity of chronological files, lack of librarianship, and limited assistance offered by staff. Nevertheless, the data collected there (particularly Greek censuses information), was quite useful. Of much higher level was the assistance offered by staff at NCSR, who not only proffered their personal expertise but were happy to provide advice and guidance. This Centre also had a discontinued but valuable number of publications which the researcher found quite useful. The publishing houses in Greece were very disappointing, in that their availability of books bearing on the thesis’ subject was abysmally limited and of outdated nature, while available publications were predominately Euro-centred.

Unlike research in Greece, Australian-based research proved useful and fruitful. The resources of Sydney University’s Fisher library and LaTrobe University’s EKEME provided a wealth of information regarding the history of Greeks in Australia, their organizational structure, and their influence within the larger Australian society. What was disappointing was the lack of any suitable material through GOCA, GOCs, and DIMIA. GOCA (through its library at St. Andrew’s Greek Orthodox Theological College) has available monographs and periodicals dealing with Eastern Orthodox doctrine, spirituality, and musical transcripts exclusively. Its publication, Directory (1993) provides statistical information regarding in-church marriages, baptisms, and conversions to Orthodoxy. It also provides a synoptic discourse GOCA’s history in Australia and also provides some details on the Church’s religious and secular activities. GOCs were found to be lacking in archival material relative to repatriation and re-emigration, while DIMIA has a plethora of details on immigrants and emigrants but not on re-emigrants. The most accessible sources were electronic journals and published opuses in the various libraries; where possible, use was made of privately available sources and any other material considered useful that may have been published outside the provenance of learned journals.

By engaging in a range of research methods and by employing qualitative and quantitative methodology approaches this study, on the effects of acculturation of Hellenes in Australia, has managed to avoid, to the greatest

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255 The only statistics published in this publication deal with marriages and baptisms conducted within GOCA churches and conversions to Orthodoxy; see Appendix 2.1 for details.
possible degree, research bias and limitations. Through the adaptation of a range of research mechanisms, the study has been able to draw on socioeconohistorical evidence presented through direct informants' input and contained within published opuses. The socioeconohistorical approach enabled the study to examine and compare the social, economic, social, and cultural forces that were responsible for the initial emigration, repatriation, and re-emigration of the 130 respondents.

Chapter Five provides the results of the research conducted into the motivation of the 130 respondents, who chose to emigrate from their places of birth, repatriate, and subsequently re-emigrate to Australia.