

HONG KONG December 2, 2013

“Speed-dating a.k.a. How Hong Kongers bless actors, deceivers and liars.”

The end of November and the beginning of December are my favorite in Hong Kong. It is not too cold, not too warm and the humidity levels are still rather low or pleasant, anyway. It's lovely being here and speed-dating is running high, as always. Not that I know in details. I am married. I do not move around looking for dupes. But I do enjoy talking to people and I have been searching for months how they try to manage a conversation, knowing that they do not have much time and they still would like pretty much getting a new friend or a new partner or (even better for some) somebody new to have fun with. Of course, I am aware of the “gender gap” in this specific field: generally speaking, ladies prefer to build up relationships. Males are more “testosterone driven” and ... let's say that ... the “relationship” is not precisely their predominant and most urgent target. In order to avoid bothering you with such distinctions I will pretend that, in Hong Kong, males and females handle their “networking activities” having the same objectives in mind (even though this remains to be seen). I can reveal one amazing observation though: males and females approach their own speed-dating opportunities almost entirely with the same manners, without considering the consequences of their attitude.

A basic characteristic of the City is that people do not have time available. I am not sure if this is an “unavoidable condition of the place” or if they prefer life this way or if it is a good excuse to avoid long and tiring talks with basically unknown creatures or a mix-up of all those factors together. Hong Kongers do not restrict their fast way to connecting to other people to speed-dating. They are quick at any event, under all circumstances, particularly with interlocutors they have never met before.

They sincerely feel they should not waste too much time to get what they really want. They want it. So what's the point to wait for it, too long ??? Let's get it and stop worrying about anything else.

Now, if the real goal of that approach should be to spend 2 or 3 hours in bed with somebody new ... well, it is a free country after all and if no minors are involved ... (if nobody in this "game" is underage) ... I don't have any problem with that.

However, Hong Kongers are by far more sophisticated than that and they enjoy a lot of freedom, already. No, they do not use the same routine over and over again only to getting laid. No. No. Probably that is how it all began. They acquired this style of "quick investigation" for "speed-dating" and they ended up using the same style, the same approach any time they are meeting somebody they have never met before.

They use a similar routine, a similar sequence of questions any time, at any event, under any circumstances. At this point, the same procedures (typical of a speed-dating session) have become ordinary way of life and they are part of everyday life for millions of individuals, in Hong Kong.

Hong Kongers seem to make enquiries just to realize if the person in front of them "possesses a certain degree of wealth" and the rest it doesn't matter. Nobody is truly interested in ... character, values, opinion of the interlocutor.

So, I am wondering ... are they going to get what they really want ??? Are they really able to (properly) interview, to "select" and to "pick-up" the persons they really like ... for whatever reasons ???

I have tried hard to answer that question. I have tried to investigate their preferences and – with a certain degree of surprise – I have found out that the most common questions they are asking (males and females, with no distinctions) are all related to ... vacations, activities, hobbies, taste of their interlocutors and in doing so they are not having a conversation !!! It looks like a short interview, in which there is no way to verify the contents of those answers.

You see, when a journalist interviews a celebrity there is a background check before the interview. There are facts, scripts, videos, stories which create such background.

If the celebrity is lying sooner or later somebody is going to find out. And after that interview there will be always a follow up, later on, in which the journalist will review the contents of what the celebrity said.

On the contrary, in Hong Kong they do not have time or opportunities for such background check (before) and even if they will perform a sort of follow up (later) it will probably be too late, for that.

So, what is going on ??? Who has the edge ??? Who has got the “advantages” of this way of life ??? Well, a good actor gets the advantages, somebody able to “perform in the short run”, a soul a bit narcissistic perhaps or a person not concerned about the truth, while talking about itself ... an individual ready to lie, if necessary ... those kind of people get the edge, in this situation.

Honest and humble human beings ... they will be eliminated, they will be rejected almost during the first phase and even when they are not discarded from the beginning ... how could they compete with actors, deceivers and liars while answering to questions about themselves, in a very short amount of time ??? They simply can't.

And in this particular case, for those specific conditions – I can assure you – males are by far happier than ladies, in this metropolitan area and not because there are more liars among males ... but simply because they are both chasing around similar preys, with similar procedures and almost identical questions ... having in mind very different final results.