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**When Women 'Do' and 'Display' Families: A Sociological Study
of Blended Families in Singapore**

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Sociological research about stepfamilies have come extensively out of North America and Europe. An understanding of new family structures in the Asian context, however, remains limited because of the stigma associated with divorce, remarriage and stepfamilies despite their increasing numbers. In Singapore, remarriages accounted for nearly a quarter of all civil marriages which is a 20% increase from a decade back and about 30% of Muslim marriages as of 2015, yet sociological contributions to understanding this contemporary family form has been virtually absent. The primary aim of this paper is to enhance an understanding of the transitions into and the relationship dynamics within blended families in Singapore through the lived experiences of Singaporean women in married and cohabiting stepfamilies. Though the accounts of men and children are important, the primary focus on women is because a large majority of stepfamily households are stepfather families-that is, families with a mother and her children and a stepfather and/or cohabiting partner. Drawing from international literature, the paper unpacks how women 'do' (Morgan, 1996) and 'display' (Finch, 2007) families particularly focusing on how they cope with family transitions, reconfigure relationships and parenting practices, navigate around state policies and societal expectations pointing towards the various structural and psychological resources that stepfamilies have access to, or lack thereof. In so doing, the conceptual framework helps recognize 'the family' as a site of social and political intervention and transformation that has significant implications for social and economic inequality in Singapore society. In exploring the mechanisms through which families are deconstructed and reconstructed, the paper contributes towards new understandings of contemporary families in a non-western context promoting critical scholarship relevant to public policy.