

The Doctor of Love and International Love Scout

Dr. Julia Meszaros Lebanon Valley Professor

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- Received Ph.D. from FIU
- Assistant Professor at Lebanon Valley College
- Studying the global dating industry since 2011
- Years in the field following AFA romance tours
- Years attending Idate conferences & meeting
- Published academic articles and Huffington Post pieces

Collaboration with International Love Scout

- Challenge common perceptions of the industry
 - 1. Women are simply poor & desperate Gold Diggers
 - Economic positions of women
 - Issues of Online Scams
 - 2. Men are desperate and abusive
 - Demographics of Men
 - Tradition
 - Youth

Scams & Green Cards

- Difficult to come across exact statistics from the government
 - Agencies claim 80% success rate
 - My own research have seen 3 divorces out of 12 couples
 - Most marriages in Philippines
- Most Scams online
 - NEVER send money to an online GF
 - Must meet in person
 - Establish connection/chemistry

Legitimate Agencies

- Followed A Foreign Affair Romance Tours
- Observed Natali at Matchmaking by Natali
- Numerous legitimate smaller agencies as well
 - Do your research
 - Know your platform: Matchmaking, High End, Romance Tours
 - Issues surrounding correspondence

International Marriage Broker Regulation Act

- US government passed in 2005 with VAWA
- Based on narrative of abusive men
 - High profile murder cases
 - Predators
- Restrictions
 - Meet in Person
 - 2 K1 fiancé visas per lifetime
 - Background checks

Marriage Process

- Fraudulent marriages occur very rarely
- Numerous years to citizenship and green card
- Citizenship interviews are set up to help determine
- Once again, must meet in person

Are women in the industry Gold Diggers?

- Economy and Intimacy
 - Zelizer (2005) differentiated ties and relational work
- History of Romance
 - Marriage about property and alliances
 - Courtly Love
 - Western notions
- Economics will always play a role
 - Most women just want stability
 - All of my interviews, women talked about stability