



Something old,  
something new:  
Bricolage and  
wedding  
traditions

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# Something old, something new: Bricolage and wedding traditions

Bricolage: 'implies an active assembly of parts, the adaptation of norms, values and arrangements to suit a new purpose ... both a conscious scrutiny of some beliefs, and an unconscious acceptance of others' (Cleaver, 2002: 20)

Invented tradition: 'a set of practices, normally governed by overtly or tacitly accepted rules and of a ritual or symbolic nature, which seek to inculcate certain values and norms of behaviour by repetition, which automatically implies continuity with the past' (Hobsbawm, 1983: 1)

Name	Age	NS-SEC class	Pre-wedding relationship	First Marriage	Children	Venue(s)	Location	Cost	Female name change
Darren	33	Managerial	Cohabiting	Yes	Yes	1. Church 2. Country house	Ireland	£25,000	Yes

Darren inventing tradition: '...getting married as I dreamt of as a child in Ireland. So it's kind of coming full circle for my grandfather, I suppose. So, it's a bit of, you know, going back to your roots, I suppose'

Darren as bricoleur: 'We will exchange vows in both ceremonies. We will exchange rings and vows during each practice. We'll also conduct a hymn and a poem during the Friday more religious ceremony. And, we will exchange rings as well.'

Darren as provider: 'it's all been quite easy but, kind of preparing Mary, giving her that insight, so kind of making it easy for herself, so I've got everything planned out. So, she can see and then visualise it. It's helped her.'

Individualised conformity: 'items which respondents referred to as giving their wedding a "personal touch" ironically recurred in other weddings' (Currie, 1993: 418): a product of bricolage with aspirations to tradition and individualism.

A decorative graphic of a feather, rendered in a light beige or tan color, is positioned on the left side of the slide. It has a central rachis with numerous barbs extending outwards, creating a fan-like shape. The feather is oriented vertically, pointing downwards.

# Thank you for listening...

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Any questions?