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Interview 1 Transcript

I interviewed a 21-year-old Chinese female University of Washington student.

I: Interviewer, P: Participant

I: Ok! So, where were you born?

P: I was born in China.

I: Ok, how long did you live there before coming here?

P: For 16 years.

I: 16 years, alright, and then how long have you been here?

P: This is my fifth year, so like, four and a half.

I: Yeah, and then what brought you to the US?

P: Just like, I was here just for high school -

I: High school, yeah.

P: And for college, yeah.

I: Where'd you go to high school? Was that in Washington?

P: Yeah, my first year was in Spokane, and my second year was in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

I: Albuquerque, oh, why did you move there?

P: So like, the first year was like an exchange program so I was only supposed to be there for like a year, and then I had to transfer.

I: Oh ok, do you plan on staying here after college?

P: Yeah, I do plan that.

I: For work? Or...

P: Yeah, for work.

I: Are your friends mainly from here or home?

P: I would say both, but mostly from China.

I: Do you have a reason as to why that could be?

P: I guess it's just easier to get along with Chinese than Americans, personally for me. But I do have American friends.

I: Is it because of like a personality difference? Or...

P: Yeah, I guess like we do have like different personalities and, you know, like, cultural difference.

I: For sure, yeah, then does your family speak English? And do you experience any language barriers at all?

P: My family doesn't really speak any English, but I don't really feel like any language barrier.

I: Do experience language boundaries in your everyday life?

P: Not really.

I: Where do you consider home?

P: I consider home - I would still say my hometown is my home.

I: How often do you travel back to where you were born?

P: Like, once a year.

I: Because of like, cost and stuff?

P: Yeah, also spring breaks and winter breaks are usually really short, so it's not worth it.

I: Short, yeah. Was it hard adjusting to American culture?

P: I can't say that it's hard, but it's definitely hard to fully integrate into the culture, but it's not hard to embrace the culture.

I: Then, what is your least favorite thing about America and the culture?

P: I can't really think of a least favorite thing right now... I guess one thing is, I feel like, that Americans are usually grouped together, you know, I think, at least from my observation, white people usually hang out with white people, and Asian Americans usually hang out with Asian Americans.

I: It's very clique-y, isn't it?

P: Yeah.

I: What is your favorite thing about America and its culture?

P: I guess freedom of speech, you can say whatever you want and that's not a problem.

I: Are you a part of any communities?

P: Communities?

I: Like clubs, or anything like that.

P: Well, I am a part of my church.

I: And is that a Chinese church?

P: Yeah, that's a Chinese church.

I: And then, do you feel included in the American culture?

P: Yeah, I do feel included.

I: What ways does -

P: Usually people are pretty nice, they talk to you and help you whenever you need help.

I: Is there anything about your immigration experience that you feel could have been improved?

P: I don't really know. I definitely hope that there could be a club that has a mix of white students and students from different races, so that we can have an opportunity to, you know, to get to know each other's culture and stuff. Because at least from my experience, I didn't really know clubs that do that.

I: Yeah, me neither, that would be cool. So, you're not a US citizen, is that correct?

P: Yeah.

I: Do you want to be?

P: I don't know, I'm not really eager for that, if I do get the opportunity, it's fine, if I don't it's totally ok too.

I: So you need a VISA to work, right?

P: Yeah, first of all I need a VISA to work, and then after working a few years I can probably get a greencard. Then after the greencard is probably the citizenship.

I: Oh, interesting, ok. Is there anything else you'd like to say about American culture, your culture?

P: I guess, it's just two totally different cultures. It would be really hard to totally blend into the American society, for people from different countries, but I feel like Americans do a good job, at like, treating people from different cultures in general.

I: So, like, the thing that you feel could be improved is maybe more of a community that facilitates a sharing of culture.

P: Yeah, definitely.

I: Ok, thank you so much!

P: Yeah, of course!

Interview 2 Transcript

Interview with a 36-year-old South Korean female University of Washington student.

I: Interviewer, P: Participant

I: Where were you born?

P: Soul, South Korea

I: How long did you live there before coming here?

P: About 30 years

I: How long have you been in the US?

P: 6 years

I: What brought you to the US?

P: I applied for PHD courses, I applied to various schools and found that the fit with my current adviser was kinda the best in a way

I: Do you plan on staying in the US?

P: I think perhaps I will try to stay for a couple years here, if I can get the job, if there is a job opportunity. Eventually I think perhaps I move back to Korea.

I: Are your friends mainly from here or home?

P: Depends on how you define friends, I had a lot of friends in Korea, but also I have a fairly good amount of friends or lab mates here. I share a lab space with 2 professors, colleagues slash friends

I: Where do you consider home?

P: Depending on the level, I live in Fremont, but if you ask where is your home country then south Korea is my home country

I: How often do you travel back to where you were born?

P: At least once a year, last year I went back three time and that was too much

I: Was it hard adjusting to American culture?

P: It's really different. There was a lot of challenges of course. The biggest difference for me in terms of school was the education system is kinda really different and then like especially like homework or even in class activities. Those were not really like super clear for me. What am I supposed to do. Sometimes it is hard to understand the call to action rather than doing the activity itself. As you are having this education system your entire life you don't really recognize its like its like a kind of "okay I'm going to do this group activity" but to me like those things are kinda out of norm. So to understand those were kind of interesting and challenging. Culture wise, here all the individualistic preferences or cases are kinda really valued. Which is not really in Korea. So that like I'm always having trouble to order some food at chipotle. They are asking me too many questions. I just want a combo number 1. Here it's like everyone values those individual choices so that was challenging to speak out about what I want because I never use to be before.

I: What is your least favorite thing about America and its culture?

P: I can say the political climate is not my favorite but that doesn't really affect me. I do not associate myself as an American citizen so the political climate doesn't really directly impact me although it makes me sad. When all the election happen I wasn't as emotional as others. It was kinda a surprising moment. Another thing, healthcare system was kind of a little complicated to understand. In Korea I used to go to like any kind of urgent care

and not really get charged all that much. But here I got bitten by my cat and that was drama. I went to urgent care and didn't really know what to do at that point.

I: What is your favorite thing about America and its culture?

P: Everyone is willing here and accept the differences. People are more open minded. Even though they are not people try to be politically correct. I like the spirit of freedom.

I: Are you a part of any communities?

P: I wish I am. But, PHD life it can be a lot of time draining job so I don't. I have a couple of friends from Korea and we get together and do things.

I: Do students feel comfortable coming to you for help?

P: (she is a TA) I think so, I believe so. Someone was not agreeing with me to they asked me for clarification. I try to be more open minded but I think that as an east Asian female I may present as more shy and quiet and not approachable.

Interview 3 Transcript

Interview with a 28-year-old male who moved to the States when he was 17 from Aman, Jordan.

I: Interviewer, P: Participant

I: Where were you born?

P: Aman, Jordan

I: And how long did you live there [Aman] before you came to the U.S.?

P: Uh, I lived there for 17 years, I grew up there basically.

I: Then you came straight to the U.S.

P: Yeah.

I: And you went where first?

P: Portland, Oregon.

I: And then here [WA]?

P: Yeah ... and if you want more details at any point just tell me how much detail you want.

I: Yeah, feel free to include anything anywhere. So if you want to talk about where you were born in Aman more specifically, like what life was like there...

P: Is that helpful?

I: Yeah, everything is helpful.

P: What is the purpose of this, what are you trying to accomplish out of this, the project?

I: The purpose of it is, each one of our group members will interview someone and somewhere in there we're going to find similarities amongst everyone.

P: Ok, and each person in the group is interviewing an immigrant and what do these immigrants have in common, or something like that.

I: Yeah, and they're all very similar in a way, like they came from a different country somewhere in the middle of their life and so once we, kind of, we're going to try and track down if there are any similarities amongst them [their answers] and see what we can do with that.

So Aman, Jordan, like just walk me through a day in your life there.

P: Ok. So I was born in Aman, Jordan, that's the capital there. I have five siblings, four sisters, one brother. Father worked for the airport for 30 years so my entire time growing up my dad was working for the airport, my mom never in her life had a job just because women don't really work back home and your [women's] job was, just take care of your husband, kids, family and ah... I: So, uh, and that's considered like a good job there then?

P: For my father?

I: Yeah.

P: It was a decent job, it was a decent job. We were not a poor family and we were not a wealthy family either. We were somewhere in the middle where, we had food on the table and we have room on top of that.

I: Cool. And so you lived, you said you lived there until you were 17?

P: Yes.

I: So uh ... you went to school, pretty much, almost finished high school right?

P: Yeah, I moved to the U.S. just like about a month and a half after I finished high school [in Jordan].

I: Uh, ok, so uh, and now you've been in the U.S. how long?

P: Nine years.

I: Nine years? Ok.

P: Almost nine years.

I: Uh, and so I mean obviously because I know you, but the reason you came to the U.S.?

P: Opportunity.

I: Opportunity?

P: Yeah, you know back in Jordan, if you're not born in to a wealthy family or if you don't like rob a bank or something it's very difficult for you to create a future and uh you know, we were, we were a big family, there was a lot of us, you know there is six children, and one point three were in college and uh, you know my dad had the first, you know, he was able to pay for my oldest sister's college, he was able to pay my oldest sister, the oldest sibling we have, he paid for her college and then when it was time for my second oldest sister to get to college he reached a point where he was like, 'I can't do it' so he reached out to my uncles and then everybody pitched in and then they paid for her college and uh you know, then my brother comes and my brother you know, he's a different story.

I: Right.

P: He [his brother] didn't even go to high school and uh, so you know, staying in Jordan, and the situation that we were in I would've probably not had a good chance to create a good future, you know I would've had to work to be able to pay for school to work, you know half of my friends in Jordan are like engineer's, they make three hundred bucks a month, so if I had a job before, you know, graduating, I will be making like a hundred bucks a month, so it will be almost impossible for me to go to school or do anything, so I'm just going to be dependent on my parents just living as a useless person and that is very common, you know, I have a lot of family, a lot of friends, who are in their 20s, 30s or 40s who completed nothing in their lives, and you know, it's, the culture in Jordan is very dependent, so when, you know sometimes I think about it, I didn't grow up with like big dreams or you know I wanna do this or I wanna do that mainly because we're very dependent. I grew up knowing that my parents are here, I can live here forever and I'll never have to go anywhere, you know, I'll eat their food and I'll sleep in their, in their house and you know there's no pressure for me to think, 'you know what, no, I need to get outta here, I need to do this, I need to do that', does that make sense?

I: Mhm, yea... So when you were, when you were there, did you, what, you saw the U.S. as an opportunity? What, like, like what kind of an opportunity, school, like work...

P: Everything.

I: ...finance, everything? Did you have anything specific thing in mind or were you just kinda like, 'oh, the West'?

P: Just, you know, I wanna get outta there because, you know it's, then you go back to everybody being dependent, and the culture, it's normal, you know people don't look at it and be like, I have uncles, who have two-three children, who still live with their parents, and it's not that uncommon, because, you know, this person didn't go to school, didn't get a good job, they just, you know, started working at a grocery store or something and they didn't have a drive or a motivation to create something better. And you know his parents had a big house and they built a little wall in the middle and he's like ok, you can have that half, so he just lived there, and he still lives there today.

I: Ok.

P: My brother is 32 years old, he still lives with my parents. He move back to Jordan, and he still lives with my parents and that's not uncommon you know people don't look at this and is like 'oh, what is going on there' no that's...

I: It's like a normal part of the culture.

P: Yeah, that is normal.

I: Yeah, I mean in Russia it's similar, I think, you know, uh, for the most part, uh, depending on, yeah, a little bit more like specific cultures of course, but in Russia it wouldn't be too weird if a guy was still living with his parents even at that age, it's only here in the West that it seems like it's, it's kinda weird.

But, um.

P: So I didn't, I just never understood being in better health and better shape than my parents. Go to them, and was like 'hey, can I have some money' like now, even now when I go to visit Jordan, see my friends who are my age, still living with their parents, already graduated with college that their parents paid for, They drive nice cars, they have nice cell phones, they don't have jobs, they still live with their parents, they go, you know, 'dad can I have', you know, 'my allowance, my monthly allowance', and, you know, just very very dependent culture.

I: Mhm, interesting.

P: You know, I think that's all right to a certain point, but to me, a 26-year-old and you're still living off your parents, I thought that was just. I don't talk to 90% of the people I grew up with.

I: And that's probably like, you think that's something like, that's something like, uhh, something that, you've now lived here this long, and you look back and you're like, 'yeah, that's different'.

P: Absolutely, absolutely.

I: If you were there you probably would've been.

P: I would've been the same thing.

I: You can see the difference or distinction.

So, do you plan on staying in the US then, like, forever?

P: No, absolutely not. My long-term plan or my ideal plan would be to, work enough, save enough money and take back, because you know as much as I talked about people being dependent and you know, lazy, etc. there are a lot of people who are a lot smarter than I am, that have a lot more education than I have, a lot more, you know, potential, yet you know, when I visited last time, one of my cousins he has electrical engineering computer engineering, yet, he works at a curtain store, He hangs curtains, just because that's the kind of job that he got

I: Mmm, I see.

P: He is a lot more educated than I am, he has a lot more, like he could be doing something a lot more meaningful and have more impact, so what I ideally would want is to have enough money so I could go back and be like, 'here's \$20,000, start a business, let's share the profits, you're very smart, you know, you know you have potential, let's work something out' so I have the opportunity to leave and you know, see the world from a different angle, possibly make something happen. I want to give these people opportunity, where they can benefit themselves and I can benefit too.

I: I see, so you want to take the opportunity back?

P: Exactly.

I: Interesting.

P: And not, just mainly because these people are very smart, some of these people are really smart and like way smarter than I am, have way more potential than I do, but they're

stuck doing bull-shit like that, doing stuff like that because they just don't have the opportunity.

I: That's interesting. Hmm, I guess I never really thought about it, that's pretty cool, pretty smart idea.

P: Yeah, yeah I'll benefit, they'll benefit, it's a win win for everybody.

I: So uhm, do any members of your family speak English?

P: Oh, well enough to get by, like not fluent

I: Well you and your brother?

P: Yes, and a couple of my sisters, but my parents, they say they speak English, I don't think they do, but my mom goes to the mall when she visits, she comes home, she tells us all these stories about, you know 'it was this much' but then, you know, 'it was that much, then she sold it to me for this much but said it was this much...' it's like, how did you understand all of that.

I: Ahahaha

P: So, she says she speaks English but I've never seen her do it. She gets by, she comes home with all kinds of stories.

I: Uhm, as far as English speaking, do you ever feel like, like that's a barrier?

P: Like it's a what?

I: Do you ever feel like it's a barrier, like it's a little bit of a barrier?

P: Mmm.

I: No?

P: Not that much anymore, in some instances, but now I think I reached a point where it's normal.

I: Yeah, it's like...

P: It feels natural.

I: So are your friends mainly from home or from here? Like any of your friends, people that you're friends with, most of your friends, are they in Jordan, or are they here?

P: My friends here in the U.S.?

I: Like anywhere.

P: No.

I: Do you have like a big chunk of them here, or are most of them back home?

P: Not really, just like a handful, if that, because you know if somebody doesn't make me a better person, doesn't make me a better man, I don't want to be friends with them. Because we grew up and we played games, and this and that, you're still dumb and you're you're still, what's on your mind is what cigarettes you smoking and you spend all night talking to your girlfriend on the phone and you're 26 years old and that's what's on your mind, what your concerns are, what your life is, that's, I don't want to be friends with you.

I: So, most of your friends from home, you're not really friends with them. So over here you have like a couple friends, it's like pretty much most of the people you talk to, yeah.

P: Yeah.

I: So, where do you consider home?

P: Where do I consider home? That's a tough question to answer

I: Well that's why I asked it

P: Home is definitely Jordan.

I: Jordan? And why do you think that?

P: Because, it's just different, it's, it's home you know, you can't.

I: I feel like, the only reason why I follow up with that question is because, like now, with this job, you feel comfortable negotiating with them and all that, It's like you're established. It's like different than someone who is desperate. So I don't know, it's an interesting thing.

P: And you know, this definitely feels like home, but if you want like, nothing nothing...

I: I guess another way to phrase this would be, if you went to Jordan, would you want to get back home and get back into bed, or would you want to stay in Jordan?

P: It depends on the situation, if I...

I: Yeah, cuz it's like...

P: I don't want to go home and sit with no potential and no future and just be lame and dependent. If I would have a way to do something meaningful...

I: Then it would be Jordan?

P: Then I would definitely choose Jordan.

I: So Jordan is home for you? That's a good thing, it's good.

P: Especially because my parents are there.

I: Um, so how often do you travel back?

P: Not very often, since I've moved I've been three times.

I: Three times, and one of those was to...

P: Get married.

I: And you went back twice before you got married, and then you got married and that was the last time you went?

P: No, I went once, then I got married, then my dad broke his leg and I went again.

I: But, your family has come here, like hasn't your dad, hasn't he come here a couple times?

P: Yeah.

I: And Abood [older brother], He's in and out of here a lot?

P: Yeah.

I: And then your other family are in California, your sisters?

P: Uh, yes, she's in Utah, she was in California, then she got married this summer and moved to Utah.

I: That's just one sister right, you have two though, right?

P: In the U.S.

I: Two sisters?

P: I have four sisters total.

I: Four? Oh.

P: Two in the U.S. two in Jordan.

I: So obviously your family, you just said, you have two sisters, one that lives in Utah and the other one who lives in the U.S. lives where?

P: Uh Monroe.

I: Monroe, Washington?

and then everybody else lives in Jordan?

P: Correct, and these two sisters in the U.S. are both married.

I: So, I think we kind of covered this earlier, but did you find it hard to adjust to the American culture?

P: Of Course.

I: Like, describe it.

P: It's very different than the Middle Eastern culture, let me think for a second.

I: You don't have to answer this question.

P: No no no, I just want to make sure that I fraise it right, yeah it's definitely different, there was so many times when things got very awkward or things got really weird because of cultural difference mostly when it comes to communication because, let me give you an example, in the Middle East were pretty straightforward and I think you've known me for a while and I think now I'm better at it where I can just step back before throw [say] something at [to] you, like find a way to sugarcoat it you know...

I: Like not make it... well we call it like a euphemism.

P: Uh yeah, we don't really have that in our culture, if you have something to say just say it.

I: Say it...

P: And, you know, one time I was working at the coffee shop and Portland and one of my coworkers was trying to get between two fridges to put up a box, and she said 'I don't understand why I can't do this' I said 'you're A little big for this space' and you know that was when I first moved here and I didn't mean that in a rude way I thought she genuinely asked the question and you know, I genuinely answered that question. And, later on I find out, later on I talk to this specific girl, and she told me way after, like in the past year, how much she hated working at the coffee shop because I was there. And that one day I told her that, 'yeah, you're a little big and that's why you can't go in and put the box' she was like, she went home and was crying, she was telling her sister that she wanted to quit and that she didn't want to work at this job. But, I didn't mean it in a rude way, I thought she genuinely asked a question, I just honestly answered the question. But, you know there were a lot of other things that happened in a similar way, I say something, it's taken the wrong way just because of the communication gap in the culture.

I: And that was definitely like a social situation. What about like a physical context? Like the streets...

P: Oh yeah...

I: Like when you came here from Jordan, the roads were smooth, stuff like that.

P: Oh yeah.

I: Like what's different, like the toilet flusher is on the wrong side, stuff like that or whatever, you're on the wrong side of the road, everything is in miles per hour...

P: Well, first of all you have water, when you go to the bathroom you go to the kitchen, you open the water, there is water 24/7. When you go outside, you want to wash your car, you have water 24/7, and that was not something that we had. You know, growing up, and when I first moved here, I asked the people I was living with 'is there water today?'. So to give you a little background, back home, we get water from the government two days out of the week, so on Monday and Thursday we get water from the government, so if you go outside and you open the faucets there is water, the rest of the week there is no water. So, on those days we have to fill the tank that's on top of our house to last us the rest of the week for like dishes, showers, cooking, drinking, everything. So you know, it happens a couple times a month when you get up and you go to the shower and you get ready, you turn on the water and there is nothing so you just close it and move on with your day. There is nothing you can do. And we were not like a poor family, at least you know, we get water two days out of the week some other areas got it one day a week. So you know, it's not like a sad situation, it's just the way it is. So you come here and you have water 24/7/, not just water, hot water. You know when we want a hot shower we have something called geezer, I don't know if you're familiar with it or if it's something that you know about. It's like a machine that warm is the water and then you can use it.

I: Yeah yeah.

P: But it's not going like 24/7, you have to turn it on and wait a half hour. It's not like here, you turn on the hot water.

I: Yeah, we just have water heaters.

P: The streets, absolutely different, when I first, my first taken that I ever got in the US was a seatbelt ticket. Because, back home I never use the seatbelt, the car is had them, but no one ever use them. It's not required, you don't use them, it's just there. So the first ticket I got in the US with the seatbelt tickets. Also, you know back home, my dad, and his truck has a stack of tickets this big... oh am I making you sleepy?

I: No no.

P: He had a stack of tickets this, so he had a stack of tickets, if he got pulled over, he just paid the officer, that's it, done, there's no record, it doesn't affect your insurance, most of the time the tickets are just \$10 or \$20. So when I get to the US I get a speeding ticket, it's like \$600, so what do I do? I go online and I pay the ticket. Or for that one I had to go to

court for. But you know, I got four tickets after that, I just went online and paid them, I didn't know you have a record, I didn't know you have insurance rates that get affected. And then I had a white Camry, and my insurance was \$290 a month, so I called my insurance agent and ask him why it so expensive? And the guy was like 'sir have you seen your record?' And so that's one of the things that were different, and I learned that if I had gotten one more ticket my license would've been suspended. So this is different, you actually have to follow the law, back home if you stop at a traffic light, if it's red, you just go, if nobody's there you just drive through. And that's very very very common, actually in some areas people don't even stop, in the nicer areas they'll stop look around, and drive-through. In other areas people don't even stop. And in the area that we left and it's kind of an old-school area, so Jordan is tribal, there are tribes. So the area where we lived in was close to the airport, so it's kind of in the desert where they have a mountain where they build houses for the employees. That's where we lived, but the area was already occupied by this tribe. The people there were very old-school, like crazy people, like very very crazy people, like they drive their cars without license plates, they treat themselves as like a separate country. Police doesn't come to that area because they know these people are crazy. Sometimes you'll be sitting on the balcony outside, and you'll see a BMW and some other car driving by then you'd hear shooting. And my dad would say 'OK let's go inside', then later we would come out to sweep the bullets. And that's just the area that we live then, people were absolutely crazy.

P: So it's much quieter here then? Ahahaha

I: Yeah, much quieter, much quieter.

P: and you know one day when I was a kid coming home from school, we were driving up a road that was blocked by two big prison buses. Buy them with standing this jeep and a guy outside, while we're all watching him, he goes into the trunk of his Jeep, takes off his head covering, takes a gun out from the back of his Jeep and starts firing at the two prison buses until they drove away. Then the bus driver of our school bus just continue to driving like nothing happened.

I: That's crazy! So when you say you've seen some shit, you really have seen some crazy shit?!

P: Yeah, and that was less than half a mile from my house. Another time, one of these people wanted to build a farm by his house so he put it in the middle of the street. This was a main road, and the government just doesn't mess with these people, so they actually build a new road around this farm.

I: So he just bought the farm right in the middle of the road?

P: Yeah.

I: Wow.

P: Sometimes there are assassinations by the government well send someone to assassinate some of these people. Some of these people I know, I see them walking around I know who they are, I say hi.

I: Well that went somewhere else.

P: Sorry.

I: No, that's good, you never told me stories before. So What's your least favorite thing about the American culture?

P: The American culture? The sugarcoating stuff. You have to be very careful when you're talking to people, you have to fraise things very nicely. I never ever intend to be rude to someone but when I say something I just want to be straightforward with you, but here in the US I can't do that, I have to go around and around and around.

I: So it feels like you have to watch everything you're saying so you're not really able to speak what's on your mind?

P: Yeah, and when someone asks me what do you think of this? I look at them and say and when someone asks me what you think of this? I look at them and say 'good?' 'great?' And I wait for reaction.

I: So then what's your favorite thing about American culture?

P: Opportunity.

I: Opportunity?

P: Opportunity.

I: But that something that comes with moving to the US, what something that you like about the way Americans do things versus things back in Jordan?

P: OK I don't know if this will answer it, but I would like to go back and say, opportunity. You want more money, you can work. If you want to be valued more, buy a book. The

Internet is available to everybody. As long as you put the work in there is an opportunity. Does that answer your question?

I: Yeah I kind a get that, basically if I understand what you're saying, if I try really hard, I don't even have to go to school, but if I try really hard I can be successful. If I go to school and work really hard I can also be successful. If I go a little bit deeper than that, then I could whatever you need is available, like a bike [earlier we talked about how hard it is to find and buy a road bike in Jordan], so the opportunities are much wider then just something at you can achieve.

P: Yeah it's like all of the things that you have available to you, everybody has Internet everybody has water, all of the things that you have at your fingertips. You can do whatever you want.

I: So I think we're kind of circling back, but how does living in the US differ from living back home? I think we...

P: Yeah, we kinda covered that.

I: But in a basic sense, just the things you see day in day out, obviously the culture makes it very different.

P: I'd like to answer this in more detail, but I...

I: I think maybe what the question is referring to more is like, take me through the day in the life of Mo in Jordan versus a day in the life of Mo in the U.S. maybe not in such a broad sense, like we talked about the culture and how her there were crazy people that made life difficult.

P: well, we're not comparing apples to apples. Back home I was living with my parents I was a kid.

I: Yeah, you were 17.

P: You can't compare being a kid, being dependent on my parents to me living here now. It's not a fair comparison

I: I guess in a way living in Jordan would be much like the way you described your friends know how they live there nowhere

P: Yeah, most of my friends are still living with their parents. They get up in the morning, Smoke cigarettes, get a cup of coffee, go hang out with their girlfriends and then go home

and see what their mothers have cooked and eat then go to their dad and take twenty bucks or so and get in the car go to a hookah bar and hang out.

I: So I guess that basically covers that question. What's your favorite hobby?

P: Reading.

I: Huh?

P: Reading.

I: Weeding?

P: Reading!

I: Oh, I was like 'weeding' like weeding in the garden.

P: Reading.

I: Any specific books?

P: I read a lot of books. In 2017, I read 71 books or something, I was shooting for 100 books. But that didn't really work out with my family visiting in the summer and my sister getting married so I kind of slacked a little. But yeah, I like books.

I: Uhm...

P: Self-development, business books.

I: Arabic? English books?

P: English, American books.

I: Are you a part of any communities?

P: No.

I: No, not here? What about back home, if you were still there? Besides the fact that the culture run so deep, and family and everyone is close, but that's family. Is there any community that you would be a part of?

P: And your job, I know right now, you're looking for a job,, but you're a ride-share/ Uber, driver at the moment.

I: You have this job that you're lining up with a company?

P: it's a possibility.

I: It's a possibility. And the last question is sort of like a summary question because I know we sort of covered this, but walk me through a day in your life here.

P: Not very exciting, get up in the morning, eat breakfast, drink coffee, take a shower, give my wife a ride to work, put a couple books in my car, go online [for work] find a spot to

park and read while I wait for a ride request. I get a request, I go pick them up and drop them off, same thing. So I do that until my wife gets off work, then I go pick her up. When I drop her off, I go back online and park and read until I get a request. Once I'm done for the day, I come home and my wife and I usually go get dinner. Then we'll get home and I'll look at jobs, watch some YouTube stuff...

I: Shahada

P: Yeah, you might think it's silly.

I: Smoke some hookah?

P: Smoke some hookah... there's good stuff, I don't watch cat videos.

I: No no, I don't think it's silly... hey man, I watch ski videos all day.

P: There are a lot of interviews, a lot of TED talks. It goes back to the resources we have at our fingertips, you know, if you want to know how Jeff Bezos runs his company, you google him, you watch a bunch of interviews with him and he tells you what he does and how he does it. Let me fraise it this way, when I'm at home I like to spend my time doing things that make me better, make me a better person, more value, learn something, I almost never just sit and do something useless, maybe in my life I watched a total of three movies, I hate movies. I don't like TV shows, the TV shows I watch are either Family Guy or Friends. Friends because my wife got me to watch it, family guy because I like it, but if I watch TV it's going to be that or if my wife is not around I watch TED talks of interviews with entrepreneurs.

I: Nice. Well, I guess that concludes the interview.

P: This is it?

I: Yeah.

Interview 4 Transcript

Interview with a 20-year-old African Immigrant living in Lynnwood, Washington.

I: Interviewer, P: Participant

I: Where were you born?

P: Accra, Ghana.

I: How long did you live there before coming here?

P: 8 years.

I: How long have you been in the US?

P: In May it'll be 12 years. Umm.. ya!

I: What brought you to the US?

P: I wanted to join my dad but the rest of my family ended up staying back in Ghana.

I: Do you plan on staying in the US?

P: Yes, oh yes, definitely!

I: Are your friends mainly from here or home?

P: From here.

I: Where do you consider home?

P: Wherever my mom and sisters are, if that makes sense.

I: How often do you travel back to where you were born?

P: I've actually never been back.

I: Where does your family live?

P: Well, my immediate family like my mom and siblings live in Edmonds and my dad lives in North Dakota. All of my other family members like aunts and uncles live in Ghana, some parts of US and Europe.

I: How was it adjusting to American culture?

P: I mean, it wasn't difficult because I came here so young. I think it's easier that way for sure, because you don't get made fun of as much, I don't know.

I: What is your least favorite thing about America and its culture?

P: I would say that it's hard to be a Christian in America, like I know in Ghana we had a designated time for bible in class, it was kind of incorporated into the system.

I: What is your favorite thing about America and its culture?

P: Its access to education and technology. I get to keep in touch with all the people in my life while I'm here. When I was younger, I didn't have that access so I couldn't keep in touch with all my friends in Ghana which is why I don't have friends there anymore.

I: How does living in the U.S. differ from living in back home?

P: I move around a lot, like I have been to two different states in my time here, but in Ghana I am in one spot, like stagnant.

I: What is your favorite hobby?

P: I dance to hip hop, and I actually used to compete. I literally dance to anything that sounds good though.

I: Are you a part of any communities?

P: Well on campus, BSC and BCM of course and off campus I am part of a youth group, I don't know if that counts but I teach for this children's ministry at church.

I: Do you have a job? If yes, what do you do? If no, why not?

P: I do, I work at the visitors center at UW, underneath the COM building and people print posters and things like that. It's pretty chill.

I: Walk me through a day in your life.

P: Ok so Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, I'm up by five to carpool to the IMA with my one friend, then I'm working as well so I work the morning shift, grab some breakfast at Starbucks, work, then go to French. I only have one class on Wednesdays, so I stay on campus, pick my sister up, work, relax, then work, and get rest for another morning. *Sighs" Tuesdays and Thursdays I commute from Lynnwood, but I'm a commuter in general so it's hard.