

## **Sacramento Covid 19 Asian American Oral History Project**

Asian American Communities, Ethnic Studies 113  
CSU Sacramento Fall 2023 Semester  
Professor William Gow  
Narrator Name: [Xochilt Juarez]  
Interviewer Name: [Jeron Valentin]  
Project Group Members: Xochilt Juarez, James Palagud  
Interview Place: Sacramento State  
Interview Date: Sept. 5, 2023

Jeron:  
00:00:01,230 --> 00:00:04,250  
Hi, my name is Jeron Valentin and I am with.

Xochilt:  
00:00:04,250 --> 00:00:06,300  
Xochilt Juarez.

Jeron:  
00:00:06,300 --> 00:00:35,200  
Xochilt Suarez. Today, September 5, 2023 and we are in Mendocino hall 3013 and we are on the campus of Sacramento State. We will be recording an oral history of Professor Gow Fall 2023 and Ethnicities two 113 is in the subject of Asian American Communities course. Hi Xochilt. How are you?

Xochilt:  
00:00:35,200 --> 00:00:37,680  
Good. How are you?

Jeron:  
00:00:37,710 --> 00:01:02,940  
Good. That's good to hear. I know we're doing a little bit of interviews for our Professor Gow right here. First things first. I read from your phone that you used to live in Stockton, and now you're here in Sacramento State. I was just wondering, do you commute or rent?

Xochilt:  
00:01:02,940 --> 00:01:37,980  
Well, I commute. I still live in Stockton all day. I went to Stagg High School and I was down to college for about a year and a half. And then I transfer to Sac and I commute every Tuesdays and Thursdays. And honestly, the traffic sucks, especially on the 15th going to SAC. But I-5 really great. 99 is literally the worst way you can get to Sac because people don't know how to drive. Yeah, I guess. Other than that, I don't really mind commuting, I guess.

Jeron:

00:01:37,980 --> 00:01:45,540

How long is that to drive?

Xochilt:

00:01:45,800 --> 00:01:50,710

I guess on a good day, you could say 50 minutes. 50 on a good day. But on a bad day, maybe an hour and a half, which is even worse.

Jeron:

00:01:50,710 --> 00:01:57,600

Your gas must be so high!

Xochilt

00:01:57,600 --> 00:02:05,760

Well, I used to drive my Prius, and I got a car accident. And then I got a new car and then mom got a Tesla so every time I go to Sac, I just use her car.

Jeron:

00:02:05,800 --> 00:02:08,120

Okay, that's easy.

Xochilt:

00:02:09,120 --> 00:02:13,140

But honestly, in my opinion, the Tesla's not really efficient.

Jeron:

00:02:13,470 --> 00:02:15,780

Really? You have to charge it all the time.

Xochilt:

00:02:15,810 --> 00:02:23,580

Yeah, literally from Stockton to Sac and back, it takes up half the battery for 100% of battery, which is the worst. And honestly, me going to Stockton to Palo Alto is like maybe two and a half hours, 2 hours, give or take and back. It barely moves the gas. And honestly, I like driving my Camry more than Tesla, so I would rather choose that.

Jeron:

00:02:42,480 --> 00:03:05,370

You would rather choose Camry than Tesla. Well, that's good Oh, my God. That hurts to hear that you commute. Yeah. Right under the next topic, though. Um, so I also read that your major is social science. Why that?

Xochilt:

00:03:05,370 --> 00:04:40,050

Well, originally I was going to do math. It all stems back to middle school where I was like, I wanted to be a teacher because I've seen how good my teachers were. I was like, you know, I want to be an asset to the community and be a teacher. And I've told that I was like, I want to be a history teacher. He's like, no, there's too many history teachers. And he's like, pick another subject. And I was like, okay. That's when I was like, I guess I'll do math. I'm good at math, too. And then once I got to my first summer classes I realized COVID and math did not match up and like, I had a teacher in statistics, they did everything online. Like, they were like, here's the book, just rely on that. They did not teach at all, which was like the worst experience. And I'm like, I don't know how long it's going to last, so I don't want to spend all that time struggling when I can pick another subject that I'm good at. I went to social science. I first I did his I was a history of then my dad's like, well, if I do social science, I could teach more subjects. So that's when I switch majors to social science. And then later on I was like. I know ethnic studies is going to be a graduation requirement in high school. then I was like, major. And then I was like, actually measuring is too much. Then I was like, oh, minor. And now I'm minoring in ethnic studies. And since I took a lot of history classes, I'm minoring in history also. That's basically what made me choose for science and minoring in everything.

Jeron:

00:04:40,050 --> 00:04:55,290

That's a lot of diplomas. That's good. Yeah. it seems to me that your dad influenced you highly. After you graduate, what's next? Do you plan on pursuing Masters degree or shadow your dad in school?

Xochilt:

00:04:59,880 --> 00:05:46,870

I have two options. I can go to a teaching credential program like Sac State, where first year or student teaching seven years your master's degree, but you have up to seven years to complete that. And my mom introduced me to this new idea that the district that she works at, they have this residency program. So basically, your first two years, you're teaching a class and the district pays for your credential and you have like a mentor on campus. So basically, if I do it next year, I literally get a class right away. But only like thing is you have to be employed by that district for four years. After that, it's a year and I don't mind that. It's just that school district does not pay enough.

Jeron:

00:05:46,870 --> 00:05:50,200

Oh, it's not. It's not.

Xochilt:

00:05:50,560 --> 00:06:25,210

Yeah. Like, the kids are good. It's just the pay is not as good compared to more low income schools like they're low income title one, but they don't pay as much and teachers don't go on strike as much, so they don't really fight for their pay. Whereas like Stockton Unified or other like lower income school districts, like those teachers are paid really high, like my dad after like all those extra like after school stuff, they helps out like cyber high. He basically, like, gets about 100,000 a year.

Jeron:

00:06:25,210 --> 00:06:30,630

It's a good pay!

Xochilt:

00:06:30,650 --> 00:06:40,550

Yeah. So that's it is a Stockton Unified and he's working. He's been a teacher for quite a while, but I think something is probably like, better because of pay. But the paying off with a lot of unified free credential, I guess.

Jeron:

00:06:40,550 --> 00:06:43,870

Yeah. Like get those experience first and then you move up. Yeah, but what? I don't know if I missed this, but what do you plan on teaching? Is it K-12?

Xochilt:

00:06:49,690 --> 00:07:27,940

High school, I don't know. Like I feel like because people say I'm going to kids. But honestly, I like sometimes I don't want to go in that long process of having to teach them a lot. Like kindergarten. You have to have a lot of patience to teach them the alphabet. Yeah. Like, I don't want to teach them the basics. I they just want them to like, I want to teach them like, how to question things and, like, be like, oh, well, what if what happens? I think history in high school is kind of like a good starting point and getting through things soon.

Jeron:

00:07:27,940 --> 00:07:33,320

So you're more into like teaching them after someone already.

Xochilt:

00:07:33,320 --> 00:07:57,340

Yeah. There's also like history in high school. I don't know, I just like dialog because in high school, the curriculum is a little different because you have to go by the textbook. But still a lot of history is like, good to question. When they ask me like a weird subject like the Holocaust.

Jeron:

00:07:57,340 --> 00:08:03,140

Oh my god, of all things!

Xochilt:

00:08:03,160 --> 00:08:10,900

Why did they do that? But yeah, just hearing the stories and what people go through, it's heartbreaking, but it's good to be knowledgeable.

Jeron:

00:08:11,050 --> 00:08:14,050

Yeah, I know, I understand. It's very interesting.

Xochilt:

00:08:14,080 --> 00:08:19,090

Yeah, I've watched, what is it, Schindler's List

Jeron:

00:08:17,180 --> 00:08:19,090

And think that's familiar!

Xochilt:

00:08:19,090 --> 00:08:48,370

Yeah. This guy, Oskar Schindler, he basically employed a lot of Jews to kind of save them from all those from the camp. Yeah, the camps. And basically, he had them employed for him until the war was over. And once the war was over, he let them free. That's why I like the movie, because at the end I cried because they showed all like the actual survivors on there and it like also heartbreaking.

Jeron:

00:08:48,370 --> 00:08:55,660

I see. Okay. That's I think that's the end of our first topic.

Jeron

00:08:56,140 --> 00:09:21,940

Okay. Hi, Xochilt we're back on the second part of the interview. First of all, I read in your prompt that your mom and your dad is Mexican, so you must be really familiar with the foods in the Philippines and in Mexico. But the question is, do you like Filipino delicacies more or Mexican delicacies?

Xochilt

00:09:21,940 --> 00:10:18,100

Honestly, I have to say Mexican. Because like my grandma, she's Mexican. So was my dad's mom, and she live with us. I basically grew up eating more Mexican food than Filipino food. Like, yeah, I like I think my favorite dishes, dinuguan and pancit. I feel like basic things. Yeah, well, those are like the two main things that I'd always eat at this one restaurant we would go to. It's called Islander Gourmet in Stockton and I like it, but that's like where we always go to growing up and I kinda like not picky persay, its just sometimes trying new things I'm really not familiar with scares me. Like, I'm not going to be like, I'm not going to eat it, but I'm willing to try. If my mom, like, shoves the spoon in my mouth and says, here, try it. Like, I'm not going to be, like, spitting it out like but just swallow it, you know.

Jeron:

00:10:18,100 --> 00:10:21,820

So you're not even going to taste the food.

Xochilt:

00:10:21,820 --> 00:10:28,420

Yeah, I'm like, it's not for me. Like, it's just me, but Mexican food. I love Mexican food. Like you said, I like enchiladas, tamales. What else? Posoles Menudo. Yeah, I like, honestly, a lot of people like Posoles more, all more because I don't know why.

Jeron:

10:43:21,800 --> 00:10:45,730

What's Posoles?

Xochilt:

00:10:45,730 --> 00:10:56,790

is more like someone who's more, I think, cow stomach or whereas Posoles' more like how do I say this? More like the meat, the shredded meat.

Jeron:

00:10:56,800 --> 00:10:57,790

Pork or beef?

Xochilt:

00:10:58,270 --> 00:11:21,000

It could be either one. I think it's like honest, I think us pork shoulder that pork shoulder probably. Yeah. And that's like all like the meat and my dad likes it because he gets like thick. Yeah. Yeah. And then like whenever we make it, we don't make a small amount. We make like, that big. Like it's huge.

Jeron:

00:11:21,400 --> 00:11:23,080

In a crockpot or something?

Xochilt:

00:11:23,080 --> 00:11:26,300

No, it's like a big 'o pot.

Jeron:

00:11:26,300-->00:27,380

Like in a Wok?

Xochilt:

00:11:27,460 --> 00:12:01,280

Yeah. Like it's huge. And you, if you do for like a few days this, like honestly. Yeah. You're eating that or tamales, it's not just a day. Yeah. For several days like and you don't mind because it's like you don't have it all the time. Yeah. So different dishes too, especially like during Christmas time that's when they have a lot of tamales and my grandma has the best ones. I don't know, it's just like how I grew up. Like I like Filipino food but I just preferred Mexican.

Jeron:

00:12:01,300 --> 00:12:10,270

I understand but, you know, speaking of Mexican food, the one I like the most is Cabeza and Alambre.

Xochilt:

00:12:11,740 --> 00:12:21,760

Cabeza as in like, yeah, there's a big head. I think there's the head and there's brain also.

Jeron:

00:12:21,790 --> 00:12:26,090

Oh, inside I think. Oh that's why it's so good.

Xochilt:

00:12:26,170 --> 00:12:37,670

Yeah. You can get it like Cabeza's just the head, But there's another way. I said cerebro for brain but it's basically just the brain on the inside.

Jeron:

00:12:37,690 --> 00:12:39,880

That's so good. Yeah.

Xochilt:

00:12:40,200 -- > 00:12:48,530

Like, that's what my grandma wants. I am more like an asada person or Carnitas but I don't know, like that's how I go.

Jeron

00:12:49,630 --> 00:12:53,260

You kind of are leaning more towards what your grandma likes.

Xochilt

00:12:53,260 --> 00:13:01,900

Yeah. Yeah. Basically what she likes. I mean, I like the one thing I would never eat is tripas. Tripas are the intestines. Oh, you know. Yeah. It's like rubbery and chewy. Yeah, I like I'm only kid growing up, and I'm just like, I, I think I don't want to eat dinner.

Jeron

00:13:09,640 --> 00:13:13,220

I know. Because you can't stop thinking that there's poop.

Xochilt:

00:13:13,270 --> 00:13:18,720

Yeah, it's literally like you're chewing on is like. Yeah. Like, nom nom nom like, Ugh, I can't.

Jeron:

00:13:20,350 --> 00:13:26,740

Okay, now moving to the next topic. Now what do you do in your free time?

Xochilt:

00:13:27,370 --> 00:13:30,670

I just usually stay home.

Jeron:

00:13:30,850 --> 00:13:32,450

You just stay home.

Xochilt:

00:13:33,100 --> 00:13:37,700

I'm like a homebody or go to target for Legos. Legos are my thing.

Jeron:

00:13:37,750 --> 00:13:42,940

You know that's unusual because usually, I'm not trying to be sexist, but usually the guys like Legos.

Xochilt

00:13:44,320 --> 00:13:57,790

Yeah, No, I love Legos. I have like, I literally I'm working on a set right now. I think all my Lego sets like, together, what I spend is, like I'd say over a thousand.

Jeron

00:13:57,790 --> 00:13:59,229

A thousand!

Xochilt:

00:14:00,100 -- > 00:14:06,320

Maybe \$2000. Like, a little Lego set. It's usually over \$100.

Jeron:

00:14:06,320 -- > 00:14:08,400

I didn't know, like, Legos can be that expensive.

Xochilt

00:14:08,530 --> 00:14:36,010

Yeah. Honestly, the more like themed ones are, like I say. Like the Disney ones or Harry Potter. Star Wars. Star Wars is really expensive. There is this one I wanted to get. It's like a roller coaster one. And basically you get to, like. Like it's like a crank and it, like, actually goes.

Jeron:

00:14:36,010 --> 00:14:37,100

Oh, it's actually moving.

Xochilt:

00:14:37,100--> 00:14:43,720

Yeah, I always wanted that. And I don't know, I think I'm going to get that next, depending on my next paycheck.

Jeron

00:14:43,840 --> 00:14:45,780

Maybe this Christmas, you know?

Xochilt:

00:14:46,100 -- > 00:14:53,320

Yeah. My birthday's coming up. I want this Lego

Jeron:

00:14:53,320 --> 00:14:55,500

Tell your Dad so he can just buy you Lego.

Xochilt:

00:14:56,550 --> 00:15:28,380

Legos is just something I really like mainly because growing up, my parents would be like, yeah, we'll get you this. And then they'd be like, you have to share with your sister. And she was reckless. Anything she gets her hands on, she destroys. And I would be like, yeah, I built it. Next year I get home, it's like destroyed. I'm like, I'm like, well, what am I going to do now? Or my dad, He like, she's on the floor. My dad's temper should be like, if it's on the floor, I'm going to throw it away. Throw it away. And growing up, I just never got to really enjoy it. And so now that I'm adult and have adult money, I can just spend it on whatever I want.

Jeron:

00:15:28,380 --> 00:15:33,180

There must be like missing pieces on your Lego parts.

Xochilt:

00:15:33,270 --> 00:15:54,480

Yeah. That was like back then. But now, like, I have them like a shelf. Both my shelves are filled out. I got this shelf literally from Target. I think five of them and this bookcase literally all like, filled up. And I'm like, now my desk is getting filled up and I'm just like, whoa I don't have any more room.

Jeron:

00:15:54,480 --> 00:15:56,709

You need another room for that?

Xochilt:

00:15:56,709 --> 00:15:59,130

Yeah. You know you get the ones the bookshelves that attach just to the wall.

Jeron

00:15:59,130 --> 00:16:6,850

Yeah. It seems like that's one of the things that bring you most joy in the world.

Xochilt:

00:16:6,850 -- > 00:16:36,990

Yeah, like Legos. It's just. There's something about, like. Like when you see your childhood toys and things that you like as a kid, and now you're an adult, you're like, wait, I can get that. I think you can do it. It's just there's just something about it. Like now, like when you're going to the store, you see something that you saw when you were a kid. Or your favorite TV show. You're like, Oh, my gosh, but then your parents won't buy it. But now, yeah, now you can.

Jeron:

00:16:36,990 --> 00:17:00,480

So now moving on. All right. That was an interesting second topic to talk about. But now moving onto the third topic, which is relating to the pandemic. So how did the pandemic impact your lifestyle as a Mexican-Filipino?

Xochilt:

00:17:00,480 --> 00:18:12,000

I think honestly, my family is really close, so we kind of like had each have any support system. Like I think with me changing my majors, it really just made me realize what I like most because I think before because I'm the oldest in my family and oh, just like before, all my decisions were very much heavily influenced by what my parents wanted. And when it came to college, I realized math isn't for me. Yeah, like, even though I'm really good at math, it's just pandemic and math is just not adding up for me. Like I'm very much of a on hands in-person learner when it comes to math. Like history. I can read it, I understand it and I can interpret it. But like anywhere. Yeah, but math is just something I have to be in the classroom and like, like I always say this, like, I just feel like COVID was better for me. I know a lot of people say like, okay, I like screwed up my life. Yeah, like looking at it at a maturity standpoint, I feel like I needed COVID to understand who I wanted to be and who like kind of just finding myself.

Jeron:

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:13,130

Did it help you to be who you are?

Xochilt:

00:18:13,200 -- > 00:19:36,100

Yeah. Like it was like a little depressing because, like, at first I was like, Oh, yeah! Cause I was a senior in high school when the pandemic hit and I was just like, Oh, wow. Two week break is getting a little longer. And then now it turned into like several months and then a year to like one is, is going to end. Yeah. And like literally all those I had no in-person classes. I think my first in-person class was at Sac State and I was just like, well, I don't know how a classroom acts like I was scared. And I was just like, Oh, what if, like, what if I have to do this? Like, yeah, like it was just like all these professors at Sac State, no not Sac, delta. They all, like, just didn't care. They're like, okay, like, do what you think is best. Yeah, yeah. I'm just like, okay, I like all the readings I can do. I was able to finish the like quick but exact same. Not everything was in-person. I'm just like, Wait, I don't know how a classroom is. Like, yeah, like I didn't know what a blue book was or I'd never had a Scantron other than in high school. Yeah. And I was just like every class is online. Yeah. So, like, so going to those, like, they're like, Oh, you need a Scantron. Like, well, where do I get a Scantron? Like, it's like Amazon.

Jeron:

00:19:36,100 -- > 00:19:40,170

It must be a different like, reality.

Xochilt:

00:19:38,170 --> 00:20:11,060

So yeah, also like, I think right? Once I turned 18, I started working at Amazon. I was like, this is a cool place. I hated it there. I'm like a very social person and Amazon was just so depressing. And I was just like, well yeah you can talk to people and make friends but they're always like, you couldn't be near people because of COVID. I'm just like, well, I didn't talk to anybody. And it just like, set my social skills back and I'm just like, when it came to in-person classes, I was like, wait, how do I talk to people?

Jeron:

00:20:11,060 --> 00:20:17,479

So that kind of built your social interaction to a lower level. Because of COVID.

Xochilt:

00:20:17,480 --> 00:20:34,459

Yeah, I was like, like before, whenever I did a class presentation, I wouldn't get nervous, like, especially like a scripted one. So, like, I just have to follow the script. But now when I do a scripted presentation, it's just like I get a little scared and like, feel like, Oh, what if I mess it up, what if I don't get it right.

Jeron:

00:20:34,459 --> 00:20:35,690

No, you'll get it back again.

Xochilt:

00:20:35,690 --> 00:21:03,830

But now, honestly, like I work at Kanes and I love it there because like, all of people are like, Yeah, there's drama and stuff and people there. I'm like in high school and they bring the high school drama, but other than that, like, it just feels like a family, I guess. Like a lot of people are like the management is changing. Like, I'm like, Well, nothing's going to be the same like the person you are. Last year is going to be the person you are this year. Yeah.

Jeron:

00:21:03,830 --> 00:21:11,540

So now that the pandemic's gone, do you think now that you're working Kane, do you think your social interaction is going back up again?

Xochilt:

00:21:11,540 --> 00:21:37,490

Yeah, I know. Like I was like, oh, like I wasn't talking to a lot of people. The way I talk and like my talking skills, my linguistic just wasn't like there. When I would talk to people, I would kind of like stutter a little bit. Working on Kanes I was able to work on my talking because like, I would have to take orders and the customer is like, are sometimes rude.

Jeron

00:21:37,490 --> 00:21:39,060

Yeah, they are rude.

Xochilt:

00:21:39,170 --> 00:21:47,340

I feel like that's like, or like I just learn more about people.

Jeron:

00:21:47,340 --> 00:22:03,400

I see, well okay, but I think we're done for now because there's a time limit. I'm sorry. All right.

Thanks, Xochi, for this wonderful interview. I'm sorry. I didn't really fit all the questions.

Xochilt:

00:22:03,300 --> 00:22:04,370

No, you're good. I had fun, and this is a great experience.

Jeron:

00:22:04,370 --> 00:22:09,320

Would you allow me to just send these to the professor the way they are?

Xochilt:

00:22:09,560 --> 00:22:11,430

Yes. Yes, you have my consent.

Jeron:

00:22:11,430 --> 00:22:12,320

Nice. Thanks.

Xochilt:

00:22:12,320 --> 00:22:13,430

Thank you. Bye!

Jeron:

00:22:13,430 --> 00:22:15,020

Bye