

Interviewee: Felipe and Javier (pseudonyms)

Interviewers: Lucy/Claire/Breida

Date: March 17, 2021

Format: Audio Recording

Location: Wisconsin

Transcription and translation by: Micaela Miralles Bianconi, Emily Christensen

Additional equipment used: Rev.ai

Project partner with: University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Abstract: In this interview the interviewees respond to questions regarding how the pandemic has affected their lives, customs, family, and people they know. The issue of the vaccine is also addressed, fears, consumption of information, and the government's response to the COVID-19 crisis. The interviewees work on a cow ranch and their families reside in Mexico.

00:00:01 Interviewer 1

Well, so, both are functioning, or not, one more. Well, then when the two wish to start, and you want to start?

00:00:15 Interviewer 2

Yes, today is Wednesday March 17, 2021. There are 29,319,456 cases of COVID-19, and in the United States there are 533,057 deaths and 110,737,1856 vaccines administered.

00:00:42 Interviewer 1

Well, and the first question, this one, yes.

00:00:55 Interviewer 2

When you were notified for the first time about COVID-19, what were your thoughts on it?

00:01:03 Felipe

It was one year ago and I felt lots of panic when I found out about COVID-19. Yes, these are my experiences.

00:01:15 Interviewer 1

Me too. [laughter] And you?

00:01:17 Javier

Yes, also it was a year ago too, that I saw it on the tv that it seems to me that it started, I don't remember the date, but it was in December, I didn't come across it in November, I believe in November that it seemed to happen in China, in Wuhan. That is what I heard. Well no, I didn't pay attention. That if it was going to get here. I didn't think that it was going to come. Well, I thought that it wasn't anything abnormal.

00:01:55 Interviewer 2

And how- how have your thoughts changed since then?

00:01:59 Felipe

No, no. When we saw that people were dying little by little, it was something, like that, horrifying for me. Suddenly I felt much panic, now we could no longer go out calmly, that was, no.

00:02:18 Interviewer 1

And you?

00:02:19 Javier

Yes, also, it is not the same as before, no. Well since that day last year, it is not the same as before. Before, well, we left to shop without masks, without thinking anything, not now, to what we are going for and return, yes.

00:02:40 Interviewer 1

Mhh, yes. And the second question is, which issues have worried you the most during the COVID-19 pandemic?

00:02:50 Felipe

Mhm, contagion.

00:02:51 Interviewer 1

Contagion? Yes.

00:02:55 Felipe

Yes. The problem that I have occasionally had is the mask, no, like that sometimes we forget it. And it has been a problem also.

00:03:04 Interviewer 1

Yes. [nods]

00:03:07 Javier

It's also because of the contagion, and well, unfortunately it has expanded to a level, a global level. It is not just what is happening in China and the United States, it is happening worldwide.

00:03:24 Interviewer 1

Yes, yes. So, [conversation in the background] what do you do for a living?

00:03:29 Felipe

Farm work.

00:03:30 Interviewer 1

You as well?

00:03:32 Javier

Yes.

00:03:33 Interviewer 1

And the coronavirus has affected your job?

00:03:34 Javier

Oh, yes.

00:03:35 Interviewer 1

Yes? In what way?

00:03:36 Javier

Well, now the product is not the same where we are working. No it is not the same, now it is not sold like before. Before it was at a high level, right now it is not.

00:03:50 Interviewer 1

Yes, yes.

00:03:52 Javier

They are placing blame on that.

00:03:53 Felipe

The same that they don't sell the same amount of milk. The milk industry has, has not failed, it is simply that now milk is no longer sold.

00:04:03 Interviewer 1

They have suffered a little, yes.

00:04:08 Interviewer 2

Does this make you worry about your job?

00:04:09 Javier

Yes, yes, we worry some. Many farms that closed for two reasons because of the pandemic.
[laughter in the background]

00:04:18 Interviewer 2

Do you know anyone that has lost their job because of this?

00:04:22 Felipe

Yes, in fact a farm took all of the Mexicans out because it had not been running anymore.

00:04:29 Interviewer 1

How sad! So, what worries do you have about the effects of the Coronavirus on your employment and the economic situation of your family, community, or even more generally?

00:04:47 Felipe

What are the concerns?

00:04:48 Interviewer 1

Yes. About the effects of the coronavirus. [laughter in the background]

00:04:54 Felipe

It worries me that I will feel a lot- the effects are very- or that they are elevated. I don't know. I never have felt, but it feels like something dreadful. [laughs nervously]

00:05:07 Interviewer 1

And you?

00:05:10 Javier

Yes, also, well. Yes. [stuttering] It affects us too.

00:05:16 Interviewer 2

Do you have concerns regarding economics?

00:05:20 Javier

Yes, that too. Because before sending money to Mexico was more- a little easier. But right now, everything got more complicated.

00:05:36 Interviewer 1

And for the next, probably- in that way do you have as much time or do you have more time for-

00:05:41 Javier

Well we take less time now, it was to leave here. [all smile]

00:05:53 Interviewer 2

What influence has Covid-19 had on your family? And in particular, how have you and your family's daily activities changed?

00:06:01 Javier

Lots, yes, right now they don't work, [ps] we were working but we were taking care of ourselves more. Also, where we go, well also one must take care of themselves, because if not. Now thank God, on the farm where we are nothing has happened since last year up to now. Nothing has happened, it is calmer. This is what worries us most if something would happen. Right? It affects all of us.

00:06:33 Interviewer 1

And you?

00:06:34 Felipe

In the family- in the family. Well, no, there haven't been effects, they do not fear Covid-19. They have left like that without worries, but to me it does worry me that it would arrive in the house and infect my whole family and I will return and they would not be there. Yes, I worry, but they don't. In our town with that no, it has not arrived at this moment or there are no cases of Covid, here that only worries me. But well, no, there isn't- there aren't cases.

00:07:10 Interviewer 1

A town in Mexico then?

00:07:11 Felipe

Yes, in Mexico.

00:07:12 Interviewer 1

Well, it is good that there are no cases there.

00:07:15 Felipe

But here the worry is-

00:07:17 Interviewer 1

Yes, it is very high. [voices in the background] So has Covid-19 changed your relationships with family, friends and the community?

00:07:30 Javier

Yes, yes.

00:07:31 Interviewer 1

In what way?

00:07:33 Javier

Well, it is no longer the same. We are going to live together with them. Well yes, like before, we live together or do something together. But right now, you can't do it anymore. This, not anymore-

00:07:50 Felipe

It's the same thing, we are not together with the people nearest anymore, no longer, they are going to other places and we fear that they will transmit it to us. And that is why no more. [voices in the background] [laughing nervously]

00:08:05 Interviewer 1

Ahm, have you or someone that you know gotten sick during the pandemic? And what has been your experience with the illness?

00:08:13 Felipe

No, no one that I know. No one has been sick, but it would be terrible if they got sick.

00:08:25 Interviewer 1

And you?

00:08:26 Javier

Yes, no, almost no one that I know of. Thank God there is no one.

00:08:33 Interviewer 1

Good. [interviewee clears throat] And what have been your primary news sources during the pandemic? Like tv, or the internet.

00:08:41 Javier

[nods] Yes, the tv, the internet, yes, all of these.

00:08:45 Interviewer 1

What channel on the tv?

00:08:47 Javier

Ahhh... Ese, Univisión.

Ahhh, Univision.

00:08:51 Interviewer 1

Okay. And you?

00:08:52 Felipe

On the internet I see that when you go into Facebook, there is a paragraph pops up that says-
[laughter] [stammer]

00:09:03 Interviewer 2

Why did you decide to get vaccinated today?

00:09:08 Javier

Well, we don't know if maybe we are infected, or well, if God wants someone to be infected and makes us infected, well yes.

00:09:20 Felipe

It is good. In fact [clears throat] I felt panic to get vaccinated, I did not want to be vaccinated, but then I heard that all the Mexicans have to get vaccinated because, it is an obligation, simply that it is because of the fear of it being transmitted to us. In this way now before they transmit it to me, I will have the vaccine.

00:09:40 Interviewer 1

Yes and do you have any opinion about how local leaders, state, or federal are responding to the crisis?

00:09:53 Javier

No.

00:09:54 Interviewer 1

And if you have no opinion, that's completely fine.

00:09:58 Interviewer 2

How have your experiences with the pandemic transformed the way you think about your family, friends, or your community?

00:10:06 Felipe

Yes, yes, yes, you think that if they are contagious now we would not return to see them, that they could not bear. In this way, yes, I have thought a lot about that.

00:10:20 Javier

Let's see, if that unfortunately I get infected, if not already, and if now I know that even God does not want to moderate me.

We'll see, if unfortunately I get infected, I no longer am, I know that neither God
Let's see, if that unfortunately I get infected, if not now, I know that even god can't control it.
Well no longer- I am no longer able, they are no longer able, to go home to my family.
[conversation in the background]

00:10:34 Interviewer 1

Yes, well, do you have another comment you would like to say about Covid-19 [pronounced in English]?

00:10:44 Felipe

No. [interviewees comment something between them in a quiet voice]

00:10:46 Interviewer 2

Oh yes. Going back to your work. What size, more or less, is the farm that you work at?

00:10:53 Javier

It is a large place. It has 600 cows.

00:10:58 Interviewer 2

Six hundred? Like you had mentioned that there have not been any infections there, how do you believe that it would affect your work?

00:11:05 Javier

Well, no, well, yes, ah-

00:11:09 Felipe

People would be missing and it would not be the same because they know how to do their job.

Then come in other people who are going to do something different. In this way, yes.

00:11:24 Interviewer 1

Thank you very much, thank you, thank you.

00:11:26 Felipe

Thank you guys.

00:11:28 Interviewer 1

Have a good day.

00:11:30 Javier

Same to you, same to you.

00:11:31 Interviewer 1

Thank you. Good-bye