

Interviewees: Santiago y Pedro (pseudonyms)

Interviewers: Lucy, Claire, Breida

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Abstract: In this encounter the interviewees responded to personal questions about how the pandemic has affected their life and the customs of their family and others they know. It also tackled the manner of the vaccine, the media, ignorance relating to these things and the consumption of information. Their interviewees are rural farm workers and their families live in Mexico.

00:00:01 Interviewer 1

Is it okay if we record this interview?

00:00:04 Santiago

Yes, yes that's okay.

00:00:05 Interviewer 1

Good, my name is Claire and this is an interview for the project Voces Del Campo. Today is March 24th 2021. Today, there is 29,708,385 confirmed cases in the United States and 540,503 deaths. Also, there are 572,077 confirmed cases in Wisconsin and 6,576 deaths.

00:00:40 Interviewer 2

For my first question. When was the first time you encountered Covid-19? What were your thoughts in this respect?

00:00:51 Santiago

Well the first time that, well when it first started it was around this time, no? In March.

00:01:00 Interviewer 1

Yes, a year ago.

00:01:01 Santiago

And it is not that I did not think anything about it. I'll tell you I did not take it into account, it felt the same.

00:01:11 Interviewer 1

And you?

00:01:12 Pedro

Yes, I did not take it into account either.

00:01:13 Interviewer 2

How have your thoughts changed since then?

00:01:21 Santiago

What are my thoughts?

00:01:23 Interviewer 1

What? How do you feel during this time?

00:01:28 Santiago

No, well I do not feel anything at all, no.

00:01:31 Interviewer 2

Do you feel the same?

00:01:32 Santiago

No, all normal.

00:01:34 Interviewer 1

Good. And okay. What are some problems that have worried you during the Covid-19 pandemic?

00:01:48 Santiago

Problems?

00:01:49 Interviewer 1

Problems with your job, or in the community or in your family.

00:01:54 Santiago

Well, of course there is the use of masks and, well, it is uncomfortable. For everyone who has to wear it. If you aren't wearing one, they do not let you in certain places, yes, no, it is uncomfortable, it is uncomfortable.

00:02:06 Interviewer 1

And you?

00:02:09 Pedro

It is the same for me. [laughs nervously]

00:02:14 Interviewer 1

Is it the same for you? Okay. And what do you do for a living?

00:02:21 Santiago

Well, what do you do?

00:02:24 Pedro

[nervous laugh] Well, I don't understand, where? Here?

00:02:28 Santiago

Yes, here.

00:02:30 Pedro

I am confused with what you said.

00:02:31 Interviewer 1

You work on a farm? Yes. Okay. How has the coronavirus affected your work?

00:02:50 Santiago

Ah...I think that us ranchers have not been affected that much because the cows always have to be milked daily, it is impossible not to milk them, they start mooing because they want to be milked, no? Well I am thankful we have had work. Yes.

00:03:06 Interviewer 2

Good. Well I hope it will continue this way. [laughs]

00:03:08 Santiago

Yes, yes.

00:03:10 Interviewer 1

Do you have any comments?

00:03:12 Pedro

No. [voices in the background]

00:03:13 Interviewer 2

Okay. What worries do you have about the effects of coronavirus as far as your employment, the economic situation of your family, the community or in general?

00:03:29 Santiago

Good, we arrived here, we are doing well, but there are people in Mexico. They are not doing well. I don't know, I don't know how they are. There people are much worse. The situation over there. Yes.

00:03:43 Interviewer 1

The situation is different over there?

00:03:45 Santiago

Yes, the situation there is very different from here.

00:03:48 Interviewer 2

In what way?

00:03:49 Santiago

Economically, well there is no employment, none. Everything is closed and the people always have to work, because it is not like here.

00:03:58 Interviewer 1

Yes, life is very difficult.

00:04:00 Santiago

It is much more difficult there, in Mexico, well, in certain parts.

00:04:07 Interviewer 2

And you?

00:04:08 Pedro

Here it is the same. Well down there, here everything is fine. [papers rustling]

00:04:16 Interviewer 3

Good, eh can I ask where you are from in Mexico?

00:04:27 Santiago

Eh... We are from Veracruz. [voices in the background]

00:04:38 Interviewer 3

Eh. What influences has Covid-19 had on your family?

00:04:45 Santiago

Well, no one in my family has gotten it, but one of my neighbors got Covid-19 and died.

00:04:53 Interviewer 3

One of your neighbors in the United States?

00:05:00 Santiago

No, back in Mexico. In Mexico.

00:05:01 Interviewer 3

And you?

00:05:03 Pedro

Nobody died, nobody.

00:05:05 Interviewer 1

Okay. What have been the biggest challenges you or your family have faced during the outbreak of Covid-19?

00:05:23 Santiago

Well, more than anything to be locked up and not be able to leave the house, if that is it.

00:05:29 Interviewer 2

It is very difficult to be stuck in your house. Instead of spending time with friends, especially and to see other people. [laughs]

00:05:36 Santiago

Well one gets annoyed when they're stuck inside.

00:05:38 Interviewer 1

Yes.

00:05:43 Interviewer 2

And you?

00:05:45 Pedro

Yes, it's annoying to go out, it's like you can't really leave. Everything is closed.

00:05:51 Interviewer 1

I agree, very boring. [laughs]

00:05:53 Santiago

Very boring.

00:05:56 Interviewer 2

A lot of TV.

00:05:58 Santiago

You get bored with TV.

00:05:59 Interviewer 1

Social Media.

00:06:00 Interviewer 2

Yes, all day I am on my phone on social media. [laughs] Okay, ahm. How has the outbreak of Covid-19 affected your community? Are you able to be with your school, clubs, church, work, and other communities?

00:06:27 Pedro

Ahm. Would you repeat the question another time?

00:06:29 Interviewer 2

Yes, another time. Okay. How has the outbreak of Covid-19 affected your community? These communities can be school, clubs, church, work, or something different. [voices in the background]

00:06:43 Pedro

Now it is different. Well, I don't know. I am not able to go to parties.

00:06:52 Interviewer 2

Aha [nods]

00:06:55 Santiago

Well, I don't know, there is no fun anymore.

00:06:59 Interviewer 2

Aha. Yes.

00:07:00 Pedro

That, that. [laughs]

00:07:04 Santiago

Yes, there is no fun, everything is closed. You are not able to have fun.

00:07:09 Interviewer 3

Yes. Well, then, what have you and your family and friends done for fun?

00:07:21 Santiago

Eh. Well, in my case, being with my friends or my brother who is here. I don't know... drink, chit-chat, there is nothing else there in the house. That is all. You are not able to leave.

00:07:35 Interviewer 3

Do you play cards then?

00:07:37 Santiago

Yeah, play cards, video games too.

00:07:41 Interviewer 2

Aha. [nods] What type of video games?

00:07:44 Santiago

Well, I like to play on the PlayStation. I like to play war games, or the ones where you kill zombies. [laughs]

00:07:55 Interviewer 2

It is a form of fun. [laughs]

00:08:00 Pedro

Distracting.

00:08:01 Interviewer 1

And you?

00:08:04 Pedro

I, I do not know. [laughs nervously] [ruffles papers]

00:08:10 Interviewer 1

Ahm. Has Covid-19 changed your relationships with your family, friends, and your community?

00:08:21 Santiago

Well in a way yes because I am not able to leave to see them, because maybe you are infected and then you could infect everyone, one never knows if they have Covid or not.

00:08:32 Interviewer 1

Okay.

00:08:33 Interviewer 2

And you?

00:08:34 Pedro

Well, I do not go out.

00:08:41 Interviewer 2

Mhm. Aha. [nods] [rustling of papers] Okay. Have you or someone you know gotten sick during the pandemic?

00:08:47 Santiago

Ah, yes.

00:08:48 Interviewer 2

Here in the United States?

00:08:49 Santiago

Yes, here in the United States.

00:08:52 Interviewer 2

On the farm?

00:08:54 Santiago

No, elsewhere.

00:08:56 Interviewer

Okay.

00:08:57 Santiago

Well, elsewhere. Well, one of my friends got sick and there were four people in one house.

00:09:03 Interviewer 2

Oh I'm sorry.

00:09:06 Interviewer 3

Do you know how their experience was with Covid?

00:09:07 Santiago

With Covid? Well... Their symptoms were a high fever. They laid in bed and could not get up at all. They did not want to eat food because they couldn't taste it. Let's see, what else? Mmm.

00:09:30 Interviewer 1

Did they have a headache?

00:09:31 Santiago

They had a headache, yes. And well, they were quarantined in their house. They were not able to leave. It was awful.

00:09:39 Interviewer 2

Yes. And you?

00:09:40 Pedro

I don't know anyone who has gotten covid.

00:09:43 Interviewer 1

Nobody?

00:09:44 Pedro

No one.

00:09:47 Interviewer 3

Eh. [ruffling of papers] Why did you decide to get vaccinated?

00:09:53 Santiago

Well, my friends were telling me to get vaccinated because it is good... and this and that. And well now I have decided to get vaccinated because they told me if not, I couldn't come.

00:10:05 Interviewer 3

And it's free, no? [voices in the background] And you?

00:10:10 Pedro

Well yes I agree. It is better for me to get vaccinated. I am going to protect myself a little bit, so.

00:10:16 Interviewer 1

Yes, I see. It's a, eh, step in the right direction. [laughs] Okay. Okay. Ah. What have been your main sources of news during the pandemic?

00:10:41 Santiago

Ah... television, and social media as well. Nothing else.

00:10:45 Interviewer 2

Which channel, which channel on T.V?

00:10:53 Santiago

Eh, the national television.

00:10:54 Interviewer 1

And you?

00:10:55 Pedro

How was I informed about the disease?

00:11:02 Interviewer 1

Well yes. On social media there is a lot of information and all of it is different. There is different information from all of the sources.

00:11:16 Interviewer 2

Yes, about the same thing. Some say something, and the others say something different. Yes, and it is very difficult sometimes for people, ah, to know which is correct. Yes. Okay. And, ah, do you have any opinion about how local, state, or federal leaders have responded to the crisis? And if you do not want to answer this question you do not have to.

00:11:42 Santiago

No, I do not want to.

00:11:44 Interviewer 2

Okay, that is alright. And, ahm [ruffling of papers]

00:11:50 Interviewer 3

And how have your experiences with the pandemic transformed your thinking about your family, friends, and/or your community?

00:12:01 Santiago

Would you repeat the question please?

00:12:03 Interviewer 3

Yes, [laughs] How have your experiences with the pandemic transformed your thinking about your family, friends, and/or your community?

00:12:16 Pedro

Ehm, I do not know how to answer that. [laughs]

00:12:28 Santiago

What were your experiences like more or less?

00:12:31 Interviewer 2

Ahm, being stuck in the house is very boring. Things like that?

00:12:39 Santiago

Well, if I stayed in my family's house and couldn't leave, then I was trapped. Well, in part where we are, if you go to the city there will be nobody because everything is closed. There are no there are no buses, none of this, everything is closed. What are you going to do? Nothing, you have to stay at home.

00:13:05 Interviewer 2

Yes. Do you have any other comments? [laughs]

00:13:06 Pedro

No

00:13:09 Interviewer

Okay, the final question I will give you today. Do you think community members or governments should have a plan for the future?

00:13:43 Santiago

Ehm, I do not know.

00:13:35 Interviewer 3

How to prepare, ahm, prevent, yes.

00:13:43 Santiago

Mhm, I do not know.

00:13:51 Interviewer 1

It's difficult to know.

00:13:53 Interviewer 2

It's a difficult question.

00:13:56 Santiago

If I'm not mistaken, the government is biological. The government is viral, not a controllable sickness... here and there, and everywhere. I have seen the government in control. It is more or less similar to the movies, like World War Z, well only then there were zombies. It's sad.

[laughs]

00:14:27 Interviewer 2

It is something very interesting, to see everyone in the world working to avoid this disease.

00:14:42 Santiago

Well, I was hoping that it would turn into World War Z but it didn't.

00:14:50 Interviewer 2

It's close. [laughs] Do you have any other comments?

00:14:55 Santiago

Eh. No, do you?

00:14:57 Pedro

Neither do I.

00:14:58 Interviewer 2

Thank you very much for your time.