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15-2-2022

### Salmon Week Three Clean Transcript

Tally Eastman

Hannah Miller

Aiden Modrell

Aiyana Montez

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## HERITAGE CONVERSATION PARTNERS PROJECT- SESSION 3

### TRANSCRIPTION COVER SHEET

**INTERVIEWEE:** N/A

**PRESENT:** Aiden Modrell, Aiyana Montez, Hannah Miller, and Tally Eastman

**PLACE OF INTERVIEW:** Remote Zoom Session. Greeley, CO.

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** 15 February 2022

**LANGUAGE(S):** English

**INTERVIEWER:** Aiyana Montez, Hannah Miller, Aiden Modrell, and Tally Eastman

**RECORDIST:** Aiden Modrell (through Zoom)

**TRANSCRIBED BY:** Danny Celentano and Maddy Carpenter

**TRANSCRIPT PROOFED BY:** Aiden Modrell, Kayla Watkins, Aiyana Montez, Hannah Miller, Tally Eastman, and Kaden Schissler

**TRANSCRIPT ANALYSIS BY:** Aiden Modrell, Kayla Watkins, Aiyana Montez, Hannah Miller, Tally Eastman, Kaden Schissler, Danny Celentano, and Maddy Carpenter

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS:** This transcript contains contents on money, finances, norms surrounding money, and resources surrounding living in today's world.

**REFERENCE:**

AMOD= Aiden Modrell

AMON= Aiyana Montez

HM= Hannah Miller

TE= Tally Eastman

## TRANSCRIPT

**AMON:** Hey.

**AMOD:** Hello, good morning.

**AMON:** I'm gonna pull up the question, so do you think we should just do what we did last time and just kind of go through the questions ourselves?

**AMOD:** Pretty much. I guess we'll have to wait for the people who are going to be late. Her little group does seem to have quite the luck this semester.

**AMON:** Seriously. [Mumbling] I'm going through, trying to get the questions up.

**[3:58 - 7:52: silence]**

**AMON:** Aiden, do you think that we should just start without them, since they said that they would only be five minutes late or-

**AMOD:** Yeah, considering they said five minutes late and it's 11:08 we'll- we'll see when they get here.

**AMON:** You want to wait till like 11:10 then.

**AMOD:** Yeah, let's- let's make it a nice round number.

**AMON:** Okay.

**AMOD:** Also Hello Hannah. I hope you're having a good morning.

**HM:** Hi. Yeah, you too.

**[8:22 - 10:49: silence]**

**AMOD:** All right, you guys ready to get started?

**HM:** Yeah, let's go for it.

**AMON:** Yeah. Did you guys want to answer, like, the first question all the same time or did you want to go through it how we went through the first time and each answer all the questions?

**AMOD:** I think if we go like one, at a time, with all of us, we might get more conversation going.

**AMON:** Alright cool. You guys want me to start?

**AMOD:** Sure.

**AMON:** Okay.

**HM:** Yeah, sure.

**AMON:** The first question is “do you enjoy spending or saving money?” Um, I would say both, definitely both. I'm pretty frugal. I went from a pretty young age to be pretty smart with my money. But there are definitely times when I like to splurge and treat myself. I love giving gifts, that's one of my favorite things so, um, I'd say both. It's like a healthy balance for me [moves hands up and down like a scale].

**AMOD:** I wish I enjoyed saving money [laughs]. I'm so bad at saving money but I'm really good at spending money [laughs].

**AMON:** Yeah.

**AMOD:** I wouldn't say I really enjoy spending money either, but it's- it's definitely what I lean a bit more towards.

**AMON:** Yeah. I totally feel that. It's easier to spend than to save.

**HM:** I- for sure, yeah, I'm definitely like right in the middle too, um, because I- I love buying myself things and I also love giving gifts too like- I like to buy like, for my family to buy like little like valentine's day gifts are like just random gifts for holidays and stuff or just randomly. But I also love watching my bank account grow so it's like, it's an awkward thing, it's like, I want to buy this, but I also want to see my bank account grow instead of spending my entire paycheck [laughs].

**AMON:** Yeah, I totally get that. I also get like- I feel like I have kind of a scarcity mindset, just kind of ingrained into me, so I like cannot let my account go down below a certain level otherwise I'll like freak out so.

**HM:** Me too. Like, once I get it to number I'm like okay, you can't- you can't touch it. Like, what's in your savings is in your savings, you can only touch your checking and that's it.

**AMON:** Yeah.

**HM:** Yeah.

**AMOD:** Like setting- setting your zero at like \$100 in your bank account.

**AMON:** Right, yeah... Okay, so, the next question is "according to your cultural background and values, is it okay to lend/ give money to friends or family? Do you ever borrow or take it?" Um, I would say in my cultural background, it is okay to lend or give money, um, I have a really hard time taking money from other people, like, if somebody were to lend me money I would probably refuse it. And I don't know if that's necessarily from my cultural background. I think it's more from my own ideas of feeling irresponsible if I need somebody to lend money, I guess. Like- like I said I do try to be very responsible about my spending and so if I dip below that certain amount of money and I like need money for food or whatever, then I guess I'm just going to be eating oatmeal until my next paycheck. You know what I mean, rather than taking money from somebody else like I would rather just stop the spending until I get my next paycheck. If it came to like an emergency, worse comes to worse, like I have to do, like, a car repair or something like that, like, I definitely would take it and I- I'm- I'm thankful for it, too, I am, I don't want to seem like unthankful or ungrateful, but, I don't know, there's like some kind of anxiety for me associated with, like, borrow money from people.

**AMOD:** I think that that's kind of seen a lot in American culture specifically. Probably from like, a lot of like, the pull yourself up by your bootstraps type mentality.

**AMON:** yeah.

**HM:** Yeah, I feel like a lot of it, like, you know it's just like you said, like pull yourself up by your bootstraps. Like, definitely like, a prideful thing were we're like I don't want us to be seen as needing help cause I can't like- like you said, like for car repairs, or whatever like, then it's like a necessity and you're like I have no choice but like, if it's for like buying groceries like absolutely not, I'm like, I will make- I will eat oatmeal until I die like you said because I will not accept help for like, things like that that I should have control over.

**AMON:** Right.

**HM:** But yeah.

**AMOD:** Yeah personally like, I know you guys were talking about giving people gifts and stuff. I hate, like, receiving gifts too because it feels like people lending me money in a way. And I- it's like no, no don't, don't spend your money on me, please don't. I think it's also a little bit like-

**HM:** I like giving gifts but I don't like getting them too. Like I don't mind, because then I have to buy you something, stop it.

**AMOD:** Yeah it's- it's the reciprocation that's the biggest thing. But like, also like I lend money really easily and it's such a- a strange back and forth of like, I don't mind letting other people money because, like, I understand, being in that space, but also, I don't want to have to be in that space to have to take money.

**AMON:** I totally agree.

**AMOD:** Also welcome.

**HM:** Yeah, hey guys.

**AMOD:** Thank you, thank you for joining us.

**AMON:** [Unintelligible] -saw Kayla's message, but she's not feeling well so she- we hope you feel better

**HM:** Yeah.

**AMON:** No worries if you can't talk. I'm- I'm- that was the boat I was in last week. I'm like still recovering, I don't know if you guys can tell. I remember like, the first week we did it I remember I was like losing my voice, and then I got super sick. Still recovering but it's definitely going around. Okay, um, do you guys want to move on to the next question- or Tally, um, did you want to put any input in on how you feel about, um, like lending or borrowing money from people.

**TE:** I guess that's kinda complicated, but like, each is different. I think I always feel better lending, although it's scarier like that.

**AMON:** Right.

**TE:** Only with certain people I would trust, but like, borrowing money is not something that I could do easily. Like, it's just all personal, then borrowing money is something that just is so hard for me to, like, do, like, vulnerable, you know?

**AMON:** Right. So it seems like we're all kind of in agreement.

**TE:** WiFi is cutting out so I'm kinda- [laughs]

**AMON:** No worries. From what I picked out you feel that it would be difficult for you to accept money from somebody else which I think is kind of the same thing that we all have said so, it must be a cultural thing for our country then. Since we're all feeling pretty similar about that. Alright, so the next question is "is it okay for people to talk about money in your culture? Do people ask one another about their salaries, for example?" Um, I think that kind of depends on the generation, like, I have never seen any of the elders in my family talk about that. They don't discuss those things with each other, and I feel that it would be rude to ask them that or for them to ask each other that. Um, but like with my- like with our generation, or like just talking to my friends- hold on, excuse me [mutes to cough]. Sorry, I had to cough. Um, like talking amongst my friends, like, I feel like money is like a big topic of discussion and like, it's pretty common for us to be like, oh like i'm broke this week, like I can't go out this week, like, oh like, we'll have to like, cook dinner instead of going out to dinner because I'm broke or- you know? Things like that and, I know, like, I think, for like college in specific, I feel like a lot of people do ask, like other people like, what's the average you're making at this job because we're curious and we're trying to figure out like, what jobs we want to take and what jobs were interested in working in and doing things like that, so I do think it's generational.

**HM:** That must be part of it, too, is like not just generational but also like, age-wise, I guess, just because, like, in college, like, it's kind of like, we're all in the same boat, we're all like I'm poor, I'm struggling, I'm in college, I'm trying to make things meet. Versus when you're an adult you're supposed to have it all like, figured out and like, together I guess. So then it's just like, we don't talk about it, cause no one wants to admit, oh I'm really struggling right now, with the like mentioned of it you're kind of like, why are you talking about this, this is awkward [laughs].

**AMOD:** It feels very much like a pride thing around money and finance just in America in general. But I'm also really interested if you guys have worked a job, where they said that you can't talk about your salary.

**HM:** I have actually. I worked for an agricultural research company for seven years and we weren't supposed to talk about it at all they're like, don't talk about it, and I don't remember if I signed anything saying I won't talk about it, but I definitely talked about it because I worked with two of my sisters, so we live together, and so, if one of us got a raise and another one didn't we'd be like what the hell, I do more work than you because we're siblings. And then I worked with one of my best friends, two her brothers, and so we were really close too, and so we would talk about it and I'd be like, why are you making like 17 and I'm only making 14? You've only

worked here one year longer than me, and stuff like that so, we just wouldn't do it in front of like, our bosses, but definitely when we were in like the pickup trucks driving alone, we would definitely talk about it and, like in private, like, at our houses and stuff.

**AMON:** I worked for- I was a supervisor for Sunglass Hut for almost two years. And the company's Exotica and we did have to sign like a document saying that we would not disclose our salary to anybody else that was an employee, but it wasn't necessarily you can't tell anyone what you make it was more like, we don't want this being discussed between employees.

**AMOD:** Yeah, when I worked for Target, we had the whole "no talking about your wages with other employees" but of course, um, one of my high school friends worked- like, we both started working at the exact same time. We had the exact same, um, introductory day and it turned out that he was making \$2 more than I was in the exact same position from day one.

**AMON:** Oh my gosh, that's a big difference too.

**HM:** Yeah. [Softly] Oh my gosh.

**AMON:** Okay, should we go-

**AMOD:** Very much- very much, um, you know they don't- they don't ask you to stay quiet unless they're trying to hide something.

**HM:** Yeah, I would definitely agree with that because, especially since you started on the exact same day, what was the difference? Like, I don't know. I feel like I should have to like, disclose that almost like, oh, you have experience with retail or something so that's why he got more whatever. But like, I don't know, that just seems really [squints] iffy.

**AMOD:** \$2 is a lot when it's an entry level target job.

**HM:** Yeah for sure.

**AMON:** That's a huge wage gap.

**HM:** Mm-hmm.

**AMON:** Okay, so the next question is "what is the average salary in your home country? Is it enough?" I don't know the answer to that question, to be honest. Um, I feel like I learned this at some point in one of my classes, but I don't- I want to say it's like, between 30 and 60,000.

**HM:** I feel like that's right, I mean-

**AMOD:** Average annual salary in Colorado is \$63,000.

**HM:** Wow, that's higher than I thought [laughs]. It's probably because the jobs I always look out are always like, oh, you know 40,000 for entry level and then you can like get up to like 70, but we all know when I start out I'll definitely only be getting like 40,000 if I'm lucky [laughs].

**AMON:** Right. I think that it-

**AMOD:** We are also lower than the national average. The national average is 66,000.

**HM:** Wow, okay.

**AMON:** Um, Kayla [mispronounced] put in the chat- I'm so sorry, is it Kayla or Kayla [mispronounced]. Kayla? Okay. Um, "I think averages depend on state differences but also I don't feel like it's enough for the average person to live" is what she said.

**HM:** I would agree.

**AMON:** Yeah I have to agree with that. Um, it can be pretty impossible to be like a single income homeowner.

**HM:** Mm-hmm. Yeah, I mean, I would say for sure, um, I mean I don't want to like, talk about like, my parents finances, but I know my dad is only one who works full time. My mom does the books for the family business and my parents were looking at like the housing market and how much it costs for like houses and stuff and they said that they would not be able to afford the house we live in now. Like, if they were trying to buy houses now versus when they bought our house in like 2001, or 2002, whatever, early 2000s, they were able to afford it, but now they wouldn't be able to like, I don't know, I mean like we can like afford it cause our mortgage is smaller since we bought it like 20 years ago, but like if we tried to buy it now, we wouldn't be able to because we wouldn't make enough to get the loan for it.

**AMON:** Right, yeah. The housing market is insane right now.

**HM:** Yeah.

**AMOD:** I know that me and my friends are always talking about like, oh, I hope the bubble pops soon so that we can get an- an apartment complex and all live together.

**HM:** I know I'm always like, I need the housing market to drop, but I need it to wait a few years, so I can like, have enough saved for a down payment to buy one.

**TE:** True.

**AMOD:** Yeah

**TE:** Yeah, if it did it right now I'd be like, cool, great, dammit. Like it's too far off, you know.

**AMON:** All right, um, next question is “should we give money to homeless people?” Um, I always do. I have done a lot of outreach work for- my mom used to work for this company called Urban Peak in Denver, which is an outreach program for the homeless youth of Denver. And so I did quite a bit of outreach with those- like, the homeless youth, and we did a lot of care packaging. Obviously when I was working for them, and I was their volunteer, I could not give money to the youth, because that would be really inappropriate but, if I don't have- like I used to have little care packages with like, toothpaste, sunscreen, chopstick, gloves, whatever like, little things, granola bars, um, water bottles. But if I didn't have one of those like, a- a couple dollars to me isn't going to make a big difference, but a couple dollars to them to get them like food and water or a place to stay at night. I think that there's like, definitely a big stigma in our country regarding homeless people. And just from my experience I've seen, like, most people can't even hardly look at them or acknowledge them which is incredibly damaging to the self esteem of the people who are homeless anyways because they're just so dehumanized, um, but I definitely think there is a stigma. A lot of people assume that they are going to use the money to buy drugs or alcohol and they think that they're like contributing to the problem. I don't- for me like, I don't really care, I mean I do, I care, I don't want them to be doing drugs or drinking alcohol, but I would rather take the chance and offer somebody something that could help them have a meal in their bellies rather than just like, not help them at all, just because of the slight chance that they might use it for drugs or whatever. But-

**TE:** I have the- I have like the exact same opinion, um, especially when it comes to like the demonization and like, the people not even like looking or talking to them. Like, because they want to avoid that confrontation whilst avoid the like, look but like there these- they're not- they're humans, the regular people who're struggling. They're not people who're like going to like, hold it against you, I think they'd much rather acknowledge- like, talk, and like treat them like people, and meet their needs.

**AMON:** Yup. They deserve to be treated like human being.

**TE:** Exactly. Like, looking away and avoiding it, you know, like, that's just so dehumanizing and I think there's a lot of demonization and dehumanization cause a lot of people also kind of get

mixed messages of like, well don't give them money because it could be drugs, like, encourage them to go to shelters and stuff, and it's like, you don't understand that the system is much more complex with that, like the mistreatment-

**AMON:** Shelters are so dangerous there's-

**TE:** Exactly. and, like, not always having enough space or not accessible, like, the system, especially surrounding homeless people, is a lot more nuanced and like, negative that a lot of people know. It's not a lot of like, drug, street, hahas, it's their fault. It's like, humans who are victims. And so I agree, it's like, if I don't- if I were like, able then yes, absolutely, in a heartbeat I would give it like, as frequently as I could to actual people compared to even like shelters and stuff.

**AMON:** And i'm not sure what the [Unintelligible] are on it right now, um, but I did do a research paper on homelessness I think two years ago and the research at that point was that something like 63% of homeless people became homeless when they were youth, like when they were kids and just were never able to get out of it. And then another high percentage of it is veterans who just weren't given the resources to have success when they got back from war and a lot of them have severe mental health issues, disabilities, they can't work like normal people can, and I think it's so quick for our society to judge and look at a homeless person and say well it's their fault that they got to this place when that's just really not the case. We really don't have, like, good rehabilitation set up for people who are experiencing homelessness and that's a major downfall of our country, I think, because I just think it is an absolutely devastating failure that we allow this to happen and don't do something to help rehabilitate these people and help- [puts hands out] help them.

**HM:** I completely agree. Um, so I'm a criminal justice major and so- and a lot of times we talk about how, like, homelessness and crime rates and stuff and, like, the re-entry process after prison and stuff, and like, it's so tough for like, people who were in prison, to get out and get like a job, so a lot of them do end up being homeless, and then, like, they criminalize being homeless so then they get thrown back in prison and it just becomes like this huge messed up cycle and so like, I don't know, like, I just- I think that's one of the biggest faults in our country is the way we treat the homeless and the lack of resources and just like, I don't know, the whole thing as a whole, just such a big issue and-

**AMON:** I totally agree. Camping bans that they have in Colorado in specific like, absolutely sicken me because it- the camping bans is- yeah, essentially criminalizing homelessness and we live in a state where the temperature drops below freezing most nights in the wintertime. The weather conditions are absolutely horrendous and people pass away if they're not able to protect

themselves from the cold. So, we have like forced these people and choosing like, life or death versus going to jail.

**HM:** Yeah 100% and like you mentioned, like, veterans and stuff and like, I know this is like, a TV show, but like- if this episode just really sticks with me. It's an episode of the West Wing and one of the main characters, he donated a coat to like, Goodwill or something and a homeless man bought it. And like, his business card was in the pocket so he got a call, he's like, hey there's this guy who died at a park, can you come identify, and he had your business card or whatever. So he showed up and he's like, I don't know him, he's homeless it's like- And, just like this whole thing, this guy he was a veteran and stuff and he never- he couldn't get a job cause I think he also had mental issues and stuff and like, he died out there in the cold with like- I don't know, just like the whole thing, it just stuck with me cause it's just so sad that it actually happens to people.

**AMON:** Yeah [cutting out].

**AMOD:** Like all of the systemic issues that like, force people to stay in those positions too. Because once- once you're homeless and then having to try and you know, apply to jobs when you don't have a permanent address, you don't have, you know, transportation or anything like that and it's just, things stacking up on top of each other to just make things so much harder. And I don't know if either of you guys know but do they still do like the- the cleanup [using air quotes] that Denver likes to do.

**HM:** I think they do, like, you mean like, the like, homeless like, encampments like, cleaning those up and like-

**AMOD:** Yeah, like taking blankets and-

**HM:** Yeah.

**AMOD:** Stuff like that.

**HM:** There was- I was reading one for a class because we were- actually it was for this semester, I had to find an article about a crime or whatever, and I was like, I'm kind of interested in like homelessness and criminalization of it and stuff, and I'm pretty sure they did one a couple months ago and I almost picked that for my article. So, yeah, they're still-

**AMOD:** Every- every time I hear about it, it just makes my blood boil.

**HM:** Mm-hmm, especially since a lot of times they have nowhere else to go or there's- there's nothing- there's nowhere for them, there's no one to help them, so they have to make do with

what they can and then, you know, the city of Denver comes in and cleans it up [using air quotes].

**AMON:** I know that there have been certain corporations and companies that have like, purchased like, large parking lots or plots of land in Denver too, and they've gotten like the zoning rates and things like that to allow homeless people to camp, and I think that's- that's like something new that we haven't seen before, and it's because there's been such a rise of homelessness since Covid, but I don't think that there's been enough change put in place, especially to adjust to the massive rise in homelessness since Covid.

**AMOD:** Do they have to pay to stay there.

**AMON:** I'm not sure.

**AMOD:** Because that sounds a lot, like the- the sleep mafias in India.

**TE:** And well that would obviously be- and it is something that would probably be done to homeless people because it's the same thing as, you know, putting bars on park benches and all these different things that they do, and not allowing them- like I'm even picturing driving in Denver in that more central area and how that is where it's like most criminalized, that's where it's patrolled the most because it's like, hey just don't congregate here, cause then people see you, like, it's visible it's quote-unquote dirty and it's like it's not dirty- it's yours, like it's your problem Denver. It's your problem America. Like that kind of thing where they demonize it so much and it's just like where can they go then? It just like- it- like you said, it makes my blood boil. It makes me so emotional of, like, where can they go then? Where can they get it done? Where can they sleep? Where can they get food? Like, just pointed out, because it does not exist for so many of them.

**AMOD:** And not only is it Denver's problem it's also Denver's people. Like these are your citizens that you're supposed to be helping. You know, these are people who live in Colorado and you know, they vote, and they have- they have rights, you know, treat them like it.

**TE:** Exactly. Well, and then there are also disproportionately people of color and mentally ill and all just those different socio-economic and minority, like, identities and it just like, compounds where, like you said, a lot of people, very, very unfortunately, experience it in youth and if, especially if you are a person of color, homeless in your youth, there's so many layers to it, of like, how do I not experienced this? There's not the resources there.

**AMON:** Some- one of the things that I saw a lot too when I was working in outreach with the homeless youth of Denver is that there were- not all cops were trying to criminalize it, but they

just had no means to really help them and the biggest thing they could do to help them was write them a voucher for the light rail so that they could ride the light rail to stay warm all night. There were very few times when they- they received vouchers, like, in- there's a certain amount of money, allotted for, like, huge- the nights that we have like, big storms and they can give a certain amount of people vouchers for a hotel room that night but it's not anywhere near enough for everybody to have a warm place to stay.

**AMOD:** And also something that I don't think I've heard much about is with the Marshal fire that happened in Superior, like, that's people that lost everything, and, you know, I mean it's a- it's a higher-end area, of course, cause it's by Boulder, but I haven't heard anything about like, if those people have homes that they can go to or if they've been forced to become homeless now too.

**HM:** Yeah, I'm kind of surprised we haven't heard more about that, like, I mean like, right when the fire was happening I did hear a little bit, but it was just because, like, their houses were like, currently burning they're like, we don't know where to go, but like, now because it's obviously a long term problem, it takes a while, like, I mean, a couple months at least to build a house and so it's like, where are they going to go? What are they going to do? And why isn't there more on it, and like, why aren't we hearing about it?

**AMOD:** And, plus the- the housing market in that area as soon as, you know, those people heard, like, oh there's a bunch of houses that burned down, that's a lot of people who are going to need new houses. All of the prices skyrocketed because, of course, people are going to try and make more money off of the trauma that people who've been through. I love capitalism. It's great, it's such a great system [laughs].

**HM:** [Laughs]

**TE:** Yeah. I love it. Whoa. I can't. It makes me so- and especially- so I live in Loveland, and it's just- there's signs everywhere. In the corners of like regularly- um, I forgot the word for it. I'll get there, but where they regularly just like, stand, or ask for money, or just sit down for a while and there's like the signs in like, the corner of that Walgreens that's like, do not do this here, like, here's where the shelter, da da da da, and I'm like, wow. Your sign. Crazy. It's like no, these are the same people. They know your sign is there, they know where your shelter is, I promised you. Like that's not the solution in any way and I just hate it cause there's so many- I can think of them especially cause they're like, one-ways. There're so many one-way roads in Loveland, so on those one-ways it's very easy to just be like, right next to someone's window. Not in a bad way, but just in like, that is where a lot of them- like, even multiple of them, literally like friends, they will just hang out because they need somewhere to stay. And I hate the signs there. They're like just go to the shelter. It's like, yeah, they know. I promise you.

**AMOD:** I trust them to know how to survive more than I trust, you know, the city signs to tell them where is best for them.

**TE:** Exactly.

**HM:** I feel like part of it to- oh sorry, you can go ahead.

**TE:** No, you're good I'm- that was all [laughs].

**HM:** [Laughs] Okay, um, there's also, like, um, I guess like, territoriality I feel like too, that comes into play, like, once someone becomes homeless they, like, pick an area, and that is like, their home-base, I guess. You're like, that's where they return to every night until they get, like, kicked out or whatever by the city. And so I feel like, um, part of it's also like, you know there's like, those feuds and like, if they go to the shelter they might run into some of the people they have issues with, and it could just end up being more violent and more dangerous for more people.

**AMOD:** I definitely feel like I don't have enough knowledge as to like, what shelters are like. So, that's definitely something that I realized now I need to look up and do research on.

**AMON:** Shelters are extremely dangerous for women and children and members of the LGBTQ community. It's better to-

**[43:40: Loud indescribable noise]**

**AMON:** -for them to be on the streets with, like, their select group of people who could help them, rather than being in shelters. They're really, really high abuse and sexual assault rates in- within shelters.

**TE:** Well, and even- is it Salvation Army shelters that don't-

**AMOD:** [Groans]

**TE:** -allow LGBT community. I know, I know, I know, I know. Saying the words did the same thing to me, I promise. But yeah those ones, the- those who shall not be named I guess. New rule.

**AMOD:** The bell ringers.

**TE:** The bell ringers. So yeah, that. But like- there will be policy, or at least they'll literally like kick you out of the shelter. It is literally like, we do not have resources for you if you are LGBT.

**HM:** I had no idea that was even happening and that is disgusting. Isn't their whole goal to help people. Like, that doesn't even make sense to me.

**TE:** You would think. Yeah, the Salvation Army in every way, shape, and form is very anti-LGBT specifically, but anti a lot of things. But, that is something that I've read a lot about on like their shelters specifically, where it is literally like, the resources here are not for you, like, if you are found out like, you-do-not-get-to-be-in-shelter kind of thing in a lot of instances.

**AMOD:** Yeah I think one of the-

**TE:** So yeah.

**AMOD:** -one of the one of the bigger stories is, um, a trans woman that they turned away from their- one of their shelters and she died later that night in the cold.

**AMON:** So sad. Very upsetting.

**AMOD:** Speaking of Salvation Army, what a great segway if- if you guys are open to it too. Do you ever give to charity?

**HM:** Um, I do a little bit, um, and, like, those like, operation Christmas things because, like, I said earlier, I love giving gifts and I love buying gifts, and this, like, last Christmas, I was like, I should probably do something like, good for people and, um, so like, the USPS has like, letters from Santa and you can fulfill them for like, disadvantaged families and stuff and there's one kid who loves the Polar Express and I happen to be watching the Polar Express at the exact same time that I was reading it, and so, like, I bought him some like, Polar Express toys and stuff and like, sent it to him and like, I don't know, that- that was my charity, I guess.

**AMOD:** That's so adorable.

**AMON:** Um, I definitely donate when I can. I really do like to do research on the organization before I donate because that- there- I have found, like, a lot of organizations have quite a bit of fraud or, like, discrepancy on where my money is going and things like that. So, I do like to do research on that first but, um, I definitely do donate when I can.

**HM:** Um, and I just remembered another place, um, but- okay- so I'm- I'm a cat person and there's this sanctuary in California where they will take cats who have been like, abuse or about

to be put down for no reason and they, like, save their lives, like, there was one from like, Egypt who had acid thrown on it and they like took him in and like, saved him and so every now and then I'll go on their Amazon wish-list and I'll send them the things on their list that they need just because I know there are a lot of like, shelters that will just kill cats and since I have three cats I'm very attached and I'm also like, really big on, like, animal rights and stuff so, you know, I just want to do as much as I can for animals especially since I know people who actually will like, shoot cats that they come on their property and stuff and- So if there's an organization out there that helps them in like, do their best to save them and make them have a happy life, I want to give to them. So I will buy, like, wet cat food and toys and, like, those like, little pee-pads since some of them can't go to the bathroom in the litter box and stuff, so, yeah.

**TE:** That is so cute. I want to work with animals more. I just- I have a zoo in my own house, so I always- always forget. I wanted to do so bad, um, a humane society volunteer hours but I'm severely allergic to like, cats, dogs, bunnies, rodents, and I own dogs and rodents. And so I was like, maybe I shouldn't exasperating my problem [laughs].

**AMOD:** Maybe I shouldn't overdo it.

**HM:** Yeah.

**TE:** Yeah, like I wanted to work in a pet store so bad, cause I even have a friend who does and I was like, little babies, and then I thought about it was like, I'd just be handling the things I'm allergic to at work and then going home to that. So I was like, maybe don't, maybe don't do it, but, because of that, like, I definitely- I don't work with animals as much as I'd like because I did used to do stuff with cats, but, again, I'm really allergic. So I've mainly just done a lot of LGBT. It's been a minute because obviously, like, Covid and then, getting back kind of in the market since, and then I'm a server so it's tip wage and slow season and so it's like literally two days a week, like, 40 bucks out of it like- sometimes it's crazy shifts like that. So I- I normally would donate to LGBT. Especially during our last presidential [pause] person [laughs]. A lot of- basically like, LGBT bill funding, almost like, a lot of the organizations and just kind of like, smaller co-ops and stuff that were literally like, hey, this is the bill. This is the yikes. We need to fight it and that's the type of stuff I like to- I don't know if it counts as like, charity but that's the main thing I've donated to.

**HM:** I would say that counts as charity, you know. I mean-

**AMON:** I donated a ton to Planned Parenthood during our last presidency because that's a resource that I use. A resource that I think is incredibly important for a lot of people who don't have access to like, regular healthcare.

**TE:** Very true.

**AMON:** And so, I was donating to that cause pretty regularly and then I think, um, homelessness has been just like, such a big part of my life since I volunteered so much that, like, those are the two things that I really donate to the most.

**TE:** I think also Kayla sent hers in the chat. Um, she seconded that like, she likes to research them first which I do too because otherwise-

**AMOD:** Oh yeah.

**TE:** I'm always so worried that they're gonna like- like you're trying to do good, you don't want it to go to someone that's not going to actually help it. But they- Kayla has donated mostly to suicide prevention. That's actually- that's an amazing-

**AMOD:** Yeah.

**AMON:** That's a really important resource.

**HM:** Sure.

**TE:** One thing I like about when people do donate to charity, or when you talk about it, is you kind of find each person's, like, kind of little passions, cause I think- Especially, like, in anthropology you will learn so much about different cultures, like complexity of humans, like, I think we care a lot, and for me at least I do tend to kind of have just this overrun emotion of empathy, like, just a large amount of it, and- So I just love charity work because it's the thing of like, I care about all of that stuff but you'll see each person kind of care specifically about, like, something even just a little bit more. Like homelessness or something that like, really affects, like, few people in the heart, like just that little bit more.

**AMOD:** Absolutely and I think that empathy is something that a lot of anthropologists really connect with. I think that's one of my favorite things about being in the anthropology program is seeing other people who care as much as, you know, I want people to.

**TE:** I fully agree. That's why I'm so passionate about it too. It's, like, the like-mindedness and empathy- cause even like, just some of my friends that go to even like, bigger schools or just different degrees don't have that same sense of like, community and, like, wow we're all going to care here, so they still kind of have to stand up to people in their classes and stuff.

**AMON:** I totally agree. It's really different being- so I'm an anthropology minor but my major is psych and you would think that that would be a really like, caring, like, group of people, because, you know, it's geared towards like, helping people's mental health, but my experience with it has been a lot more cut and dry. Not quite as open. A little bit more like, scientific, these are the facts, and so it's different. And I would say it's different depending on like, the group within psychology that you're going with, like, the people who are going towards counseling rather than research definitely have like, way more openness and empathy but like, people who are geared towards research or wanting to be, like, psychiatrists or something like that, like, you can tell just- you- just a difference in like, their levels of empathy compared to the people who want to do counseling. So I think it's really interesting. Um, Kayla said psych and ANTH major here. I agree with that about some of the surprising viewpoints of the psych field.

**TE:** That's the same major that my best friend has, that has the same experience of that kind of like-

**AMON:** The roots are different.

**TE:** -different environment.

**AMON:** Totally different. Totally different.

**AMOD:** I think it's something like-

**TE:** Cause even like, I'll talk about my classes or like our discussions, especially cause we're all very interested in the same things, like especially I'm in anthropology of religion and, like, if there's one thing I could do for the rest of my life it's classes like that.

**AMON:** Right

**TE:** And so I'm just like, yeah we walked into class today and, like, especially if you guys have ever had professors Zia, who's phenomenal. I took gender and sexuality through her and literally just like, walked in and she was like, okay, just to, like, start like, we all know, capitalism bad right? Like yeah, just like, P.S., like, we're all on the same page right, and I was like, I love that that's just like the start. That's just where we start, and, you know, she's like, well yeah I had to kind of teach a guy in class today like, I had to mention the fact that maybe capitalism wasn't all that and I was like, what? Mention it? I was like, wait, no. I would- I would get so mad, so much more if I was still- cause I went to a conservative high school too, so I'm like I'm- [sighs] I'm done. Not really because I will continue to always have, like, advocacy in my life, but I just- it's so nice to go to an anthropology class and even if there's discussions or disagreements you're like, well at least we've started somewhere of like, we all have more empathy here.

**AMOD:** I think it's something that you can see a lot of contrast in in like, the 100 level anthropology classes, or like, the- the intro to like, cultural anthropology and stuff like that, were you get people who come in thinking that it's kind of- kind of be an easy A and you can always tell who they are.

**TE:** Uh-huh.

**AMOD:** And they're always going to be the ones that play devil's advocate in the back of the class.

**TE:** Yep. That makes so much sense. Yes.

**AMON:** I think part of the reason why psych also feels so, like, cold unless open is because it has such a big focus on the negative aspects of humanity. Like, it has a major emphasis on like, implicit prejudice and mental health issues and, like, taking psych- what- I was super interested in psych, I was very passionate about it in the beginning, and like, my experience with, um, like, getting my psych degree was extremely depressing and for a while there it made me, like, lose a lot of hope in humanity because it's sad, you know [laughs], and I feel like, with, like, anthropology it's way more focused on community and, like, the beautiful things that we do that bring us together and things like that and so I'm personally way more passionate about anthropology than psych. Like, when I took my intro to anthropology class I like, immediately fell in love. I was obsessed with it and I, like, immediately had to pick it up as a major. Like, I wanted to take as many anthro classes as I possibly could because it was such a stark difference between sitting in my psych classes and feeling impending doom like [laughs], huge difference.

**TE:** Much better for yourself. That's a much, much needed change.

**HM:** Yeah. I kind of noticed the same thing in criminal justice, like, it's- it's very sad. Cause you know, minority groups to like, LGBTQ and, like, people of color like, they're always like, at a higher rate of being victimized and stuff like that, and it was really nice to like, go into it and be like- and it wasn't even a debate, it was just these are the facts, and then to have like, the anthropology background come in and that's, like, understanding, like, the culture of it and stuff and like- and I just feel like anthropology really just adds so much more to every major and I don't know how else to explain it but- [laughs]

**TE:** No, it- it makes complete sense and that's- and Kayla said it in the chat that like, that's the exact experience she's had and I've been to multiple places for anthropology because I started taking anthropology classes in high school. I'm very grateful that I was lucky enough to kind of figure it out early because it's exactly what you guys experience, like, I knew it. I knew it would

be, but I was like, listen, like, we're just going to test the waters, we'll see, and it was like, a fire. Like, the second I took it, I was like, yeah, mm-hmm, that's exactly what I need. That's exactly how I think. This is exactly how I want to see the world, and I've been trying- like even my friends that are in psych, they've experienced the exact same things but they're like, that I want to be- I want this like, set career, I want to- you know, like, da da da da. I want to help people. And then they're just like, but I'm starting to, like, lose that passion and I'll tell them about like, well here's what I'm learning in class and their jaws will just drop. Their like, that sounds so fun, like, yep. Do it. I want to like, be the bad influence that's like, do it, join us.

**AMON:** Psych degree is not fun. Not fun.

**TE:** Sounds very, very stressful.

**AMON:** It is so depressing and sad and you just like- especially going into it as somebody with a lot of empathy- oh my gosh, like, it just breaks my heart. Like, sitting in class always [rubbing hands over face] at the end of it I'm literally like, I feel like I have to go home and decompress and like, process what's going on. Especially because, like, we just don't have a lot of research and a lot of like- there's not, like, super high success rates on like, treating certain mental illnesses. Like some mental illnesses you're kind of just- You know, you can be a little bit of CBT and there's mood stabilizers to help that but you're going to be that way the rest of your life and there's nothing you can do to fix it and it's just like- oh my gosh [rubs eyes], it's so sad.

**TE:** Well, yeah. That sounds very, very draining.

**AMON:** Yeah, but anthology is like- gives me a little spice. A little more.

**TE:** I'm so glad.

**AMON:** Yeah.

**TE:** I think-

**AMOD:** Well, thank you everyone, we are at noon now.

**TE:** There we go.

**AMOD:** So thank you for a very- very fun interview day. I hope you all have a wonderful rest of your day.

**AMON:** Yeah, you guys too.

**TE:** You too.

**AMON:** We will see you-

**TE:** I'll see you guys later.

**HM:** Yeah.

**AMON:** Tally I'll see you in like, 30 minutes.

**TE:** Oh yeah, I'll see in 30 minutes. I'm about to leave my house because I'm in Loveland [laughs]. So oops.

**AMON:** No, I'll see you in class, but it was good to see you guys and see guys on Monday.

**TE:** Yeah, bye.

**AMOD:** Bye.