

University of Northern Colorado

Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC

Heritage Conversation Partners

Department of Anthropology

2-2-2022

Sunrise Session 1

Monica Castillo

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digscholarship.unco.edu/hcp>



Part of the [International and Intercultural Communication Commons](#), and the [Social and Cultural Anthropology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Castillo, Monica, "Sunrise Session 1" (2022). *Heritage Conversation Partners*. 17.
<https://digscholarship.unco.edu/hcp/17>

This Full Session is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Anthropology at Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC. It has been accepted for inclusion in Heritage Conversation Partners by an authorized administrator of Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC. For more information, please contact Jane.Monson@unco.edu.

ZOOM RECORDING LINK:

Start Time: Feb 2, 2022 05:56 PM

Meeting Recording:

https://unco.zoom.us/rec/share/vUuGaUVUXu9KVfisUA0H06p_E7VBIVbmKOFcBYjJVhH5kKrE3t8RSbKoJVB-IVrx.gk4lgmIPOUreiaDm

Present: Liz Graf, Arianna Staiano, Amanda Wessels,
Monica Castillo

Medium: Zoom- Online Conversation

Date of Interview: 2/2/2022

Language(s): English

Transcribed: Auto-Transcribed by Zoom

Edited and Formatted by: Olivia Simpson

Brief Description of Contents: Students taking ANT 300 meet with the participants for this study for the first time. They go over the consent form to get verbal agreement, before introducing themselves. They discuss their families, where they work, their pets, and how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected their everyday life.

Reference Key:

LG = Liz Graf

AS = Arianna Staiano

AW = Amanda Wessels

MC = Monica Castillo

RECORDING TRANSCRIPTION

LG: Okay. So, Ariana, do you have the letter of consent pulled up?

AS: I don't have it pulled up right now, but I can find it.

LG: Okay. Would one of you two mind reading it, you or Amanda?

AS: There it is... All right, do you want me to read it?

LG: Yes, please.

AS: Alright, so I'm just going to read it, and then after...Kimball said after every paragraph just have them like, verbally agree. [Hums in agreement] Have everybody...okay. "Purpose and description - cultural heritage, means all aspects of a person's traditions, their language, and their traditional places, foods, festivals, dress, ceremonies, beliefs, buildings, and arts and crafts. The primary purpose of the heritage conversation project, is for participants to share with each other aspects of their cultural heritage, allow their stories and experiences to be shared on social media, as in Facebook, Instagram, etc. and preserve them in a digital archive (an online storage system) hosted by the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) libraries. Is everybody okay with that? [pauses] Okay [giggles]...um let's see if I can do this, like...look at that.

LG: And I can read too I just...[trails off]

AS: Cool.

LG: Do you want me to go ahead?

AS: Yeah, go for it.

LG: Over the course of this project, you will meet weekly with the University of Northern Colorado students for seven zoom sessions. This will give you a chance to practice the English you are learning, develop friendships with the students, and show and tell the show and tell things you wish to share about your cultural heritage. Further, the UNC students will ask you questions about your cultural heritage, your experience learning English, and how this project has influenced your ideas and hopes about it recorded and study the zoom sessions. Is everybody okay with that?

By signing this letter, by verbally agreeing, you agree to permit our research terms to the record...record the zoom sorry. [pauses] By signing this letter you agreed to permit our research

team to record the zoom sessions, create transcripts (written versions of what you say from the recordings), share aspects of your cultural heritage on the project's social media accounts, and store the videos and other information on UNC's digital archive. The research team will study these materials and use the information to assess the project's success and learn more about your cultural heritage. You may choose to let the researchers use your name or withhold your name when your videos are shared on social media. Unless you choose for your name and other identifying information to be excluded, it will be included in the digital archive. You will be encouraged to visit the social media accounts, to interact with other people who post comments, questions, or other videos. You do not have to do this, it's voluntary but encouraged. Does everybody understand that?

Okay. At your request and, at the end of the project, we would be happy to share that information, the students collect. Potential risks in this project or minimal you might experience discomfort related to being asked questions, thinking of answers for problems, sorry thinking of answers for them, reflecting on your experience, and record your video snapshots. Our team will be available to assist you in all aspects of the project. You will not be compensated for your participation...participation in this project. Participation is voluntary, you may decide not to participate in the study. If you begin participation, you may still decide to stop and withdraw at any time. Your decision will be respected, and will not result in loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. Having read the above and having had an opportunity to ask questions...ask any questions, please sign below if you have...if you would like to participate in this project. A copy of this form will be given to you to retain for future reference. If you have any concerns about your section...selection or treatment as a research participant, you're invited to contact principal investigator Dr Michael Kimball by telephone or email. Is everybody Okay, with what I just read? Everybody agrees? Okay um and I can send everyone a version of what I just read, so that you can have Mike's information, but just let me know if you want that.

So, tonight is week one, and we are going to get to know one of...one another. For this week, we're going to find out who the learners are, who we each are. The language goal for us, is to speak about ourselves, so share information, anything that's kind of about you. I will share the slides that everybody knows like...I'll just share screens so that everybody knows kind of the bullet points that will follow. So, once again I'm Liz, and let me just share this so that I can start talking and everybody knows what I'm talking about. [shares screen] Sorry, can everybody see my screen? Okay.

So yeah my name is Liz. My full name is Elizabeth, and there is some significance to my name. So, my full name is Elizabeth Rose, and I'm named after both of my grandmothers...my grandmother on my father's side, and my grandmother on my mother's side. And I'm also named after a maiden name of my grandmother's as well. I am from Boulder Colorado, and I have lived in the United States my whole life, and I'm also...I've been speaking my English my whole life. I don't have any...um, I'm not bilingual by any means. And then my education goal is to finish my bachelor's in psychology, and to move on to get a master's degree in potentially Buddhist

psychology or other alternative, non-Western, um psychology practices. I'm very into, um, like reiki and five element acupuncture, Chinese medicine, things like that.

Um, important for you to know about me is I'm dyslexic so if we read anything and I read anything it might take me a moment, I might stumble over my words, because I have a hard time processing what it is that I'm actually reading. So if you want me to repeat something, please let me know, cuz like, sometimes I get really jumbled in my brain. Um, so where I'm from, is from Boulder. I don't know how to describe where... it's just kind of this hippie, weird town in Colorado, is kind of how I would describe it. It's a college town where Colorado University is. It's high in Buddhist population. There's some cool people there. [laughs] And then I guess moving on to the next question, "What's the easiest thing about being in the US?" The easiest thing... that's a hard question. [pauses] Being able to go to the store, and just like I go to the store all the time, to just move my body, and be able to like: get out of the house or get away from school. And I think the hardest thing... what comes up right now is taxes, because I'm nervous, [laughs] I have to file for taxes soon. So yeah, that's about me. Who would like to go next?

AS: Ill go next. Um so my name is Arianna Staiano. I use she/her pronouns. Significance to my name, I was named after one of my aunts. Um 'Arianna' in Italian means joy and 'aria' means melody and her name is Melody Joy. So I was actually named after her twice, and then my middle name is Maria-Lynn and I have three older sisters. All of my older sisters have two middle names as well and each of their 'Marias' comes from a different person in the family, and by the time they got to me they were like well, we ran out of people to name you after, so you're named after all of your sisters. I am from Greeley Colorado, born and raised. Been here for 24 years, haven't left. That's where the University of Northern Colorado is, where we're all settled studying.

My ambitions, my educational goals, I am studying anthropology right now, that is my major, and I am hoping to become a professor in anthropology. I would really love to teach biological anthropology, which is the study of evolution and how we know what our ancestors were doing. I think that that is super duper fascinating. Um, important things to know about me - hey, hey Liz I am also very dyslexic. Very, very dyslexic, so things in my brain just don't make sense, a lot of the time also. Um, something important to know about where I'm from, well if you ever come to Greeley I'm sure, the first thing you'll notice is the smell. We have a lot of cow farms here in Greeley which I think is super fun, because I love cows.

Um, the easiest thing about being in the US... I don't know, we have-we do have a lot of privilege here so that's that's pretty great, and the hardest thing is, seeing people in my community that don't have as much privilege, as I do and not being able to help them to my fullest extent I guess. Who wants to go next?

MC: My name is Monica Castillo. I don't have a middle name. What is it? I can't say that word. Sig...

AS: Significance

MC: Yeah. I'm from Mexico. I live in the United States for 22 years. And I want to learn English. For, I could just... What is important about me? I don't know, what is it? Is it think about being in the USA? Is the work. I think Mexico is hard work as well. Oh, I'm living Burlington Colorado. I say that, huh? It's a little town. I don't have any store. Only one store. For us grocery store, like Safeway, we have a dollar store and that's all we have here, and it smells cows too. [laughter] Like a lot of farm. Town is beautiful, I like it, because it's quiet, not too loud like cities. I love living here. Everything about me.

AW: I can go next, Um my name is Amanda Wessels. Um, I guess that my name is from, like my first name-is from my like great-great grandma, and then my name is Jean and that's like a family middle name kind of a thing. And I lived in the US my whole life, 22 years. Um, my educational goals, is to finish my bachelor's degree. I am majoring in chemistry and then I am going to get my master's degree in analytical chemistry. And then, important... Oh, where Am I from? My bad guys, um, i'm from Brookings, South Dakota. Um I don't think there's really anything super important for you to know about me. Yeah, um... I'm also, Brookings is a college town, and so I'm like, kinda used to that vibe, of like living in a college town. But it was pretty small, so like me and my sister used to ride our bikes all over the place. My mom worked on the campus, so we'd like ride our bikes from our house to campus to go see her.

Um. The easiest thing about living in the US... I... I guess like, our-so um, I've been to Europe a few times, and i've been into their like grocery stores and our grocery stores have everything. Like Walmart will have like clothes, they'll have like, a lot more processed foods, than like grocery stores in other countries, and so I think that's pretty cool. But I think the hardest thing too is, I mean, I think that a lot of places have like a lack of public transportation, like readily available to people, so I think other countries just kind of do that better than us.

AS: I don't know what happened to Manuel, but he's not here anymore. I don't know if anybody else saw that.

AW: I noticed it said that his connection was, like, really unstable so that might be it.

AS: yeah. Monica what do you do for work?

138

00:18:57.360 --> 00:18:58.920

MC: I'm working the restaurants. I'm prep cook. I do like ham, turkey, and then I make, uh, I slice onions, tomato, that's that. And ground...what is that ground cheese? They buy that big bars of cheese, then we cut it and put it in the grinder.

AS: Oh yeah. I was a prep cook for two two years, it's kind of a fun job isn't it?

MC: Yeah, it's fun. Sometimes hard to stay, a lot of hours and the feet hurt.

AS: Yeah.

MC: But I like it, I have almost six year in there.

LG: I've never worked in the food industry, so I'm always intrigued to hear about it, because my boyfriend, he's a delivery driver for Domino's and he's been working in the food industry since he could start working, so I think it's fascinating to like hear-hear these stories.

MC: I work for housekeeping, like 14 years, and then-and I take care my granddaughter, like two years, and then I decide to work again and I'm studying the restaurant. I'm like oh there's too cheeses, names and I dont know I'm... to know how cheeses. And then I don't already know the names. Yeah.

AS: I also worked in the food industry, since I could start working. Now I work at a hotel now, and I would not go back to the food industry.

AW: I worked at one restaurant for two years, but I just did, like front of house like I was a host and a server. Yeah, I would not go back. It's, just like the people are mean man. Everyone who works there's always like so nice it's like such a family atmosphere, but the customers? Yikes i'm over customer service jobs.

LG: I...my family owns a summer camp. That is also kind of like a ranch so they have horses, and so I've worked with horses since I was seven years old, even younger. And I've been teaching kids how to ride and I...I did work in the kitchen at Camp making food for 100 people is very stressful. One time, we made raviolis for everyone, and it was individual, like we handmade each one and that's-it was from like six in the morning, so right up to dinnertime to just make enough. Um, that's the best job I've ever had, hands down, is working with kids, and I'm a people person. I love having conversations and I love getting to know people, so working at the summer camp I just...I think those are the best three months of my life.

AS: That sounds awesome Liz.

LG: Well, and I've always wanted your job.

AS: My job? My specific job?

LG: Yeah the tour guide job.

AS: Be a tour guide? Just come work with me Liz, do it.

LG: Well, I'm in love with the Stanley hotel, I would like to say in a past life, that I was um, someone that was deeply rooted into that hotel. Because I've done all the tours I've done-I love it.

AS: Yes, come work with me. [laughter] Me and Maddie.

LG: What's everybody's favorite hobby?

MC: Hobby? I'd like to work...working. But today is...I can't because it's snowing today. I have a lot of snow.

186

00:24:07.470 --> 00:24:10.230

AS: We have a lot of snow. It just keeps coming. Um. My favorite hobby, I mean I guess you could consider it a hobby, I like to model. Um, I started modeling four years ago, or five years ago. I was taking a photography class at Aims, turns out I'm a really terrible photographer, but I'm not so bad at modeling. Um and I've been modeling ever since I have an instagram page if you guys want to follow me [laughs] I'm just-I'm just playing but that's The thing that I like to do on what little free time I have.

193

00:24:59.460 --> 00:25:07.230

AW: When I was younger my grandma taught me how to embroider, and then I kind of stopped doing it because it would make me really frustrated when I was little, but during the pandemic and like quarantine, I picked it back up again. So I like to do that because, like I don't know-I like to just like kind of chill and watch netflix and stuff, but I have to be doing something so I either play like sudoku on my phone or embroider.

LG: I enjoy doing a lot of different things, depending on how I'm feeling in the moment, and I am the type of person that will leave a project and then come back to it a year later. So I do like to crochet, it just takes me a very long time to get through whatever project I'm working on. Um, and I like to meditate. I like-I like sitting outside and listening and just being kind of a tree hugger.

AS: I love it. I love it.

LG: Monica do you have any questions for us? It's awkward because it's the first day, but I'm excited to all get-like us all to get to know each other and like build a relationship of some kind.

AS: I'm excited too!

LG: What's everybody's favorite food?

AW: I was just thinking about asking that, actually. I really like sushi um, or like dumplings.

AS: You stop sharing the screen and my-my computer was like [motions with hands]

LG: Sorry. [laughs]

AS: Like I wasn't ready for that, um my favorite food, man. Um, I really-I really love pizza. I really love pizza, I also really love tacos, so if there's pizza or tacos involved, you can definitely count me in. This morning I made breakfast burritos. They were delicious.

MC: I love enchiladas, tamales.

LG: I don't even know how to answer my own question. I really love food.

217

00:28:28.440 --> 00:28:44.820

LG: My family is mostly made up of full blood Germans, so lots of German food. I really enjoy eating, the sad thing is about me, is I eat it and I actually don't know the names of what I'm eating so. Because it's... [cut off]

MC: You have to ask

LG: Well, and my dad makes it because his mom made it, but my-I never got to meet my grandmother because she passed away. So otherwise I'd be in the kitchen with her. I am the oldest of four siblings. Well, that's not true. To my dad I am his second child, he has an older son. And then hold on.

AW: Well as long as we're talking about siblings, I have [cut off]

MC: Somebody's there like this [waves arm].

AS: Like give me attention

MC: [laughs] yeah.

LG: Yeah so I have an older brother, and I have three little sisters.

AW: I just have one younger sister. So I'm the oldest.

MC: The oldest.

AS: I am the youngest of four, I have three-three older sisters. Technically I mean, I guess, technically, I do have four older sisters, but one of them is my father's first child, and I don't even know her name, I just know that she exists somewhere on the planet.

AW: you're not even Facebook friends?

AS: Yeah I don't even know what her name is. I just know that he has a daughter that he had in a different relationship than my mom, that's about it. Do you have brothers or sisters Monica?

MC: Yes, I have three sisters, and two brothers, well three brothers, but one is passed away already. I am the third, it's my brother, my sister, and I-I'm the third. Yes, yeah. And I have a lot, seven. I had three. My oldest daughter is thirty-three. My son is 28 and my youngest is 17. I have three grandkids, the oldest is 11 years and my granddaughter is seven and my grandson it's seven-the same age. The youngest, they were born on December eight and another one on December twenty fourth.

AS: Oh wow, they're really close.

MC: Yes. But I have only have one sister, and she live in Wichita, Kansas it's a long way, like five and a half hours of driving. My other sibling is in is in Mexico.

LG: I have family in Kansas, so my aunt lives in Wichita and I have cousins that live in Wichita, so I'm there once a year.

MC: I visit my sister after the pandemic, but this day I don't travel too much for the coffee. Maybe next-maybe next year, maybe next month. I don't know when.

LG: How has covid affected everyone?

MC: Oh, my.

AS: That's a loaded question dear.

LG: Yes, it is, I graduated highschool 2020, so I did not get a graduation.

AW: um I think when the pandemic first started, like I don't know if you guys saw, like on social media because, like a lot of Greek life different places, was really upset about it.

269

00:33:40.590 --> 00:33:42.030

AW: And I'm in a sorority, but we're already on like the entire Greek life on UNC were already on social probation already, so we already couldn't do stuff so like that was fine, but like I don't know, all of-all of our sisterhood were online and like meeting and stuff just kind of how like classes were. So that sucked and I think it was nice getting to spend extra time like home with my family, um but we couldn't go see like any of my grandparents or anything like that so yeah. It was weird having Thanksgiving and Christmas like just be me and my parents and my sister, because our extended family is so huge, but it was actually like quiet, for once, and not a million people having a million different conversations.

AS: I um. I actually am a transfer student, I got my associates from Aims and then I decided that I was going to go back to school in 2020. That was a terrible decision because all of my classes were online, and I do not do well with online classes, I totally-one of them was completely online, without any zoom or anything, I forgot about it and I failed. I think I got a 7% in that class. Um other than that, when the pandemic first hit I was actually working three jobs, and I had just decided that three jobs was too much because I only had one day off a week, so I quit one of them, and then the pandemic hit and it shut down my job at Olive Garden so, then I was working full time at Papa John's and I became the assistant general manager there, and I think I spent most of my hours at that store, because everybody was getting sick. We had like a quarter of the staff that we usually had, and I was doing like a million different positions, while I was trying to like, hire people, and train people and so that was super crazy. But my fiance and I got two dogs, so that's great right?

AW: The best part of the pandemic, honestly.

AS: Oh yeah absolutely, our wedding did get pushed back two years, but you know we got two dogs out of it, and they're the best.

AW: One dog for each year.

=

AS: Yeah exactly, if it keeps going we're just going to have a houseful. What about you Monica, how has-how has covid affected your life?

MC: It's- it's not too bad because in a small town, we can work it's-not a lot of people here. But I lost friends with covid, they-they don't don't believe it and [indiscernible] This one man in the hospital, and they pass away cause of 40-49, and another guy is I don't remember that age he likes-he 60 something. But...it's not too bad, but...Unless [indiscernible] yeah. It's sad.

AS: Sorry to hear about that.

MC: yeah. It's life.

LG: It's weird that life is about death too, right? It's kinda backwards.

MC: yep.

311

00:38:14.280 --> 00:38:17.700

LG: I-I have not lost anybody directly from covid, but I did-my boyfriend's uncle passed away in November, on Thanksgivings so that's been a big loss in our household.

AS: That's pretty rough. Does-does anybody else have pets? I have two dogs and a snail. Those are all of my pets.

AW: I don't have it be with me, because he is very much attached to my mother, but we have like a family dog his name is Jack and he's half corgi half mini Australian shepherd. I don't know if anyone can actually see, this [shows photo] is it too bright? This is him in a sweater.

AS: I love him. I love him so much.

AW: Yeah I just get so excited to go home to see him and my parents are like, why aren't you ever excited to see us, but like I can't talk to my dog on the phone and facetime and stuff. Like sometimes my dog my mom will like hold up the phone and he'll hear my voice like lick the phone but, yeah.

LG: I have two dogs and one of them is a lab-wiener dog mix, so.

AS: Aw, look at that baby!

LG: So she's literally a lab in a dachshund body. And I have a cat but she's mean, so.

AS: She doesn't get to be shown on the phone.

LG: yeah.

MC: Like five months or one year ago, I have two chihuahuas. One male one female but they die already because I have like- like 15 years with them.

AW: That's a lot of-that's a long time to live for a dog, yeah.

MC: Yeah my son, have a dog outside, What is [speaks spanish]. Bull heeler.

AW: Those are really pretty.

340

00:40:53.580 --> 00:40:54.390

MC: That's big I love the small ones, because when I go walk, it's like push me, pull me to run, yeah.

AW: Yeah.

MC: And my granddaughter have English bulldog. Yeah, she loves dogs and horses and she has like is white this pretty dog. This all into frenchie.

AS: I have um, I have an American bulldog-pitbull mix. Hey, come here. Maybe she'll come to us, she's taking a nap on the couch. um and then I also have a shepherd-lab mix is what we're like 98% sure he is, but he's the rescue dog, so we're really not sure what he is, but they're just these two like big buffoons. Heidi come here, baby. She doesn't want to say hi to you guys, i'm sorry, but he does have a super goofy ear on the couch right now and it's so funny.

LG: Here I don't know if you can see that's me on a horse yeah that was pre covid, that was the last time I was on a horse.

AS: I know I have like a million pictures of them on my phone. This one, this one is Oakley. He is our-our little mutt, we're not exactly sure what he is. And then this one, this is my sister that's holding her, this is Heidi and she's our little baby. She's being a butt hole right now, because she doesn't want to come say hi to you guys.

LG: So we've got about seven minutes till seven. How's everybody feeling?

MC: Good.

LG: Anybody else want to add anything, or share anything, or ask anything?

AW: I don't really have anything.

AS: We should definitely come up with like questions, for in case we don't have-we like...like today. Yeah questions for next time to keep asking, in case we have a lot of time after the slides.

LG: Well and I think we'll start getting more comfortable and... [cut off]

AW: And I think the questions for next week too, are a little bit like, in depth so they're not like a short-answer.

AS: They're not like what's your name that takes a grand total of two seconds to say.

LG: Well, next week we're talking about holidays and celebrations, so. We can think about that for the next week, and what we want to share.

AS: How are you feeling today Monica, are you-after as we're closing up, how are you feeling about the project?

MC: Feeling good, but I can't understand you-what is you talking about, sometimes I can speak like really well but i'm trying.

380

00:45:13.950 --> 00:45:15.480

MC: I'm trying to speak and some time I try, cause I can't say that word correctly, that's why.

AW: I took a foreign language class in high school, and it didn't-I took it for four years, and they didn't focus on speaking very much so, I, like you know a lot of words like if someone like asks me, "Oh, what is this word?" you know, but it's scary to speak it to someone who speaks it. Like as their first language, I think, because you don't really like want to mess up, or um, it's just hard with like different conjugations, I guess, and like different tense of the word. For, like remember it all, so I don't-I don't like not speaking my native language.

AS: yeah.

LG: I had a-I had a teacher in seventh grade tell me that my brain wasn't developed enough to learn a second language at the time, and I was so excited to learn Spanish, and then my poor heart broke, I was like, never again.

AW: That-that happened to my sister to when she went into highschool, they were like oh you're like reading and English scores are so low like you're never gonna...and I think she internalized

it and she-so she never did good in Spanish, she took it for one year, because that was required to graduate, but the whole time she was just like, “well they already told me I can't do it.”
So...public school systems, what can I tell you.

LG: Well, thank you guys for meeting tonight.

MC: Thank you

AS: Hopefully we'll get more people of our group, next time.

LG: yeah.

AW: Hopefully, Manuel can figure out his internet connection.

AS: Thank you so much, Monica for coming and hanging out with us for a little bit.

MC: Thank you for inviting me. I'm trying to connect but my computer's not working.

MC: And then I take my daughter's computer, and then it work all right.

LG: All right, I'll see-we'll see you guys next week.

[everyone says goodbye]

LG: yeah bye.

MC: Goodnight.