

Narrator: Joshua Chiu
Interviewers: Angela Tohalino Paredes
Location: San Diego, California
Collection: Race and Oral History Course, Spring 2021
Densho ID: TohalinoAngela_2022-24-05.mp4
Length of the interview: 18:23:20

AT: My name is Angela Tohalino, for this today is May 24 of 2022, and I am interview Joshua Chiu. And through zoom call for the University of California, San Diego Race and Oral History Project. Do you agree to grant the University permission to achieve and polish this interview for educational proposed?

JC: Yes

AT: okay, so let's start with this interview and, hi Josh! I would like to know where and when were you born?

JC: Yes, I was born in paramount California in the July of 1,999

AT: Nice and couldn't you tell me about your family, and what is the reaching of your last name?

JC: Yeah, so my family, we main live here in Southern California, and we have some family in Northern California as well. I would like to say that my majority culture is Mexican, and my last name is actually Chinese, because my great grandfather did not get into the United States. So he stayed in Tijuana, Mexico.

AT: Okay, nice And so my next question will be... Did you experiment with any language barriers having the interest of your patterns?

AT: Do you think that you feel better speaking a particular language? And why?

JC: I think I feel better speaking in English, because I feel like I learned it a little bit before I learned Spanish. But I like to say I learned both languages at the same time. So there's like certain words I only know in one language, and I don't know in the other, and that's how I feel like have gaps in between both, but like for the majority, the majority part I can understand all Spanish. I've been around different types Spanish speakers like different parts of Latin America or Central America, and like the different accents and the speed. So I've been learning how to understand that and also just Mexican Spanish in general.

AT: Nice! What so far do you believe are the challenges that you had in this country as a child of immigrants? Do you feel that you have any challenges?

JC: I feel like the challenges would be with the State, and not with our immediate family, but, like our family, like outside the US. Because they expect us to be very. You know MEXICANOS here in the US. Speak Spanish, and do all these things where we're still you know we learn English at the same time, or we have different ways of learning languages. but I feel like . We just have like high expectations all around. They want us to be really successful here in the US. But also, you know, continue our culture, our lifestyle I think that's something that I find difficult.

AT: How do you feel about being the first generation and go to the college?

JC: Hmm... very, very great question. It does make me little bit nervous because I'm I am the first one and like with respect to the rest of my family. we all don't make the best to see so I'm trying to stay away from, you know what most people in my family are doing, and just try to make have a better life, better lifestyle. But yeah, it is kind of nerve-wracking, being the first good.

AT: And so, since you have like a the Mexico for one part, and the Chinese for another part, so whether the holidays that your family celebrates, since you have more than one culture as an influence,

JC: I think the only thing we would celebrate those Chinese would be like Chinese New Year, probably at like a dinner or something but I would say like the more common holidays in Chinese culture We don't celebrate just because the Mexican culture is so like overwhelming in my family. But, I do think I am missing out on that part of my culture where it's not as strong, so I guess Mexican would be the majority culture.

AT: What about the American culture?

JC: All the American culture , yeah, just as well, I think that might go hand in hand, especially where I'm from. I feel like being Latino or from here is it takes a lot of pride, I guess we get a lot of pride from being there but you know I think American culture has also been a big influence on me, especially with like pops, such as music anything that's popular films. The theme parks here. Anything like that I feel like that's also a big influence. I feel like being Latino in the US look for Latino representation. Popular culture, and that's something for our family to talk about and have pride in that. We're being represented.

AT: Sounds good Josh. I would like to ask you what is your major, and how do you think this achievement will impact your family being an student in the UCSD?

JC: My major, is ICA in the music department, and ICA stands for into disciplinary computing in the arts major. I basically like to dump it down and just say that it's audio engineering. But that's the Major and then how it would influence my family. I guess my family is pretty involved with music and the art of music. They don't necessarily all play instruments but you know being from a small town. We've had a lot of people around us who are in the music industry, and I think the first time I listened to like a live bond outside. I was like 2 weeks outside the hospital I was already listening to live music and feel like That's something I strive. I strive for like a live sound, and being able to record it now and produce it. You know, do everything at home just on my laptop. I feel like that gives us a lot more freedom and then have a lot of friends here, and my brothers have a lot of friends here who are also musically in clients so I'll be able to record with them record them for free do whatever you know so it makes good opportunities for the community back here in Los Angeles.

AT: Yeah, that's true. And how do you feel finishing your classes, with your studies. Do you really like a for you like a pressure or an obligation to complete your studies or rather than a necessity for your family?

JC: I think the most pressure would be you know, internally I feel like living in San Diego. I've kind of straight away from my family just a bit because I may not have kept in contact as much as I need to, just because I was so busy. But I feel like the thing that drives the most that I drive, for with the most is like internally, I guess I would say I'm the person who puts the most pressure on myself. But also just to set a good example for the people back home.

AT: Yeah, that's true. Something that I would like to add this is my last question. But if you're more complex right do you think that is important, the language and costumes of your family, our past on the next generation, or do you feel that it's more important that they adapt to the culture you live?

JC: I think it is important that we retain aspects of our culture that are, I guess, like useful stuff that you could use every day, and that's a very family oriented, because I know there's a lot to do and you know culture for Mexican and there's all sorts of ways you can express our ability to be I'm Mexican here in the Us. I just think like having positive like a positive way of expressing that, like through music, or through art, or through, you know, certain. So in types of celebrations for me personally, I think big influence would be the Catholic Church. As I grew up Catholic I'm still a practicing Catholic, and I feel like the celebrations placed around the calendar and Christianity. I feel like that's also very Mexican for many people. But also you know, the culture here is also important because this is the land that we live in, and we should be able to know what's going on. And, you know, identified trends just that we can keep up. But I feel like a balance in between. Both would be the best for future generations.

AC: Okay, Thank you Josh for the interview.

JC: Yeah, Thank you.