

Interviewer: Jon Lieblich

Interview of Edwin Rodriguez on Sunday, November 20, 2016

**1. Tell me about your social media habits**

I use some to organize events with large groups of people and others to see what's going on (from news to local gatherings to staying up-to-date with friends' lives)

**2. Which social media sites/apps do you prefer and why?**

I use Facebook for the groups and events, Snapchat (I used to use Instagram in the past) for pictures, Reddit is where I get most of my news but not all of it, sometimes I check Twitter to see if anything important is trending. Facebook is best for the group organization because we can create public/private groups as well as event pages.

**3. How many social media sites/apps do you use?**

If you count Snapchat then I use that, Facebook (messenger is a separate app but I use both), Reddit.

**4. Which social media features do you use most and why?**

Facebook: groups and events since it does a lot of the organizational work for me. Also easy to use with a large number of people. Reddit: subreddits let me separate the information I don't want to see from what is important to me.

**5. How interested are you in trending social media topics and why?**

Depends on the site. I don't really use Reddit's trending section. For Twitter, I'm not a big user of it but I still do look at what's popular from time to time. Helps me see what people are talking about. Facebook's trending section is sometimes useful when I can hear about something and go learn about it on my own. It doesn't give any reliable information by itself.

**6. Is there an aspect of social media that you dislike?**

There shouldn't be separate apps for messenger and Facebook. I don't use messenger much but I still need to have it on my phone if I want the full set of features that the website offers.

**7. Is social media your primary source for news?**

Yes, Reddit is where I [see news articles] before other sources. Sometimes I get my news from outside sources or will compare articles to fact check too.

**8. Why did you choose to join social media?**

Facebook/Snapchat/etc. were because I heard about them through friends and it sounded interesting at the time. Reddit was something I found through other online communities. [When asked why he joined Reddit] I don't remember if that's even how I first heard about it, am not completely sure.

9. **Can you summarize for me, what social media means for you?**

It's something I use to plan events and introduce new things into my life. Some networking with friends of friends that live nearby. I can find likeminded people very easily when communities are organized by specific hobbies/interests/etc.

10. **If you could change social media in one way – big or small – what would that change be and why?**

Take the power away from the owners of the sites for things like trending topics. The CEO of a social network doesn't have the right to censor political news to further their own agenda. Trending topics should be only based on what is most popular, and maybe filter out some of the stuff out there if it's disgusting...people can be crazy.