Participant number 19 – Male, 19, Hackney

Part 2

Interviewer: If you, if we- can we start by talking about what you’ve put first please. In the bottom box one.

Interviewee: Yeah, I’ve put um at home with a friend. In nature, sort of forest land, marshland, anywhere that’s green. Um… my friend’s house and his area. And… studio spaces. Yeah.

Interviewer: So you put at- at home first. With a friend. At home with a friend.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Can you tell me about that?

Interviewee: Yeah so um, I have a really good friend that lives not too far from here [interviewer: mhm] um…

Interviewer: I’m listening, I’m just gonna take the charger out of here before I forget.

Interviewee: Oh no worries.

Interviewer: Sorry, go ahead.

Interviewee: Yeah so um…

Interviewer: You have a really good friend that lives close by?

Interviewee: Yeah. And… we hang out quite frequently. Like almost weekly.

Interviewer: Oh nice.

Interviewee: Yeah, so um… it’s always better when he’s here as well, ‘cause like um, well he does music too actually, so we do collaborate.

Interviewer: Lucky you.

Interviewee: Yeah. And um, I said in nature, ‘cause like um… again I do photography as well. Uh, I do like to avoid taking pictures of people, just ‘cause of legalities and [interviewer: mm] um, stuff like that. But um, and it’s quiet too. And um, his house. So I go there when that’s available. And studio- so I suppose I do more like more enclosed spaces, like away form people too. So there’s like a theme there. But yeah.

Interviewer: Mm. So tell me about like how that makes y- how these places make you socially- more socially connected.

Interviewee: Um. I suppose they’re quite direct and specific. So… I go to these places because there’s something to do. So, I’m socially connected because I’m with who I would like to be at the point in time. So I feel more socially connected there based on that certainty. Yeah.

Interviewer: So what you’re- what you’re saying is, you’re associating um… um having something to do, having a purpose and sense of purpose, you’re associating that with being socially connected. So having that sense of purpose um makes you socially connected.

Interviewee: [Unintelligible 2:12] Yeah.

Interviewer: And when you go to that park for example, with green space, um… do you- is- do you go alone or do you go with people? Like tell me more about that. [Interviewee: um] With that friend you meant- I meant.

Interviewee: Yeah so I do go there by myself, just like general exercise. Yeah like um- but um, yeah I do go with him for um… just to walk around and talk I suppose. Like we you know walk around the area sometimes. So um… yeah so both alone and with that person.

Interviewer: So when you go there alone um, can you tell me about how that makes you feel more socially connected.

Interviewee: I- um… I suppose not really, ‘cause I’m there alone. But um, I suppose since I’m doing the exercise and out, like I’m clearing my head. [Interviewer: mhm] So… I’m not really thinking about anything.

Interviewer: Okay, cool. Um… um… okay. Thank you.

Interviewee: No worries.

Interviewer: Is there anything else you want to say about that?

Interviewee: Um… nope.

Interviewer: Okay. Um… and just one thing before we go- and how does it make you feel, being in those situations or being in those environments?

Interviewee: I do feel quite secure, [interviewer: mhm] ‘cause I know there’s not gonna be any um… um… unexpected occurrences. Like um… nothing that’s gonna happen out of the blue randomly, can’t kind of like kind of plan for. So [interviewer: mm] yeah.

Interviewer: When you say nothing out of the blue that you can’t plan for, [interviewee: yeah] tell me about that.

Interviewee: Uh so when I was younger I used to do karate, [interviewer: mhm] and I remember um… what’s it called, one of the senses, their children- they had a problem with their child, and like there was an altercation there. So like um, no one was involved or anything but it was just like everybody’s fault because then that kind of thing just abrupted randomly. Like nothing like that happens in any of these spaced. [Interviewer: mm] Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay, thank you. That’s good, thanks. Um, is- anything else?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: Okay. Thanks. Can we talk about what you put in the second box please?

Interviewee: Yeah, place I feel most lonely, I basically said in the area. Like, locally. [Interviewer: mhm] Yeah. That kind of it’s a- anywhere I haven’t mentioned here. So in the… the- the estate I suppose- in the general area I do feel quite lonely.

Interviewer: In this sort of neighbourhood?

Interviewee: Yeah, in the borough I’d say as well.

Interviewer: In the borough.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Tell me about that.

Interviewee: Um… for a variety of reasons, but um… one, a lot of people that I knew went outside of the borough for uni and things of that nature. And also I suppose like the area has like dramatically changed from when I was younger with things like gentrification. So… uh…

Interviewer: Sorry-

Interviewee: Gentrification.

Interviewer: What is that?

Interviewee: So like um, it’s when uh…

Interviewer: Gender?

Interviewee: Gentrification.

Interviewer: Oh gentrification.

Interviewee: So like- do you know what like…?

Interviewer: No.

Interviewee: So it’s like when people… people- middle-class people kind of go to a area that is- ‘cause I suppose um, I think Hackney’s reaching number one in poorest boroughs, so like they come and like change the area for their needs. So there are like a lot more expensive shops for um… uh… what they particularly enjoy. So um… they also move in, which is- which again, people can do what they want, but there’s like um, there’s no- nor should they be even- but a connection between the people that like live there and them, so it’s just a kind of um, it’s very awkward. So when I go outside there is definitely that loneliness from like where the area was say five years ago and now. So when- when I’m on my travels I do feel quite like lonely and isolated.

Interviewer: So what you’re saying is um, people do things based on their own self-interest.

Interviewee: Yeah. So like parties… yeah, I suppose the party scene in Hackney has increased. So there’s like a lot of things of like that nature. There wasn’t a party scene to begin with so going from zero to like twenty is a bit of increase, but yeah, so it’s about- it’s- it’s a lot of people going about their day as they do but um, yeah, there’s nothing that particularly like um… connects me to the are as it is.

Interviewer: Um… so what you’re saying is, in this area for example, Hackney, there might be a lot of parties happening and- and… and so on, but you don’t necessarily connect with them.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Can you tell me about that?

Interviewee: Actually there was one- there was one time, I think this was in the early- the early stages, but um me and a friend- I don’t- I don’t like parties first of all, so I suppose there’s that, but um he tried to get into one of these parties and was pushed out.

Interviewer: Sorry for that- is it clubs you mean or bars or um [interviewee: um] just house parties?

Interviewee: I think it’s like clubs and bars. [Interviewer: mhm] Yeah, I think so. I think they’re open invitation as well. But like yeah- like he was pushed out. It was quite funny but um, he was like pushed out of that club.

Interviewer: Okay. [Interviewee: yeah] Sorry to hear that.

Interviewee: Uh… I don’t know, I suppose it was funny [laughs]. But um… yeah I dunno. Um… I suppose there- again, there are a lot of arrogant people. They kind of wanted whoever they were with there, uh I think there must have been some like dress sense as well. But yeah, there isn’t really much of- there is a disconnect between people that have lived here and- the families that have lived here and people that have just kind of um interested for the um newer aspects of the area. So yeah.

Interviewer: You mentioned a few things, um I’m just gonna reflect them back to you. So you mentioned that um… there are basically arrogance, you mentioned arrogance, you mentioned dress code, and then you also mentioned that there are some people in this area who are in it for the new aspects, whereas some people have been here with family and so on. [Interviewee: mhm] Can we- can we talk about them one by one?

Interviewee: Yeah, so um… the arrogance, ‘cause um… I suppose I was asked if the people that lived here and the people that are now here ever come to contact. And the answer is no. Then it’s like no dialogue, or nor has there ever been one started. Also, nor is anybody interested in doing one.

Interviewer: No dialogue between…?

Interviewee: So like um the people that lived in Hackney and the people that have um moved into Hackney. So like nobody of- of those two groups talk. [Interviewer: mhm] So there’s like no dialogue um… they both pass each other with like on the street and no one will notice each other. But um… like I’d say, the arrogance comes from kind of um… I suppose… ‘casue it’s not even given Hackney- well, what do you call it? I suppose Hackney’s now become trendy. So now it’s like a we made it hot kind of thing going on. So it’s like rewriting the last fifteen or ten to fifteen years of Hackney in a space of two years, which is impossible because the place existed before that stuff was happening. So like you see like um flyers and billboards for like news publications that claim to speak for Hackney, but they haven’t- well, they don’t know Hackney, they’ve only known it recently. So they’re speaking about their Hackney. So that’s where the arrogance is coming from. Kind of um, what do you call it, like um… uh… when you put your flag in the ground and then that- that place is yours kind of thing. So yeah.

Interviewer: So it sounds like what you’re saying is um, new people have come and they’ve kind of- they talk about the- a new set of things and [interviewee: yeah] they’ve kind of done new things and… and- and tell me how that relates to arrogance.

Interviewee: Um… I suppose as well ‘cause those effects are spoken about, and in some cases- no, I suppose there are- eh, uh… those, those really only help the people that move in. And… I suppose like even down the road, there- um, there- there’s the [unintelligible 10:44] park, and like um… as well as like places around the west world have been like um refurbished and revamped. And again the arrogance comes from the kind of belief that- that all this new stuff in some way helps everybody, like through osmosis, when like I suppose it’s just like more I suppose electricity being used, there are more lights where there probably doesn’t need to be any more. Like so like there’s street lamps and like floor lamps. Just a lot of weird stuff that um is… again- again the arrogance, ‘cause it doesn’t help everybody. But… just by saying it does when it doesn’t, that’s a kind of um… um… that’s what I mean by arrogance. Again, there is no contact between these two groups. This is what one person’s saying from that side and what another person’s saying from the other side. So yeah.

Interviewer: Mm. And when you say that, you know, the arrogance and… and things like that… how does that- how- how does that impact… how does that make you feel lonely?

Interviewee: Um, because- oh sorry-

Interviewer: No, no no, it was nothing.

Interviewee: I’d say…

Interviewer: Tell me about that, yeah.

Interviewee: There’s more people that are gonna be here and kind of um… transform the area and not have any doubt of any sort. I think um… it’s been even mentioned, the mayor was meant to set something like that up. I think that’s in the talking stages so… that hasn’t been planned yet. But kind of these things kind of have to be made into an official thing before they start. So you are very and clearly isolated ‘cause… again there is no… there is no dialogue between those people. Nor is there going to be, they um… they kind of exist in their world and I exist in mine with people like me. So we only come together in passing. So the isolation is from… mmm uh… I should say, kind of more and more of the area becoming like a um… what do you call it… more trendy. Yeah.

Interviewer: And how does that make you feel?

Interviewee: I do feel quite sad that there’s no conversation going on. Uh… again, what do- you feel like- you feel like a lot of things are out of your power, so you’re just kind of watching it happen, without uh… not that our input would be possible from me, just again no kind of… these two groups in no way speaking. It’s just… um… okay you’re new, that’s- and then a continuing debate.

Interviewer: Mm. So you feel like it’s segregated in a way. You’ve got them and then you’ve got this group, like [interviewee: yeah definitely] that have been here for a while and… okay. And how do you feel about this separation?

Interviewee: Um… how do I- um, I’d say… it’s… it’s… I feel like… uh…confused, I’d say. ‘Cause I um… again, just like doing the whole- just going back to how I overthink, I know how this has been able to happen, I just don’t know for what reason. So, and again since there’s been no dialogue opened up, ‘cause it again it would have to be external, before it’s internal. U… you’re just kind of watching thing’s change… um, not that there has to be an official statement, but you’re just watching like um… uh, a flower develop really quickly in front of you I feel like, and not knowing how- but why, sorry not how.

Interviewer: Hmm. Okay. Thank you. [Interviewee: mm] Um… is there anything else you wanted to say about that box?

Interviewee: Um… actually I- I’d say as well um… I put town hall there [interviewer: mhm] because um… we- we do have a town hall [interviewer: mhm] about ten minutes away. And there are some events that include young people. [Interviewer: mhm] Um… I’d say there’s a um- I feel lonely there, because again, just talking about things happening in passing, there is a kind of um sentiment that things are meant for young people with there being no real way of this stuff being accessible. So point and case, I think you have to rent the um town hall if you want to use it for anything. But um… it’s been mentioned that we can use it and frequent it when we want, and I don’t think that’s the case. [Interviewer: mm] And I don’t know where you’d access that- I don’t- I don’t think that’s a thing. But um so, I think just a lot of things have been mentioned just to sound good as well. When you like pay attention to this stuff and… it’s quite disingenuous ‘cause it’s not what people mean. So that’s just another way.

Interviewer: How does that make you feel?

Interviewee: Um… what’s the word? Um… uh insignificant. [Interviewer: mm] Because um… people aren’t being honest by saying what they mean, they’re just saying what sounds the best to the largest group of people. Like honesty would have been better like ‘cause again there is no way that you can’t get that place without renting it and kind of just imagining an ambiguous group of young people with no reason to why they’d need a place like that, but just saying they can use it is kind of just being nice for the sake of being nice.

Interviewer: Mm. Thank you.

Interviewee: No that’s no problem.

Interviewer: Is there anything else you wanted to say.

Interviewee: No, I covered the two things already.

Interviewer: Okay great, thank you very much.

Interviewee: No worries.

Interviewer: That’s the end of the um- the- the session. Let me give you the debriefing information.