**Interview Guide for study on student experiences during COVID-19.**

**Interviews conducted in June, 2020.**

Preface: In this semi-structured interview, we want to learn about your experiences. If a question doesn’t seem relevant to you, feel free to skip it. Please interrupt at any time and move the conversation to focus on what you have been going through.

Background

* Can you tell me your year at school and a little bit about yourself?
* What is your living situation? Has that changed since the pandemic?
* Do you, or did you recently, have a job? What is/was that?
* Can you tell me your preferred pronouns?
* Can you tell me your ethnicity and anything else about your identity that may affect your experience right now?
* Do you consider yourself to be part of an underrepresented or disadvantaged group?
* In what contexts are you underrepresented (e.g., as a woman in CSE but not in yoga class)?

Education, Health, Housing, Finances:

Education: Tell me about how this has all been for you academically – how classes going online, etc. has affected you school for you. Have you had concerns about how you will be affected academically? How have online classes and instructional support been for you? What concerns do you have about this semester? How anxious are you about this? (grades, major admission, requirements, graduation, financial aid status)

Housing: Have you had concerns or uncertainty about where you will be living? Any concerns about the safety of where you have been living?

Financial: The virus has had an enormous financial toll. Can you talk about financial difficulties that you’ve faced as a result of the virus, and how those play into financial challenges that you already had? Have you been able to find access to the technologies you need for education and other communication? Has your family experienced financial stress that has affected you?

I’d like to understand if your financial concerns are immediate (are your basic needs being met right now?), in the near future (not sure about rent in a couple of months) or in the more distant future?

Are there other ways financial and housing challenges relate to your ability to engage in school?

Health: Some students face challenges right now related to health; for example, physical vulnerabilities, disabilities and chronic conditions that can make coping with this pandemic more challenging.

Can you describe any challenges you’ve faced along these lines?

How are you getting information about COVID and other health issues?

Have you been able to talk about your health concerns with others?

Would you have felt comfortable telling someone if you thought you were exposed to the virus?

What has made these conversations possible or difficult?

How has this changed since the start of social distancing? For example, do you think it has it become easier or harder to tell someone if you are not feeling well?

Concerns about the future: Can you describe any concerns you have about how life might change?

Fears? What are those fears based on (precedent, news, etc.). Can you describe any worst case scenarios you have been thinking about?

Relationships: example interactions

* Can you describe some specific interactions you’ve had that were particularly significant/salient to you during this time? Any that were particularly good? Was there any special effort or any change in how you used technology? How did it occur to you to try this?

Note: Ask about online interactions if they first discuss in person interactions.

* In the interactions you’ve described or others were there any in which you could comfortably express your feelings? Did you feel understood or cared for by the other person? Can you describe some of those interactions that brought a feeling of closeness? Was there any way in which you used technology to establish understanding?
* How about interactions that were stressful/ didn’t go so well? Can you describe some of those?
* Have you noticed any barriers to expressing your feelings now? Are there any ways in which it is harder or easier to do this now?
* How have your strategies for feeling connected changed since the start of social distancing? Can you give an example?
* Do you celebrate any Spring holidays? How did you handle those this year? Are there other celebrations you handled differently this year (e.g., birthdays, graduations…)?
* Have you had to work out ways to schedule virtual interactions, and get other people set up to use particular technologies? What has worked for you? Any “oops!” moments?

Relationships: changes in communication practices

I’d like to get a sense of your relationships.

* Starting with your *inner most circle*. Can you tell me who you feel closest to?
* Next, spanning out from that I’d like to learn about *a broader circle of people who are important* to you but one step out from your very closest friends and family.
* Last, can you describe the people or groups that make up *the communities you feel part of*?

For each of these individuals or groups, can you describe

* How you formerly connected (during this school year, but before the pandemic/social distancing)?
* How you do so now (since requirements for social distancing have been in place)?
* Please describe the specific technologies and anything you’ve done to adapt them to your needs.
* Looking at these three circles broadly, do you see differences in how you’ve stayed connected? Are there changes in who is in the inner circle or outer circles since social distancing began?

Activities: I’d like to make sure we’ve included people you spend time with for different activities. I’ll list some general categories and, if those are relevant to you, please describe how you used to interact with others for these activities (if at all) and how you do so now. For example, some people who used to go to yoga classes may stream those same yoga classes. As above, please describe the technologies you’ve used and any thing you’ve done to adapt them to your situation.

* Exercising
* Going out/socializing
* Studying
* Interests/Hobbies
* Faith or spiritual activities
* Watching videos or listening to music
* Intimate connections: dating, flirting, hooking up, meeting people for new relationships
* Other \_\_\_\_\_\_

Loneliness

* Would you like more social interaction than you have been having?
* Typically, would you describe yourself as very social or less so?
* Have you felt lonely? Did you feel lonely before social distancing? What changes have you noticed?
* Have you felt left out?
* Have you felt a sense of solidarity or togetherness in your community regarding covid-19?
* Have you found ways to help and support others? Can you describe those?
* Has anyone else reached out to you in a way that really helped you? Can you describe that?

Emotional wellbeing

* What behaviors have been helpful for your emotional wellbeing during this time?
* Are there any ways that you have used technology to support yourself emotionally (e.g., streaming videos for pleasant distraction, sharing articles or memes with friends to feel support, headphones to create boundaries in a household, etc.). Please share specific examples.
* Are there ways you’ve used technology or others have used it during this time that have jeopardized your wellbeing (e.g., constantly reading the news)

Biases

Since the start of social distancing, have you taken any social risks, for example reaching out to someone you don’t know well? Or expressing yourself in a vulnerable way to someone who could potentially dismiss, criticize or reject you?

As you think about these weeks of social distancing compared to how you typically have been at school, would you say you’ve been more emboldened or more risk averse? Can you share any examples of either? Has technology been involved in this communication? How so?

Have you felt aware of any tendency in the last couple of weeks to narrow your interactions to people similar to yourself (avoiding people who seem different)? (prompt with ethnicity, age, other factors). Can you share examples?

Have you seen any changes in the way others relate to you or vice versa based on factors such as ethnicity or age? Examples?

Personal Privacy

* If you live with others, how have you carved out privacy (while on videocalls etc.) in a shared space?
* Have any privacy or security concerns come up for you during this time?
* How have you sought out information about privacy regarding health or other matters this term?
* When you think about your health and telling others if you are not feeling well, do you (or have you) had privacy concerns?
* Has anything unusual happened, for example when on a Zoom call?

Privacy concerns about contact tracing

I’d like to hear your thoughts on contact tracing and related technologies to monitor covid-19 symptoms and spread. Let’s walk through how you think about the upsides and downsides for society and for you as an individual. Do your thoughts about these technologies depend on who is developing them?