M: Okay, there you go. So that's recording now. Alright, so let's just begin with your first move to Canada. When did you first move to Canada?

Mi: It was 24, August 2009. And I came up with study permit. My whole point was just to come here and get my education rather than settling here or having an immigration experience. So, I just wanted to focus on the education part.

M: Okay, and what sort of program did you study?

Mi: I took the post-secondary International Business program. So, it was a college program. And at the same time, it was a full-time study. So, during this program, I didn't have a chance to work, even though I had the chance to get the on campus work permit, but because of the timeframe, it was a really intense program. I didn't have a chance to work with doing this one year period.

M: Okay, so and what were the motivations behind your move? Like what what did you consider in making the decision to move to Canada?

Mi: So that's a good question actually. Not specifically Canada because I would like to start, I would like to back forward with a bit… a bit regarding the Austria experience because I always wanted to have an experience for the different cultures different kind of atmosphere that I could, I would have access to in this case, to gain more, not just the knowledge, not just the experience but to be part of an interaction, human interaction, because and then I decided to go to Austria which was part of the exchange program that I was in. I was doing my undergrad and political science. So, after that exchange program I felt totally different. My old stereotypes were demolished on my mind, which was amazing.

M: And this was ? Where did you go? Sorry?

Mi: Austria. So it was the year was 2008. So, the year after, I definitely wanted to have a chance to experience different cultures. So, I knew that European culture was pretty much the same, especially in the Western Europe. So especially on also the education system was the same. And I wanted to try either Australia, as I mentioned to you before or Canada. So, the main motivation was, of course, as I said, to broaden my horizons, for not just the educational aspect, but just to learn different cultures to engage with different kind of atmosphere. And I think education was good tool to get myself into that door. So, but making the decision specifically Canada, that was one of my father's friend that he's Turkish, but he got married with a Canadian. So yes, so he was highly recommending about going to Canada but he was mostly endorsing about immigration processes more easier in Canada, but I was insisting on the fact that my intention is not the immigration at first place compared to other like the majority of people. So, but he was still insisting on Australia is tough on immigration. So, you better just go to Canada. And, but the motivation was for me to go to Australia. I mean, for me to want to go to Australia was climate. Of course, it was nice climate, the landscape. The culture itself, have it looked from Turkey from my perspective, of course, I never been in Australia before. Yeah, so I made a decision of course with some of the endorsements from my friend. And also, the second part was there was an educational consultancy firm that they came to my campus when I was doing my undergrad in Turkey. And they did a seminar regarding the education institutions in Canada. So, that was also a bit tempting for me how to education system is good in Canada, I mean, compared to Turkey specifically, and it was also different… not entirely different, but there was certain differences compared to Europe. So, in this case, I would like to I just want to decide to move forward with Canada so that was the main reason.

M: Okay, great. Okay. And so this is I'm after your undergrad in Turkey and your ethnic background is Turkish?

Mi: I am Turkish I was born in Turkey and raised in Turkey till 21-year-old. And after 21, I went to Austria, the one without the kangaroos. Yeah, that's the joke actually. So, yes, and 2008 was the year. But also, I have, over there because the international student community was so active, I didn't have a chance to engage with the Austrian culture itself. It was mostly field trips, backpacking and similar things. But other than that, I was mostly melted in the same pot with other international students. So, I think I would say it was a better experience for me because it was an amazing experience in terms of having some friendships from South Korea, from Australia to from US from parts of Europe, from Africa, so it was it was good. I mean, I had some roommates from Ireland and Spain. So, I never had this experience before. And it was teaching me so many things, how to share the common space, how to share different cultures and respect each other in certain terms, even though I wasn't accepting certain things at first place, but it's helped me to absorb and respect them. And then the next stage was to gain some cultural share. So, which was important for me, and then I enjoyed it. I enjoyed that time being and then yes, I decided to take the next step. And that was Canada.

M: So why not Austria itself? Like why didn't you think of Austria as the did you think of it? Maybe?

Mi: I never thought of it. I taught mostly in Europe, somewhere in Europe. I personally, I like Mediterranean countries because of the climate as well as the culture itself is more welcoming in general, again, it depends on person to person but and also, I knew from my knowledge and as well as some of the Turkish diaspora in Austria and Germany, and I was mostly talking with them day to day basis. So their Austrian experience wasn't that satisfactory in terms of racist behaviour in terms of, in terms of the how the integration process was missing and was not welcoming especially the first generation, the law and second generation and third generation they were partially pushing themselves where I wouldn't want to use ‘pushing’ but they would like to they wanted to try to be part of it. But again, the integration whole in Europe is all different country by country. People were thinking that just because of the common language Germany and Austria have the same kind of integration policy, but I think it's different. I found Germany is more welcoming, especially even though the integration fail. It was accepted by the chancellor. I think it was 2006 that he admitted publicly that integration process failed. But even though the integration process failed, I found during my trips in Germany, and also my classmates that who were from Germany, they were more welcoming, they were more friendly, and they didn't make me feel that I was stranger. But I had, I had two Austrian roommates that we were sharing the same building, but they were not that welcoming. And they were not that friendly. But maybe it's just we can limit for that two people. But in general, even when I was going to the supermarket or when I was going to a bar. It was different. I mean, you could sense that. It was a small town which is called, which is named Kufstein, but it's really closer to the one of the biggest cities in the western side of Austria. It's called Innsbrooke. So it's a 15 minutes difference, as you can imagine the differences in Europe is as I mean distances in Europe is not that huge. And there's a connectivity in terms of the location and the train system. The transportation system is well organized. So yeah, I mean, it was closer also to Munich as well, one of the biggest cities in Germany. So, it was 45 minutes remaining 15 minutes to Innsbrook. So, it was really good in terms of the location… to the Italy border, the Italian border was one and a half hour so it was in the central hub of Europe pretty much.

Mi: yes, my at my schoo…l I mean my time being in Austria was finished in May 2008. That was for one year. So, May 2008 I packed my luggage and I had to come back to Turkey. I had a Diploma ceremony for my undergrad so that was… I was busy with all summer regarding this and then also I planned ahead that I needed I needed to apply for certain programs in Canada and Australia as well. So, I decided mostly the Canada as I explained to you earlier and then application process started. And then, sorry, my application process started in my second term when I was in Austria. And then, I applied for. For the program, I got a approval from the program from graduate college International Business diploma program. So, then that was three, four months period that I applied for visa for Canada. I prepared my documentation. And as you can imagine all that preparation to go to a new country like your health insurance or travel insurance and all that. So, then it was 24th August in 2009, and I travelled to Canada, Dallas for educational purposes.

M: Okay, so let's know let's talk about your professional background. What's your

professional background?

Mi: My professional background, I studied international relations. So, some people think that it's a profession, but an academic field shouldn't be a profession. It's a, it's a different aspect. But in Turkey, the understanding of academics is totally different. They treat the academic programs as a college program, but that's why that's one of the missing parts, my personal opinion that in Turkey, there are some college programs existing but it's not that sufficient or it's not utilize it utilizing it in a good way. That's different topic but to answer your question, yes, I graduated from international relations program, which was in back home in Turkey. But during this summer times, I actually worked in, I wouldn't say work but internships mostly in some firms that was one of them was Hamza bus manufacturing company. I was in their Import Export department because the International Relations graduates in Turkey, they are mostly people, the understanding of this program, when you're working in the field, the field should be in the big companies for corporate environment in their Import/Export department. First of all, they are expecting the fact that your language level I mean, the foreign language, or let's say English, German or Italian, Spanish, whatever that the language that you have. So, they're assuming that you can manoeuvre that process more smoother compared to other administrators. So, we're basically administrator but more and more in a structured format because you have to know the export policy, import policy, and all that. So that was a dimension, but I just wanted to double it also the mandatory on the school that you needed to have that internship during that time frame. So other than that, I didn't have any work experience. So, when I came to Canada, that was my first work experience and that was abroad. So that was the interesting part.

M: Oh, and what was the first work experience?

Mi: First work experience I, I mentioned to you earlier that I didn't have a chance to work that much at the regular college, during my studies. So that was a point that because of the financial difficulties, I had to find a job and I was working at the Indian restaurant. Yes, it was mostly serving position. And my school was typically ending at 4pm - Everyday Monday to Friday.. it's full time college program. So, as you can imagine, it's not like undergrad or something. So, 4-6, I had two hours difference and I was evaluating this time mostly either feeding myself or reading some materials and then going to the restaurant my shift was starting 6. It was ending at 2am. So that was four hours. But not every day though. I would say the hours were between 20 to 25 hours. And sometimes this restaurant was catering to the to the weddings. So, first time, I had a chance to see some Indian weddings, some Pakistani weddings, so that was fun. That was my first, but it wasn't full time. It was part time. And as you can imagine, as a student, the best way to find employment is hospitality - food and beverage. So, then the first full time experience was again hospitality. That was a Tim Hortons. But again, part of that was, so after my graduation, the process is in Canada, you have to apply for postgraduate work permit. I'm not sure they change that or not, I didn't have a chance to analyse the policy how it looks like but so I applied for this postgraduate work permit, but at that time, the ideal way of getting the Canadian permanent residency. So that was the provincial nomination program (PNP). Okay, so here's the thin line. So I wanted to get the Canadian work experience, but I heard from so many people that if you have just solo work permit, to find a job is really hard, or you can find some certain jobs, but that's not going to be as satisfactory because employers - their perspective is typically you have a work permit, there's a validity for it. So, how can we rely on your work for immigration and afterwards but if Canadian government or Immigration Canada wouldn't like you to continue with you in terms of the immigration process, so this kind of jeopardize situation for employers and also jeopardizing the employees as well. So that's why I was in between to apply the PR or not. So then I decided to move forward to be part of this PR program, because I wanted to get the work experience here and my program itself after I joined the program, I realized that it's, there's a core program that I also joined core program, I forgot to mention, that was not paid. That was an internship as well. So, my goal again, I was still sticking with the same goal or You got your education in a different country, and you got the North American aspect. And then you can add an additional work experience to real life work experience, and then you can go back home. But again, during this time, it was so tough to find a job that compliments my, my fields like international business and international relations as well. Part of it is education. Credentials back home is not recognized by the employers. It's recognized if it's in English in Canada, that's why they accept you for the next step to be as an international student, as obvious. But - employers they typically rely on your Canadian experience either or the Canadian educational experience. So, and also consider the fact that we look at comparing two cities like Toronto or Vancouver, the job opportunities are really rare. Maybe if I would be in in Toronto or Vancouver, maybe chances would be better. But, again, I was in a position that maybe if I could get my permanent residency, then I will get the real Canadian work experience. So I was in Winnipeg. So that makes it more interesting. So during this time period, either like, okay, so you get your PR, and then you can get the ‘real’ job, but you get the PR, the PNP program. It's a bit complicated. I'm not sure if it makes sense yet. Yeah. So the permission moment of programming still continues right now, but I'm not sure how efficient it is. So, it requires that first of all, you get a job letter from a certain employer. That's not necessarily relevant. Doesn't have to be relevant to your background. But any kind of institution any kind of Corporation, Tim Hortons or Starbucks, or a catering company, any kind of field sector …needs to be full-time. So this job letter and and some other documents that you provide to provincial government and the provincial government may or may not they give you a certain credential that okay you're approved for the nominate program and the next step is to apply for the federal program which is the permanent residency.

Mi: Not Express entry, it’s the PNP. I'm not sure that it was existing at that moment. I don't want to mislead your research, but it's definitely it's definitely worth to take a look at it because we are talking about here 2011 that I applied. Sorry, that's correct. So 2011, it's worth to take a look, if there's express entry in Canada.. So during this time, I was working at Tim Hortons, but also, I was an entry level. So if I was a storefront, they name it. But also it was the suggestion of the employer that you were suggesting me if we will put you on a spot to be in the management. So, your approval from the federal would be more easier. Because you'll look like you're more skilled and it could correlate, or it could it would complement your international business diploma because you're somewhat doing the business management. Yes. So that made sense for me. And it put me in the management program, and I've worked there for entirely three years. And because the process takes took three years, and unfortunately, during this process, you're not, you don't have a chance to change your job. So that was the, that was the process. And even I got some job offers during this time, but, but I couldn't I couldn't change it.

M: Um, in terms of moving to Canada, I know that you discussed it, but like, how long did you prepare for it? Like, how did you plan? How long did you plan and think about it? How much time like did you spend doing?

Mi: So I think it was… it also overlaps the idea of ‘going abroad’ and moving to Canada. So specifically, just to answer your question about Canada, I would say six to eight months, but going and living abroad. I wasn't sure I will live entirely all my life. But just to have the taste of that. I think that was always on my mind. Since the elementary, because I always thought that the territories are something that we didn't create. So, I wouldn't I didn't want to limit myself in a certain boundary. I knew that there was always more to explore. Yeah, so that was just my way of understanding, as a word citizen or you can name it in a different way. But Yeah, that was this idea was always there but specifically for Canada I would say six to eight months, but it was mostly the mental preparation for - I mean just googling, doing some research about the climate first thing, and some other things the job opportunities, the culture itself, the education system and so on. Whatever you can imagine, I tried to do the research as much as possible and also the fact that I am as I mentioned to you earlier, the educational consultancy firm, there are also somewhat helpful in terms of mapping it out what would be the ideal Canadian experience - that they were not sufficient in sufficient in terms of how to you know how to prepare fully, because they were get imagination was or the their way of endorsing this imagination was mostly a ‘Canadian dream’. Even though that the process of getting your work permit process of getting a PR from the residency that was totally different than whatever they told me and whatever I experienced here because they were generalizing and putting in a different format for every single person, but they didn't mention about the difficulties or they didn't mention about the cons. So they were, they were mostly focusing on just the business part rather than this person is changing his entire life. They're not talking about the career, we're not talking about life here. So unfortunately, I would say a mental preparation was four to six months and between, I would say the next 2, 3 months it was mostly the documents and preparation, documents preparation, some bureaucratic preparation, but the mental preparation was, I would say four to six months, but the entire preparation process was six to eight months.

M: So move to Toronto?

Mi: No, that's another part that it's a complicated part. So, I decided to work in the marketing sector. So, I was really interested in the marketing inside the business spectrum, Business School spectrum. So, I decided to look for certain jobs but then I found a media integrated specialist position, which was focusing on advertisement and marketing. It was an entry level position. And then I gave my previous knowledge to Tim Hortons. I was assistant manager at that time by the way. And they offered me being a store manager, but I certainly didn't want to move forward with hospitality because it was enough in terms of the difficulties and plus, I wanted to try more. I wanted to get a different insight, a different part of the business. And then I got this job at a different company - this is still in Winnipeg. I dis this job almost six months and then I was doing good in the company. But what happened was, there was a family emergency my mom had a stroke and she had the open-heart surgery. So, then I had to move back. And I had to give my notice of emergency. And they kept my job for a while. But after a certain period of time, of course, I totally understand the fact that they couldn't keep my position. And so that was a time that year.. 2015, February, I decided to move back to Turkey, not permanently, not definitely, maybe indefinitely. So, it was a big question mark. It was just an emergency purpose. And I didn't know, I didn't plan the rest. So that was the heartbreaking point in terms of not having the full taste of Canadian experience at that time. I didn't even know what was gonna be my future. Yeah, at that time. So then we've been 2015 February till 2016 October, I had my Turkish experience, I worked in two different jobs. One was the logistics coordinator in an international firm and the other one was, I was the procurement specialist. So I was mostly working in the agricultural company that they were important to exporting and they were actively participating in the tenders of United Nations and I was also working in the tender department as well. So, it was a well-paid job considering the fact that the standard of living in Turkey and some other factors, but after my mom's health was getting better, I offered my family to move entirely to Canada. I didn't want to limit their time being here because I offered them even six months in and out Not because of the policies or procedures, because I knew that, because of their age because of their cultural background, maybe they wouldn't be a good fit. Or maybe they wouldn't have a taste of Canada. Maybe they wouldn't like to be here. So that's why I suggested be with me six months or four months, whatever. And then you can go back to Turkey, we can maybe get a mortgage here or I can settle here because I definitely, I mean, doing this one and a half year in Turkey, I decided to move to Canada entirely, and I want to settle here. That was that, that tangible and concrete way of thinking that I would settle here. So that was a time, because of the economy, part of it, it's the polarized society. I didn’t want to live in a polarized society. I didn't want to live in a society that that people are judgmental about certain things, and I'm still not sure if running away or leaving the country is a good choice? As an individual, maybe it's a good choice. But if you're thinking more of a, because I love my country, I think that individuals can create certain environment that it would definitely impact your campaigns. But sticking with the subject, yes, that was a time that I decided to move back to Canada and because of the job opportunities, potential job opportunities, I wanted to come to Toronto so year 2016 October, I came to Toronto from Turkey this time

So first I wanted to continue as a procurement executive because I wanted to see that there's any way of working in that field and plus my, even though I was working in a domestic company in Turkey, but our operational spectrum was International. So, I was hoping the fact that maybe I would get somehow, I would get some opportunity in my field as a procurement executive. But unfortunately, my application process was really heavy. Even when I was applying to certain job boards, like indeed… they were reviewing my resume, but they weren't responding. Because I know the fact that whoever I went to and ask, even the professional HR specialists, they were saying that yes, you have a rich background, we can definitely take advantage of it. But at the same time, you don't have a specific procurement executive experience in Canada. So that's the roadblock. And then I decided to change my way because I needed the financial funds. I started to work, which is entirely different field, as a construction worker. I worked in construction for six months. I needed just cash to get to the next level. And I was offered by my employer that would you like to be an installer and the money is really is really good. It's a lucrative business. You need to work with your hands but at the same time with pays off. I said, my goal driven, I'm a goal driven person, but not the money driven person. Money is a tool should stay as a tool. But there should be more than that so I said no. And meanwhile, I was looking for some job opportunities. And I took an opportunity of being an account executive in a software as a service SaaS company. So, we were building platforms like coding platforms, yeah, JavaScript and then some other programming languages that we were using. So, it was fun because I was dealing with the schools directly. I was managing the account and as well as I had the program coordinator that she was helping me out, how to coordinate after the sales process. And I learned a lot I learned the structure of not the post secondary or for the university level institutions, but high schools, primary schools and JK to 12. I had a chance to having an experience of the structure is, so it was it was eye-opening. And then I decided to work for, because I needed the money because my initial goal together to get my master's degree in something that, what I am pursuing right now, immigration, settlement, similar approaches, which would be ideally multidisciplinary. And in this case, I can take my international relations, political science background and I would enrich it with the different aspects such as sociology or anthropology, which as you know, it's not enriched in international relations program. There are some courses but the courses are mostly just intro to Sociology and intro to anthropology or so on. So that's why I needed some funds and I got a good offer from a financial institution that as a credit counsellor. So it was also helpful for you to understand what the society's is going through right now in terms of debt. Debt is one of the biggest thing and in Canada, I think the overall lean on the word worldwide, right? So I worked there for for two years, and I saved my money for my tuition and luckily, I got the scholarship as well and I put this money on the side. So, in this case that I don't I didn't need to hustle that much and work doing my studies. So right now, I'm not working. But if you're asking me in general what I graduated from, did it entirely compliment my experiences? I don't think so. Because of the circumstances because of the the job availability itself, and because of also the other the reason I think personally about I experienced is the need to make money, we need to survive. So that pushes you in certain fields that maybe you're not going to be engaging. Maybe you'll know that first place when you read the job description, but at the end of the day, you have to bring the food on the table. So that that was the main reason that why I kind of switched from one sector to another sector, but it was all complimenting the business, which I took my business management, administrative skills to jobs, and sales. I think sales is a different ballgame. It's you can either learn, and it's not something that you can entirely learn. You should have some sort of sales skills in you, but at the same time, you can enrich it. So, it was helpful, but at the same time, I've mostly enjoyed my role when I was not selling the educational coding platform, but I was actually giving some presenting my consultation, like counselling sessions to the people that who are in that. So, to see that how people are desperate, lack of educational background for lack of skills that there is a lack of financial literacy too, which is not getting taught in the primary school or high school. So, it was an eye opener. It was a it is a life experience rather than that work experience.

M: Yeah. So I mean, I think you've answered a lot of this question already. Okay, about about your skills or how do your skills fit in the skilled migration program.

Mi: Sure, that's a good question. I think I have Okay, this is a I want to start from this story… When I was seven, eight years old. I saw footage on the TV. That that was. That was a topic that some anchor-man they were discussing about what's happening in Bosnia war. So, I was seeing a truck that it was saying UN - the United Nations. I didn't know what it stands for. So, I was asking my parents, they didn't speak English, of course, they didn't know. And they figured out that they probably bring some food. And that says Un in Turkish Un, it's a flower. Yeah. So they kind of correlated to that. I said Wow, that's nice. What are they doing? They said ‘Oh, they're helping people that were actually suffering from war. So then I started with dig deep about UNICEF. What they are doing, I didn't have any knowledge now reach like 10-11 years old. I told my parents that I want to work for UNICEF. I want to help children, I want to, I want to be part of the community that whoever is suffering from war from certain difficulties. I want to be helpful because if I'm not going to be helpful, what is the purpose of my entity in this world, my existence in this world, that's a different way. We can discuss later What is the purpose of being present in this world. That's a different topic, but I wanted this and funny enough, I chose international relations and then I was more involved in certain cases, theories, how it was helpful, or it wasn't helpful to interpret certain situations. And then I found myself in this job, In business kind of field, which I don't like because there's no human touch, in my opinion, I think. You can, you can actually covered it, or spice it up with a more humane touch. It is totally up to you. We don't need to, I don't need to put it as an excuse. But I think how I can bring my economic experience and my undergrad experience with the business. First of all, I have a, I have a theory I have the idea of major research paper. So, which I'm thinking about how the business class immigrants, they switch from business class to different streams. Either being an entrepreneur in the entrepreneurship program in Canada, or they go different streamlines because they don't have the channel that they can actually continue in that channel. And actually apply their, their experiences, right? So, I'm thinking about doing a research about their experiences, their difficulties, specific before that was, and also what are the challenges and how to overcome it. That was my idea. But once I'm getting into more and the program, I'm seeing and getting influenced by different kinds of ideas, ideas that are right now, so I might not stick with that idea in terms of my major research paper, but just to answer your question more clear. I think with my, with my business skills, I will I wouldn't just name it just administrative and also some marketing skills, but you can just put a bit from here and there and kind of make it a big, big impact on your future skills. But again, it's so limitable. It's not that why I mostly feeding myself from my international relations background and my interest in that field, even in the in the class discussions, I'm seeing myself more confident, not because of my business background, but because of my international relations background. So what I want to do with this field, unfortunately, I can put my business skills, mostly maybe into the presentations because I learned a lot in the program, or my, my dialogue skills or maybe administrative format, when I'm preparing or writing a paper because in the undergrad level, you have some short term limits that you can go beyond, but International Business program it gave me an understanding….I was involved in so many different marketing research projects. So that gave me an understanding of how to do research. How you can excel to a point that you can be successful in your future endeavours. So I think that could be helpful in that sense. But compared to my undergrad and business, post-secondary degree, the book will be helpful but in different ways, it's hard to tell how it's going to help me. It is more hybrid. That's, that's good way of explaining that. So, but in future, I would like to work in an NGO, or I would like to stay in academics, if that will be able to position, if there will be any sort of day. I know, it's really challenging, and it demands so much from an individual. I would love to do that either stay in academics or working for an NGO. In this case. I don't want to actually be in specifically Canadian settlements, sector. I don't want to just file the papers and just check the policies. I think that I, I can do more. The more is? It's a good question. It is it is really. I mean, I think certain things, for example, helping someone's paperwork in the settlement sector, or trying to figure out what's the what's missing policy in here, or what kind of policies we can implement in this case? That's totally valuable. I understand. But yeah, I'm not trying to degrade the value of it. I totally respect that. But at the same time, if I can stay in academics, I can try to see what are the missing parts in the policies

M: So do you see any missing parts in policy now?

Mi: Now … temporary foreign workers. Yeah, it's a big time. I mean, I was reading an article referring. She She has a Filipino background. And she was focusing on the temporary foreign worker program and how Filipino migrants actually suffered from it. She had a focus group and everything. So, first of all, it's good to start this four years in, and four years out policy. It was it was totally endorsing the fact that there's a Canadian dream, come here, work for four years, but at the same time, that the officials they were doing numerous trips, from Alberta, Saskatchewan from different provinces, Manitoba as well, that they didn't actually fully explain in the thesis. That's what it says. They didn't fully explain what the pros and cons are, they were mostly talking about pros like a salesperson. I mean, we need to explain that first. So four years in four years out policy is once you are accepted as temporary foreign worker. So, the policy was, I'm not sure if it still continues the same way. I think government, Immigration Canada was trying to do some adjustments or they were discussing about that, I'm not sure if it's an act right now or if it's a policy change on the table. But once you're in the four years, you allowed to work 4 years and after your for your duration is expire, then you have to leave the country. That's what the program says, but what actually this program led these workers because they created an environment here they created a belonging here. So they want to find a way to apply for for permanent residency. So, at that time PNP program was a good way of finding that channel. Mostly It started with the seasonal workers. So speaking of skilled classification, yeah. That definitely is related with this temporary foreign workers. So, they are typically mostly the temporary foreign workers, they were low skilled. And most of them, they wanted to stay in Canada. So, they either went for PNP, or they were looking for a sponsorship. But the sponsorship as you can imagine, directly from an employer, it was so rare. But mostly it was the PNP programs that they were finding a way to get their permanent residency.

M: So, sort of a Alright, so let's also talk about your family. So you losing your family and what was their role in your migration?

Mi: Sure. So my parents are still alive and Scott, and I have an older sister. So she is 16 years older than me. So I'm 33 years old now. So she's almost 50 I guess, 48. She had no influence or no endorsement in my immigration, migration process. But mostly, my father was a pro. My mom was against.. She was looking at the things more in a sentimental way. And I totally feel for her. And it is a tough decision to leave the country, to leave your family. But my father, he was looking at things more pragmatic way, because he saw that in me that this is what I wanted to be and I would be unhappy to live in the country, live in Turkey. Because of so many reasons, as I explained to you the polarized way of society and the economic situation, yes, I would probably. I'm just imagining myself what would happen if I wouldnt come to Canada Do you think that would be a good way of explaining? I will probably get married in my early 20s. And I would have children right now because of the societal pressure, time pressure, family pressure? It is still there. When we are skyping, they still endorsing the idea of like, when are you getting a married? When are we going to have the children on our hands?, and I'm just saying that I have goals once I finish these goals, and then when they accomplished then my first of all, is not going to just get married - to find the right person. Marriage is just a paper. The system certificate, interestingly a certificate so accomplishing something of some sort. They do they certify you. So I just don't understand this notion. I never understood. So they are more conservative in terms of the traditional way of living, or being an individual. But I'm not entirely thinking the opposite, though. But most of the things that we don't agree, but I think, in family if you find the right way of putting the dialogue, I think they're going to understand you don't need to fight they don't need to. You need to just empathise yourself. Empathy is the key. So then that works. They don't understand me sometimes. I didn't understand them, but I'm trying and then they started to try my position. So, once I'm explaining what I'm going through and what I went through as I explained everything all the immigration process. Now they value it, and they justify it, my situation that why I'm not rushing, or quitting a job. Yeah. But yes, mostly father was abroad during this immigration process. Mom was against and and the sister was neutral.

M: Alright, so we can now I think move to the mapping. So, in your case, I think I want to I want to know about all of the visas that you went on in your study abroad, work abroad. experiences. So mostly, that would be for Austria and Canada.

Mi: Can I map it out in terms of the emotions as well? Can I draw two tables which was Austria and Canada? Okay, let's put this…So the first one I'm putting as figure one, which is going to be the Austria visa process because there was only one visa, so there's no need to explain other which is simple. Figure two is going to be a little bit complicated. I would like to start with Austrian one because the experience was. So, I think in every single, I mean mostly the westernized countries, their requirements are so detailed. So, I would say this is I would say, stress level. The most two things that I would name is during these visa processes, one is the stress level in terms of emotion. And one is that the work that you put, so I would say the efforts/time. It's gonna go the same way I guess okay so the stress level was not too much because it was educational purpose. I knew that it was going to end really, really soon but the effort and time, European Schengen visa is really demanding, but the stress level Let's just say one to 10 – I would put 4. Stress 4, effort 9. So again 1-10. I would just kinda put here in detail - Study permit. Okay in this case let's put it this way. So Schengen visa process, let's say study permit. So study permit was again one to 10 I would say, because, okay, this is kind of different. The stress level was a little bit less again. I would put 2. OK, because, so the paperwork process for Austria was handled by myself, but the paperwork process in Canada, was handled by that consultancy agency. So, and they're actually they helped me out a lot with that, of course I paid to him. So that's why I knew that they guaranteed the approval is going to be there, you're I mean, you're eligible for so many things, so everything will be fine. So that's why the stress level was not that much, and effort was not that much. So, I would put 4 and 2. Just gathering the documents was a bit tough.

But the PR and immigration is different. So I'm going to draw two figures. One is gonna be the provincial Nominee Program. The other one will be PR process and the last one will be the citizenship application so there will be three graphs. sorry I just couldn't organize on my mind. So this figure, figure 2a, figure 2b, and figure 2c. I mean, it might not be the right category, but I'm just trying to kind of sub categorize. Okay, so let's start with the figure a. which will be the regular work permit/pep. So, again, one to 10 scale. This was stressful. This was this was I would say 8 because the program wasn't explained enough. Even though there were some provincial, like Manitoba start up. Yeah. I'm not sure if you heard of them. They're actually a non-profit organization funded by government. They're explaining. They're providing some sort of consultancy to the people that who are going through this process. So the people over there, the agents over there, they were so helpful. It was good. I mean, I have to justify this of course… but but in general still there were so many unknowns. So, I would say the stress level for the PNP program because it's just the first step, but you don't know what's going to happen afterwards. And the effort and time, I think this will kind of never change because effort and time exceptt this part. This part I'm gonna explain to you the citizenship part, it will always be the same. I would say let's say 9. So this was because there was more document requirements and job another, job offer letter from the employer and explaining this process to the employer. They were even though they were familiar, they were a bit hesitant about certain things, and you had to be nice with them. So other part is you need some documents from Turkey, the official documents and you cannot be scanned. So, you need origin documents. And plus, you need to provide certain documents in different categories. So that was a bunch of different combinations. So, effort and time, and yeah, it was 9. So, the second one, I mean, as a lot of subcategories. I can talk about the PR, which is not the main goal, but the main goal is this, but this is the segue as you know. So we're going to use a different color. So, one to 10 scale again. Yeah, stress level we categorize we don't change the category. I had some some documents already get prepped before, you you would use some documents that are already in the database in this process. You don't need to get everything from scratch but at the same time, the form itself, the application form itself is so detailed compared to the PNP program, or the work permit. So I would say, effort and time goes hand in hand. But in terms of not to gather the documents that much, but to be more cautious about how to fill out the form. Again, I needed some sort of support and I got that support from Manitoba start-up program. Okay. That was helpful in terms of their guidance. They didn't feel the forum behalf of me, but they gave me certain guidance. So I would say interesting way, maybe seven, for for the effort of time, but the stress level was, was more I would say… I don't want to say 10 because it's not a life and death situation. I always knew that I had another option. Worst case scenario, I would go back home. I would find different ways. Different ways mean… just want to open that. People think about different ways as shortcut fails, like getting married with someone or different kinds of opportunities. But I had that opportunity in my previous relationship that she offered me straight – you dont need to go through this process. I refuse. I refuse it because I don't want to rely on someone's bill to you know, I don't want to jeopardize the situation. What if you wouldn't get along at certain periods?

M: How long will you meet with this person?

Mi: She offered like I was overall three and a half years, almost four years. But she offered me in the middle of this time frame. I mean, two years. When we were two years together, she offered me she said, You don't need to go through this process. You can just handle everything more smoothly. But I refuse. I refuse that. Again, this is this is really complicated because if you really don't feel that this is the right thing, because some people, they just rely on this, and I didn't want to do that. It wasn't voluntarily some people just, you know, offer some sort of money or internal arrangement. They call it fake marriage, but it wasn't fake. It was real that at the end proves that we are not together anymore. So, I was right. I was right. Okay, so seven, stress level was nine. And the last one will be the citizenship. Yes, I already applied for my citizenship. I pass the knowledge test, I'm just expecting the oath, the ceremony. So, the time that I pass the knowledge test, it was 29 April this year. So, they literally talked to me about the timeframe between six to six months, six months to One year. So, we will see how that goes. It's already five months past, I have no rush. I think the stress level is really low because after this process, it lowers. Its smooth. So, I would say to and the effort again, I got, I was busy at that time, and I got some help from an immigration agency that they prepare those documents. So, I would say after that time, maybe 4, so two and four.

I guess I already passed the certain stages. And according to my immigration consultant, she said that if you pass the knowledge test, and if you provided certain documents and all about, it's all about just waiting for them to call you for the oath, and the ceremony, and then you will be officially getting the certificate of citizenship, so it's not 100% because it's not official, but it's on the way.

I lived in Turkey for one and a half years, the certain requirement is, as you might know, after you get your PR For the next five years, you have to be present in the country for at least three years. So, I had to fulfil my gap for the application process to be eligible for citizenship application. So that's the gap.

M: All right. Now we're gonna move on to the next question. So commercial services. So in all of these processes, what are the commercial services that you used? You know, things that you paid for.

Mi: So commercial services - so only two of them so the one for Austrian visa - I paid for it, the Schengen visa/ study permit - that all is the same. I paid yeah the agent. Yeah, yeah. So that was paid to a consultancy agent - that they had the firm. The second one was I mostly use it, as shared with you, that was the not for profit, it was funded by government. So I never got into any IELTS or TOEFL process because first of all my back home with the education was 70% English so let's put it this way - so during my application to the college they recognize that I don't need to provide any IELTS in Canada. So I never got any IELTS or any TOEFL. I found the way. So other than that when it came to applying for citizenship they they were asking basically the requirement is but also what complimented my post secondary, that the regular college, because if you have the post-secondary diploma It shows the certain benchmark, and you're not going to get the test English test required.

So visa fees, I paid it by myself for the Canadian citizenship one. But for the Austrian one, it was help from the parents. So yes, it was paid by the people that I have the relationship with. All the fees of course and I paid for it. So the Austrian one was paid for by my family. It was supported by my family but the rest it was paid by my own financial funds. I covered everything. So yes, I’m going to include that one too. The insurance for sure. So, other than that, as you mentioned the translation services - that was a big thing that I paid for. So, I pretty much paid except the citizenship one, I pretty much paid for all those documents the entire process each time. Okay, let's let's be clear. I'm just trying to refresh my memory so not each time. So, only one time for the for the translation services because I had already got documents that I translated. and not for the police clearance because you need to always renew it has to be updated version as you might know. But the rest like let's say, the translation of diploma or certain things. I had it only once and I kept the record of it as a scan version because I knew that the application process was going to be held online. So that's why it was easier. I didn't have to pay each time. But it is kind of complicated because I set the police clearance and the police clearance from Turkey. You don't pay for it. It's a free service. Like everybody has a right to get that documents without any problem. But just because it needs to be updated. So, you have to literally translate it and get that done all the time. So that's why it was the most challenging part. It was all in Turkey. Diploma, criminal record check, what else? - birth certificate, and of course ID, and pretty much it. So for Austria I would say all. For, Canadian citizenship, just because I had already diploma, translation as well as birth certificate and Id, already so I only needed the police certificate. So for the first work permit – it was pretty much everything. By the way, if it might be more that I'm gonna go home and just check it out. I can add more. PR process – so I think, of course CR (criminal record), I already had preparation for from my previous work premise application so that complemented most of it. So, the health insurance for Canadian citizenship, there's no health insurance needed. Work permit – its hard to think. We forgot the study permit – of course this was a consultancy as well, which is the most important. So study permit. I think I have the tendency to forget that maybe that time. Let's put a note here that I said this one okay, let's put it this way all of the translation services were provided by Turkish origin services or companies.

Insurance was a Canadian company called CR something. Document translation was provided by Turkish councillor. Why don't the reason that why I need the Turkish origin any documents from originally from Turkey, that translation Part too because since I was living in Winnipeg, they don’t have a consulate there. The consulate is in Toronto so I took advantage of that in my citizenship application.

M: Tell me about the role of technology in your migration.

Mi: Heavily heavily… and I know mom praise Steve Jobs,Bill Gates a lot… because the communication tools are there. But apart from that I actually use technology for my research or to seek certain things even in the city - what kind of gigs what kind of events, even during my time being in Canada too so yes. So maybe you can categorize it and…Connection is one thing. You use technology, mostly, heavily right? So, communication. So, this graph is going to be the first one and use of technology category. So, the first one we will do is the communication. So in communication is I would say mostly I was communicating with, of course, friends and family. So I don't have that much connectivity with their relatives so I would just use categorize them. So, one to 10 scale - So mostly friends were four or five. Lets say four. And family was nine.

M: And what kind of media were you using?

Mi: It was mostly at that time Skype. Skype is the tool. Yeah, we're not talking about right now we're talking about the most used one is Skype, okay? Because there was no tools whatsapp, viber, no smartphones. Smartphones were there, but this is the beginning, he parents were not able to utilize. This we will call research again specifically for gigs, some events, conferences, which is rare and but it happens if it interests me and then… so research. So, I would say let's categorize this on to So, okay. One is as the Google using as a tool and one is the email endorsement. So it's about, let's say platforms. So, which means sometimes there were some common platforms that people were sharing ideas, gigs and all that. And you already subscribed into it, and then you automatically get email subscriptions, and some weekly newsletters. And one is like, just randomly searching. what's what's going on in the city. So, I would say equal measures. I would say 6 and 6. And the reason that I'm saying Six not because of it doesn't represent the interest level of using the technology but also represents that this may be the rest of 4 that we didn't include, it was endorsed by friends or word of mouth. So, I didn't need to use technology haven't had that much because Winnipeg is a small town. I started to use technology more when I was in Toronto. So word of mouth, it really works in terms of like, how you accommodate yourself in the Winnipeg lifestyle. Because mostly the school platform, I don’t remember the name exactly, but it was school graduates or alumni.

I think we should include that one as well, to migration purpose. It was mostly the government website. Again, this is the one that you can rely on. Yeah. And also just because I was using the PNP program, they had their own website and plus Manitoba start-up. They’re helping after you know during your time being there like in terms of resume building, job seeking. Typically they tried to help you out of the jobs of how you can integrate after your residency and after your integration process. Settlement support. So they had their own website, they were also sharing some events in terms of job seeking, or there's a job fair that you guys should come over and for. There's a conference, information session about some policy changes. I was happy with their service. I saw definitely a compliment.

Mi: Before I forget, I would like to jump to my experience for coming from Turkey to Toronto. When I left Turkey and when I came in 2016 until now, that's what you're wondering know. Okay, so let's put it this way then. So 2016-present - it was the citizenship process so I already had PR. So let's say PR attained in 2013. So, and then two years, I held a PR in Winnipeg. And then in the present, Toronto. 2015 Apr-2016 Oct I was in Turkey. I can just name it as the transition period from Winnipeg – Turkey – Toronto.

M: Any significant things from social connections to like friends, family community professional network. I mean, you mentioned the Manitoba startup program, but anything else that you want to any significant relationships that you want to add on your map? And I'm also referring to intimate relationships.

Mi: I can recall that so you read my mind. So, my my ex partner, she was really helpful mentally. And she was born and raised in Canada, but she put so much effort in to understand what I'm going through. She was always there when I had those stressful times. She was trying to give me that comfort zone by activities, by trying to help me to engage with the environment because I guess this emotional connectivity she wanted me to stay there. So, she didn't want me to leave. That's why I've actually made community like, she didn't want me to leave. And also that's why she wanted me to. She offered that getting Let's get married. And let's go through the citizenship process more, more smooth. But because I had the the military service obligation at that time, back in Turkey - I didn't obey that, by the way. So, we didn't need to, we don't need to add it into the map. So I paid 6000 American dollar at that time, and just to waive it. So, in this case, I would be exempt from military service. So that was one question on my mind and plus Winnipeg itself. If I would like to have a Canadian experience, I didn't want to settle in Winnipeg specifically for my entire life. But at that time, she was showing the signals that…the family was there part of her family. And have she had a secure job. And she wanted to. She wanted me to stay. And she was thinking that Winnipeg would be the place to settle. But I wasn't agreeing on that term. And but regardless, she was really helpful I could her. I would name my father that - he was so supportive. And also, I would mean a close friend that became to Canada together. He was… just because he was in the process. He was so helpful, when the times that I was hesitant about if I would actually put my energy to stay in this country, or I would maybe go back. So, he was kinda lifting me up. So that was so helpful. So would name three people and I guess you're asking it to map it out there. Let's use a different model. I would but with all due respect to my father, he was not there with me physically. So physical connectivity is important, I would put first. I can name her. Well there you go. Ex-partner. The second person would be my father even though he was not there physically but mentally he was day to day, sending messages asking me how am I doing it?, if I need something. So he was there. He was there. And, I can name it as best friend. He moved to Saskatchewan. He's actually he wants to bring his, his brother for his master's. So I think I can name some people in terms of personalities, but also Manitoba start-up. There were two agents there. They were so helpful. They were so caring. They were easily empathising with your situation. And I think their psychology background is so strong that personally I'm not sure. That's what my observation is because they will easily empathise, they weren't looking at you as a case or as a client or just a, just a person. They really can do that. You are a person that trying to find a way to robust your situation here without suffering. So, they were definitely helpful. Yeah, they were so explanatory in terms of the process in terms of even the single boxes in the form that… what to write, what not to write, the due dates, they were so cautious before. So hopefully they are in a good position or not even maybe in the same organization. So 2 agents, I would say.

M: So if if that's done, then we can move on to the next. So let me let me just ask you about the most challenging aspects of your migration journey throughout. So pretty much everything that you've written so far. Okay, let's circle the most challenging or the biggest obstacles that you faced or mark them however you like.

Mi: So, of course the work permit and PNP part. This is the first one. I'm mixing the colors because just to be just a little more visible. This is the second. This is third. This is 4th. This is for because that's the last stage. I had not much doubt about certain things and I wouldn't want to include Austria because that was a different kind of category. So, for this one [work permit] the most challenging one was uncertainty, the Psychological part, whether you will get it or not. So heres the same [PR], I would say, the psychological factor whether you'll be able to obtain this is the PR or your status or not. So, the PNP and as well as the PR process, it is so connected, interconnected. So, it is hard to, to differentiate from one to each other in terms of psychological. You still feel the stress level. Here just basically you’re in a situation that is your fingers are crossed and you’re just waiting. Can I just make a correction? T his is 2011. So, the process was, I mean, the PR process was not that long, because each province has different responses. If you're in Ontario, at that time, the process took longer. But in promises like my intro by Saskatchewan, I think the number of applicants, one of the main reasons, is more low compared to the Ontario or bigger provinces as BC. But I think it took two years, two and a half years after I applied for PR. I was on work permit and I had to work in the same employer, even though I got some opportunity to explain that to you. So that was the painful part. In daily basis, let's say you have the moments that you really don't think that this job is not a good fit for you and you have an alternative, but you cant evaluate that alternative because of your complicated situation, status situation. So that was really difficult. And this one was just that just the duration because I think lately what I heard the processing times are getting longer and longer. Yeah, even the Canadian citizenship. So I would just say I think that the duration of the process. This one is more more psychological rather than psychological. It's more….it is kind of psychological but it is more of a, because the cultural fit is gonna to be there or not?. So I would say unknown or uncertainty. Sure, cultural connectivity? I don't know if I just put it in the right way, but yes, there's the uncertainty of cultural connectivity. So, Which means will you have a culture shock? Or Is it the right decision? What is expected of me? What kind of difficulties I will face? It is kind of routing to cultural connectivity still. Let's say it my first year in Canada. So that's going to give you an idea. Yeah. So, I'm gonna put it in the behind, okay. First one year. So, again, we're going to rely on our fancy graphs. This is let's say, time. For the sake of me just try to figure it out because I need time and satisfaction? slash engagement. So, of course the first six months, there's a rapid increase because everything is new, you wanna explore everything. You're not getting homesick. From zero all the way up. Even though I was new, the climate was challenging, but everything was new and I'm a person - If I fail or if I just don't let certain things. I'm not a person that I used to blame myself about my choices, but I don't do that anymore. Because you never know without trying. But after six months there’s a dip. You start to feel homesick, criticism on certain things which is comparing traditions. I put criticism here because it might be sometimes rough, especially in my age at that time, It was hard for me - rather than accepting I was criticizing, And it turned to a comparison. Like why! I was criticizing mostly the lifestyle because in Turkey our lifestyle is more laid back. Not into this is a modern capitalist way of melting our lives in. For example, first time in my life I saw a drive through. I had never seen a drive through. Just sit down - you enjoy your meal you have a nice conversation you take you take your time and you actually give the value to the food. Again this is just the the comparison, the personal comparison for the food – the food itself, and the food culture and how do you value the food. And the advantage part of Toronto, which I didn't have the advantage that much in Winnipeg, like, there are tons of different restaurants that represents different cultures, different cuisines. And then questioning, pros and cons of staying. And then it stopped. The reason that it stopped and it's a more stable line, because first of all, you're making a decision. This time, and also it doesn't the decision that you make it is not helping you to increase the satisfaction level but at the same time you're accepting the situation. It's more like an acceptance rather than making plans. So the program itself that the PNP or other programs, it's not a satisfactory and you know the pros and cons pretty much by reading it, by hearing from other people's experiences, how it takes such a long time to invitation and all that. But by accepting the fact that if you really want to stay, and this is the route, take it or leave it. So that's why you somewhat, your plans are becoming more concrete but at the same time, it is helping you to go up or down, it is more like stable. So I think the first year is really important. That's why I just wanted to evaluate this year. And plus, it's easy to remember. That's why I don't want to go further about second, third etc.. But I think this will be helpful to understand my first year experience.

M: I suppose the final set of things that I want to ask you about generally broadly and maybe part of your mouth This is just questions. Have you provided migration advice to anybody? migration? What advice do you provide migration advice to people if they ask you?

Mi: I do. I do. I had, especially after 2015 coup attempts in Turkey. Turkey is highly polarized. And the young professionals I mean, young professional friends, that which they have skills. I wouldn't want to name it low skilled\high skilled school because that's the comparison what Canada does but I would say skilled. I value all the workers in a different sense. As you can imagine, that's I just done different kinds of jobs within sectors. There's no low skills or high skills. They are just skills. You just have the skills and you can reflect it to certain things. So, my friends were asking about what are the pros and cons of the immigration to Canada? So, my answer was, I kind of wanted to get away from giving a solid answer. I don't want to mislead people. But one thing that I was just sure making them understand the situation and then the process. I said the first thing, it's not easy. It will never be easy in the in the short run, and hopefully things will change in the long run, but and I said, Okay, depending on their age, I was asking them you need to sacrifice certain things and these things are family, these things are the job that you might not integrate your skills very well. And you have to maybe work, you might have to work in different kind of sector, different kind of jobs. And you might have to get used to a different culture, the food itself, not just the food, even the communication level of people. And something that you get used to that back home that maybe it's intimate, maybe that will be offensive to different business. So, you might have to get yourself into certain situations that, it's a huge sacrifice. And you only live once. If you're looking from this perspective, is that worth it? I mean, you have to just ask yourself this question, instead of asking me that, is that worth it? So these are the things these are the tools that I'm giving it to you. If you're asking details, I can provide you the details and I can give you the certain links that you can use search for your research. But yeah, I rather just reflect the question back. These are the things that you should expect if you come here, give or take. So, are you ready? Are you ready to sacrifice?. And then their enthusiasm level is going down and they're like, okay, I better maybe dig deep and take a look at it. And I'll get back to you if I need some sort of advice from you. And they typically don't get back to me. I'm not sure if I do the right thing or wrong thing, but I just want people to understand that this is not something like you’re ready for a backpacking trip. And you should understand that once they come here, they come here with certain burdens, financial burden on their shoulder, maybe they sell their car, their house, it's a big change. So, who am I to actually tell people that, yeah, you should come to Canada, you're going to be wealthy or rich, Canada is waiting for you. No, they need to be aware. So that's why I'm being so cautious when I'm giving them direction. I wouldn't call it giving them direction, I would call them just putting everything on one basket and making sure that the knowledge basket is full and they're picking the one that they need. So, I don't want to give the wrong direction. Because there's no wrong or right direction. It's everybody's own direction. So that's why I'm being really careful. But answering your question. Yes, time to time and they're asking me those questions. For education, it's a different aspect. I definitely endorse the education. I'm just telling them, look either for or learning a new language or if you want to get the post-secondary. If you want to get the post graduate experience, it's worth it. It's worth it. Because of these these reasons, yeah. But if you're just purely about to come to Canada, just for immigrating or settling, it's not easy. It's a long process. So, take the baby steps and think about it.

M: okay, and what are your next steps?

Mi: One thing that I really like to do is when you are so connected with the work environment in Canada and you just have some other priorities to settle and earn, you let go of certain things like traveling, or participating in certain things because it all comes with the certain financial requirements, right?. So, first of all I want to value give the value to it. I want to enjoy what's actually in Canada. That's one part and… but before that I want to finish my, my school. I want to get my degree and I would like to concentrate on how I can fit myself into either academic environment. Or, as I told you working in a meaningful NGO that I can actually put my skills, learn more, gain more, give more. So that's my goal. Specifically, for Canada. Yes, I would like to live in this country. This country is great. I mean, but the experiences are great because we cannot blame either people or culture or physical things. The system has so many missing points. We all agree with it and officials agree with it especially after post 911 they increase securitization and migration regimes, border regimes and everything. It got to a point that stereotyping is so easy, visualization so easy. Unfortunately, as we talked before, taking part in, in in certain environments is not that easy, because there are certain barriers, especially workplaces diversity wise. Yes, yet, compared to other countries Canada is well diverse, but we have to actually fulfil this diversity as we talked before, so that's why I just really want to want to be …want to access certain things that I can fulfil my desires. At the same time I would like to have a good network in here that, which I've already started and I'm building that out which is good to take it to the next level but I cant just commit myself either living in Canada entire my life for going back to Turkey. I cant commit to this because you never know. You never know but I certainly think that there are so many opportunities here that I can take. And in the short run, and between the short and long run, I will definitely see myself I see myself to leave here and take advantage of everything but this is life as as my time being the gap between 2015 and 16. Sometimes things happen and life taught me that. Even though your desire is to be here, sometimes the circumstances put you in that spot. But in normal circumstances, yes, this country can give so much and I can also give so much that this country has got.

M: But what about life goals as well? Like do you want to get married or buy a house?

Mi: I think buying a house doesn't make sense, especially this in this. Yes, in this market prices. It doesn't make sense but of course in the future. But again, to to give to sacrifice so much from your life, to make a property meaningful, I think it doesn't make sense to me. I mean, the condition that the mortgage is important. I see some people that they are working for the mortgage for their entire life, but you only be once. How does that make sense? Instead maybe depending on the circumstances maybe buying your land and building my own house that's more meaningful. But again, it depends. So, of course, I would like to get married, again that the marriage meeting that doesn't mean a certificate. Just to get connected with someone forever, because I know some people that they are actually married in paper, but they're not connected. So, living separate lives. I don't want that type of relationship. So, it shouldn't be based on satisfying sexual needs. It should be based on connectivity, chemistry, and you should have your own space at the same time, which means we need to respect each other's space and also share and build something together.

Toronto is not a good place for romance. We can meet so many new people, so many girls. But I think the connectivity is missing? Everybody's excuses is I'm busy. That's one thing. But other than that, I think this is a place that people living life most likely casually. I mean, casual relationships. That's what I mean. So that's why it's easy to meet new people, but it's not easy to provide the sustainability.

M: And how do you meet people?

Mi: I used to meet people that were that was at the birthday parties or events. Also, like occasional because I'm really open to talk every single person, it doesn't mean that. You know, you're asking for a date or something. But yeah, definitely, just uh, I don't think that the using the online tool Is this helpful. I tried five years ago, but it wasn't working, the online dating. It's so shallow and because you already… I'm not sure how to… I'm sure there's a sociological pathway behind it. But first of all, you're judging them by physical attributes. That's how you say yes. I think so not so many people reading the profile descriptions of that specific person. And when you meet there's a certain shy border and there's no uniqueness. Because everything is all structured. I think there was a documentary in Netflix about this, this topic. It was actually I'm just trying to remember the name of it. Black Mirror. There was an episode that. So that's a good one.

M: Alright, cool. So now the final question final. I'm looking at your map. What do you feel?

Mi: The first feeling? It was it was tiring [laughs]. It was tiring, but I'm proud of myself In that sense that, Okay, I'm not, I'm proud of myself not to accomplish a citizenship process. I’m proud of myself that I gave myself a timeline to reach my goal. My initial goal was to get my Masters in the first place before I came here, because a lot I would make it may be shorter, but maybe it was meant to be this way. I believe in certain holistic things. And so I'm proud of myself that I thought about failing, I mean, if I was failing or not, or I thought about if I should change my path or anything, but I'm happy where I am right now. That's why I'm proud of myself. That maybe I had to go through all this. It made me stronger. Was that worth it? I think it's worth it in a sense that I am able to open the door to reach my ultimate goal regarding my educational view, right. But at the same time, it has taken certain things from me. The couple things that I want to mention, first thing that the family connection as much as I'm connected with, with my family using the communication tools, the technology and all that. But still, I didn't have a chance to witness, they're getting older, that process. I wanted to be with them. But at the same time some part says that this is life and we need to find your own path. Other thing is what I noticed, I think it's by this age and also what you read through to me, I was giving more meaning to the friendships to relationships, but it got diminished. I think during this process, I also seen some personal disappointments too when I was relying on certain people and certain friendships and relationships. That and then that's why also I just certainly focused on education. And to proceed in that field. So yeah, I think some part is missing, definitely I'm not the same person in the first time, when I first moved to Austria. Of course, age plays a role and the enthusiasm in certain things is different. I put more logic into things rather than intuition. It kind of makes me happy because the failure stage is not there. I know that how not to fail certain things which is which kind of makes me kind of happy. But at the same time, what makes us human also… that intuition that's, that's humane touch. But in Toronto, referring to your previous question about dating, or meeting new people. It's meeting people is not a problem, but having that meaningful conversation, It's a problem. I'm not trying to put myself in superior situation or degrade them or finding that put a scale or something. No. But maybe they are in the same situation maybe my, my way of talking to them, my interest levels are not appealing to them, its compatibility. Do you believe that putting up excuses, or is it just an excuse for people to have priorities? If you're really stressed with work, and if you're going to meet people right after your stressful shift, that's not going to be a worthwhile time.