Johnathan Martinez

Soc 25

Interview Transcript

Interview with “You”

Yu = You

JM = Johnathan Martinez (interviewer)

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START

JM: Hi my name- this is Johnathan Martinez recording for sociology 25. Umm, with me is my participant, only referred to in the second person as Yu. Umm.. You’ve read and signed the non-disclosure agreement. Um, or rather the consent and clearance form and as well umm, [paper rustles] the demographic of data survey. That’s correct right?

Yu: Yes, correct.

JM: Okay, and I want to say again thank you for your time. Um so I’ll get into it. Umm i’ve spoken with you on the side. You identify as an individual that’s into the culture as Japanese Anime, is this true?

Yu: Correct.

JM: I’ve shared with you already some questions, I’m going to read them aloud. Feel free to take your time to consider them, umm, and answer them what you feel is sufficient. The first one being is, “What does being a fan of the Anime Fandom mean? How might you define Anime Fandom?”

Yu: To be a fan of Anime is to have an appreciation of the artwork and the artistry that goes into creating anime, japanese animations. Umm, and like Anime Fandom encompasses not just like the movies and shows and the umm novels that we read but as well as the merchandise and everything associated directly from, umm, anime.

JM: That’s all your thoughts on that question?

Yu: Yeah.

JM Um, “What behaviors, activities, or events do you partake in as a fan of Anime?”

Yu: Umm I watch pretty regularly, like, entire series. Like sometimes I binge watch them or if it's anime that’s pretty heavy in like topic, I’d usually space it out more and umm if there’s like a, {clicks tongue} anime convention sometimes I’d go to see all of the people with their costumes. Umm.. Yeah.

JM: Costumes being cosplay?

Yu Yesss

JM Anything else you might want to say about the question?

Yu: when I was younger I used to pretend to be some of the characters that I saw in anime. As an Asian-American, I did strongly identified with what I saw on the screen because they looked exactly like me than like a lot of the people who I saw on TV who looked Nothing like me. So, umm, I pretended like I was a Ninja for *Naruto* or I would pretend I was a {click tongue} pilot for a mech for *Gundam*.

JM: Anything else you want to say?

Yu: {Shakes head}

JM Alright, on to the next one: “What are some issues or problems you see or experience in the Anime Fan Community?”

Yu I think a big problem is, like, just like anything, there’s extremes where people don’t like or they become so involved it. Like, they kind of make it difficult to separate reality from what they see and all they want to do is partake in the ani- or what they see in Anime, so Anime becomes their life and not just a thing that, to entertain them and to umm just watch leisurely. They become the anime that they see and kinda takes over a lot of people’s lives in that way. Umm... yeah.

Jm: Is there anything else about that question? It’s alright if you do, it’s alright if you don’t.

Yu Umm, sometimes it gets really, really, like appropriated to the point where umm the people like, the people that don’t make anime, they take it and try to become Japanese in a way or to say that they’re Japanese. But that kind of, that’s very, very problematic. Umm, so a lot of like folks who do want to identify as white see themselves as anime characters and as people of Japanese descent. And that’s very problematic because they’re not that, like they could have an appreciation, but they can’t claim that culture as their own.

JM Umm, anything else you’d like to say about that? It’s okay if you do, it’s okay if you don’t.

Yu [Shakes head]

Jm Okay. Umm, “How do you think being a part of this fandom has affect you personally?

Yu Personally? I think it gave me a lot of role models when I was younger to have like moral and ethical values. Uhh, like, Anime is kinda of just like a frame work of teaching morals just like any other sense of umm literature. Umm… it has wasted a lot of my free time that I could have been using for a lot of other stuff, like i don't really regret it cuz umm, it’s kind of an escape for me. And I created a lot of relationships with other people just because we watch the same anime or we understand umm anime culture and fandom.

JM Okay. Umm and I guess the only last thing I have to ask is there any other comments or things that you’d like to express in this interview. Umm… yeah any ideas since this will be examined in an academic space but with complete anonymity for you that you might want to get into the Either? Or any thoughts you might have left out earlier on?

Yu [shakes head] no.

JM No? Alright, we’ll ed, that’ll complete this interview, thank you very much for your time.

Yu Thank you.