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**2 SPEAKERS**

Joshua Chiu

Angela Tohalino

**START OF TRANSCRIPT****[00:00:06] Joshua Chiu**

Ok. My name is Joshua Chiu. Today is Tuesday May 24 2022 and I'm interviewing classmate. Her full name is Angela Edith Tohalino Paredes. Uh through a zoom call for the University of California San Diego Race and Oral History Project. Do you agree to grant the university permission to archive and publish this interview for educational purposes

**[00:00:47] Angela Tohalino**

Um, Yes I do.

**[00:00:51] Joshua Chiu**

Perfect and um um on behalf of Angela we'll be holding the majority of this in Spanish. So I'm gonna go ahead and start with the first question. Umm, what's your name? Where are you from? How old are you in the United States? And is he a first-generation college student?

**[00:01:11] Angela Tohalino**

My name is Angela, Edith Tohalino Paredes. Hm I was born and raised in Peru and in December 2015 I decided to come to the United States, so I have been living in this country for a little over five years. And yes, I am the first generation in my family to have the opportunity to attend a

university and even more so to attend a university outside of my home country.

**[00:01:38] Joshua Chiu**

Good, good. Where did you grow up and what was your experience attending school during your childhood?

**[00:01:48] Angela Tohalino**

Eh I was born and raised in a city called Arequipa. This city is in the south, in the south of Peru, and when it was small there were not so many schools. Today in Peru there are many private schools and very few state or public ones. Uh, private schools are expensive, and they're hard to get into. You have to take an exam to get into public schools. It is much easier to enter them. However, the level of education in public schools is very low. My parents are not from a lower social class and I did not have the opportunity to go to a private school. So I went to a state school in the state where you don't pay money to go to get an education. And I was in two public schools, the first for women, where I had many friends. The second was mixed. And well, I had friends and friends. However, the education was not very good, since the teachers, since the university, the school is very, very, poor. So the teachers no, they are not well paid, they do not have very good salaries. So it's a bit difficult after getting into a good university. So. Well, my relationship with the school was that, right? From, uh, I had a lot of friends, I had a lot of partners. I had a lot of fun at school, but yes, my education was not the best or the one I would have wanted.

**[00:03:33] Joshua Chiu**

O, well I'm sorry it is a difficult situation you went through. Well to the The other question I have is if your parents supported you in your studies or did you have to work or a combination of the two?

**[00:03:52] Angela Tohalino**

My parents helped me with my education. As I mentioned before, the issue of the public is not very difficult because no, you do not pay anything. You pay something very minimal, which is tuition, but it is very, very basic and public education lasts very few hours, four hours, maximum five hours a day. And later, when I finished in the, the, it is already called initial, primary, and secondary. Middle school is like high school. Eh I had to go to work and I started helping my mom to maintain the home.

**[00:04:30] Joshua Chiu**

Yes.

**[00:04:31] Angela Tohalino**

In Peru I grew up during a time of great corruption, violence and poverty. In my country there was a lot of the problem of terrorism and the devaluation of the currency that left the country in a social and economic crisis. And I have an older brother and because of all this economic problem my mother had to send my brother to Europe so that he can get a better job there. And I stayed with my mom and I worked and I always worked from one company to another and I didn't go to university because I had universities. The best universities there are private and you have to pay a lot of money for those universities. And I didn't have the means. So I had to keep working. And also the salaries are not like here. There you work to survive. Unless you are a person who has a profession or a title. So what I worked for was only enough to survive or help my mother with the most basic things.

**[00:05:44] Joshua Chiu**

Oh yeah yeah. It is something very difficult. Well, although you had to work and have school for a few hours during the day, did you have any sport or organization in which you participated?

**[00:06:00] Angela Tohalino**

Yes. During school? No, no, no, gladly I did not work . I worked after school. But during school I liked to be very active. We don't have like here that it's obligatory, I think, in high school to go to school, to go to protest in basketball, soccer or language or things like that. It is no longer mandatory and but optionally yes. And I did dance. I was in a dance organization. I did volleyball, athletics, swimming. And I represented my school because it is the school that I was at. I represented them in athletics. We never win, but. But we tried. So I was just in that kind of sport, but organization. No, we didn't have organizations at school that supported social issues or political issues in any way, or, or that kind of concept, we didn't have it at school, at least not until I finished school.

**[00:07:15] Joshua Chiu**

Ok Well, now that you're at UCSD, what are you studying? Why did you choose that area of study and what do you plan to do with your major?

**[00:07:34] Angela Tohalino**

Um. Well, right now I am. I am in the international business career. And mine was basically circumstantial. When I arrived in this country I did not know any English. Like. Like I told you, right? The school there is very basic when you don't have money. So my English was very basic in what I learned in, in my school, which was basically little sentences, colors, dates. Suddenly, like simple past tense verbs but we never had a conversation nor did I even move to a more advanced state of English. So when I came to this country, I didn't know any English and it was totally different from what I was taught in my school. And I went to a college in Los Angeles because it was the first the first city that I was here in California and in that college there was a class to get the GED and it was free. So I went to school, to the college in Los Angeles and I

remember that they taught math, English, language and that kind of thing and well I didn't understand much, but I kind of tried to learn what little I understood, right? And then circumstantially I moved to Berkeley and, and I went to a college, to some classes of them or him. Because I felt that I shouldn't only work for that guy, I also worked at a supermarket called Target here, which is well known, but no, since I didn't know English, I worked late at night replenishing products at dawn. So, a colleague from work recommended that I go to college, which is free and for that I had my permit to work, I had my Social Security, so I went to college, I wrote to me and they told me that I could, I could take classes in ESOL (English as a Second or Foreign Language) and I felt like I had plenty of time in the mornings to study because I only worked late nights and I asked my counselor if I could study any other classes that didn't require much English. So I went to study math pre-algebra. And I took pre-algebra and I took ESOL and the next semester I got into algebra, ESOL, and music. So I started taking classes, classes, classes. To a point where I talked to my counselor and he told me I could get a management certificate. And, and already. So I told him yes, that I would love to, right? What other classes would I have to take? I took accounting, economics and statistics. And so I started taking more classes. So I think that the people who guided me the most to enter the university were the counselors, not the counselors, also hand in hand with my family that supports me and told me if you can, if you can study something else, do it? , No? And also a counselor told me that I could take a technical class that was to work in a hospital as an administrative assistant in a hospital, I also did it for a year, which is a technical career. And a little more. And well, after this I finished college and I was presented with the opportunity to apply to the university and again my advisors supported me, so that, so that I applied. I never thought that I would be able to enter a university like the one I am in right now. I applied to many and this was one of the that I really liked. I entered this university and I could not believe it. I felt that it was a dream, but, but it was something circumstantial. I didn't imagine it and you asked me initially if I had other plans. I think my original plans when I arrived in this country were to work and work and suddenly, along with some money for some of them, to have a house or a car or something of their own and I never imagined studying. So it was my counselors who helped me get into college. But basically it was also quite 50% my effort, I think, and 50% of the people who supported me, not my family and the people who believed in me.

**[00:12:36] Joshua Chiu**

Well congratulations, you arrived at UCSD and have continued studying here in La Jolla

**[00:12:43] Angela Tohalino**

Thank you.

**[00:12:43] Joshua Chiu**

Next question. How do you think the pandemic affected your experience at UCSD and how has it limited the human experience with changes like the use of Zoom?

**[00:12:57] Angela Tohalino**

Mmmmm quite affected. As I told you about this before, because I chose the international business career and I think I did not forget to answer you because I chose it. I chose it because in Peru I worked for a company that made electrical transformers for mines and this company had a company, sorry, one like a department that imported large parts from Germany, the United States, Russia, China. And I always saw so that they spoke in English, they spoke, they obviously spoke other languages and I always liked that whole world. So I always said, when I have the opportunity to leave or study for the second time, I would like to study International Business and also one of my dreams was to be in the university one more time for the university and to have eh. Well, that, the opportunity to have teammates and to have, to be in clubs and all that, right? The pandemic affected it a lot because the classes at home when I transferred and it was just 2020 and the pandemic. So every afternoon from the beginning I took them from the computer. Since I didn't have a job because my job had already fired me due to the Covid issue, I had to fly to Peru, so I went to Peru to take classes and basically all of 2000, apart from 2020 and 2021, I've taken it since, since my house in, in Peru, in Arequipa. And, well, I think that the issue of internships has affected me a lot, being part of clubs at school, having more classmates, having a network of connections that allows me once I finish university, well, get together with them or have more experience to look for a job and I think the university is lacking, maybe it would be lacking eh. Well, since I've passed the most difficult part, I think it would be to try to connect more with other jobs, with internships. I know that they send us a lot of emails and everything, but suddenly more with the teachers, right? That they can also connect us with jobs that we suddenly have, some compulsory internship classes. And so that we can, like, prepare ourselves for work? I know that now they are not mandatory, but I think that yes, if they have affected me the issue of now not knowing if it is that where to go or what is the next step? I don't have many connections here in San Diego, but yes, I was affected quite a bit by the pandemic.

**[00:16:14] Joshua Chiu**

Thank you so much for your response. It is difficult to study away from home. How has it affected your relationship with family and friends and how do you maintain a line of communication?

**[00:16:30] Angela Tohalino**

Hmmm And if it's difficult. The distance is very difficult. And it's difficult and sad because you're away from your family, your friends, your customs, your language, culture, food. And well, I basically get in touch with them using social media. And initially WhatsApp with them uses WhatsApp a lot and we use Facebook a lot. Here Instagram is used more, but there Facebook was used much more. When I first arrived and little by little Instagram has been used more in Peru and it affects my relationship with my friends a lot, basically because I miss many, many important events for them, at least with my best friends graduations, birthdays, parties, weddings, baptisms I lost some people also due to Covid. I lost myself, my grandfather and also because of Covid. So there are many things that, that affect a lot, but the way in which I have managed to cope with it all these years is basically. Believing in me, not believing that I do it for an end. And that goal is to finish my degree and for my family to be proud of me and so am I. Well feel proud of myself for my achievements, but I feel that everything, every effort, every sacrifice has a reward and sometimes we have to sacrifice, ourfamily, our friends. And that's kind of a way of coping with all of this, but making contact with them. I am always in contact with them. I try not to lose closeness with them, writing to them, calling them, sharing photos on social networks and basically doing the same when they share photos and, well, video calls nol, basically at some special party, well they put the video call and, and basically it's like I'm there. But yes, yes, it has been a bit, a bit difficult, but it is nothing that, that the network or that the social networks have not been able to help me.

**[00:19:08] Joshua Chiu**

Thank you for your response. So I already mentioned before some aspects of your culture or your childhood that you do miss, but. Have you found an an organization or something that people with the same culture or position, as well as your life, can support you?

**[00:19:29] Angela Tohalino**

What if I don't get into college. Honestly, I have not found any organization that is basically from Peru, from Peruvians, but I have felt part of the Mexican culture, the Central American culture and some South Americans. No, I have not found any Peruvian until now in my university. Surely there is. But I have not felt that any party has been basically oriented to Peru. However, I have been a part of many, many Mexican festivities. I have had fun, I have very good Mexican friends, they have made me feel at home and also Central Americans also within the university. So in that aspect I think that this one has felt the support of the university and many departments also have this, they support the Latino community, they have, I haven't, I haven't been able to because of the issue that, as I told you, basically all my university year, my university career, I have seen it, I have lived it from my house. This is the first, the first time that I live in San Diego, the first, the first quarter that I go, I come to the university then, but. Yes, yes, I feel that there is support for Latinos in the university, but I don't feel that it is specifically towards me, towards my country.

**[00:21:04] Joshua Chiu**

Okay. Thanks. Thanks. Here we have three more questions and it will be the end. What are some ways you learn schoolwork skills and enjoy free time between classes and study or work. Also if you have a job?

**[00:21:26] Angela Tohalino**

Hmmm I think so. Also in this case, thanks to the university, because here, well, it's all a bit expensive, so no, right now I don't have the financial means to go to a gym, that's where I do a lot of sports, so I enjoy much being on campus and playing sports there. Well, basically, sometimes I swim, sometimes I run, and a lot of times I'm in the gym on campus. That's three am, the three hobbies I basically have on campus. I really like reading. some some, some time in the library reading and off campus. Well, I found an organization of Peruvians in San Diego and we are more or less like 100 people. And sometimes on weekends I usually get together with one of some Peruvians and we eat something or do activities like going to the beach, like getting together and, basically they are people who are not studying like me, but they are working, but they don't have a family. and we get together. They are boys my age, some older but there are others younger, but we all have that in common, not that we are from the same culture. So my moments of, that I'm not studying and that I'm not working for now. Eh, I, I dedicate myself to that, not to do sports. And when I have a little time I meet with my friends from Peru.

**[00:23:18] Joshua Chiu**

Well, I'm glad if you could find some people who have the same culture. In what ways do you think the university can better people in a similar position to yours?

**[00:23:41] Angela Tohalino**

As I mentioned before, I think the university does a good job on the issue of inclusion. I see that there is inclusion in the sense that there are many, many eh activities for people of all of all races, ethnicities and all of all communities. Globally speaking. I feel that perhaps the university cannot give a certain holiday for each country, because there are many countries in the world. I feel that Peru is a somewhat small country and that perhaps that is why there are not so many. Not much is known about this culture though. We do not have Machu Picchu, which is one of the seven wonders of the world. I feel that if there is support for the Latino community and at least I am happy about it, I have never felt like one, like racism or exclusion towards Latinos and my university on campus. And on the contrary, I've always felt that the university, whether it's my college, the university or my advisors, send me a lot of notices for parties, meetings, celebrations. Yes, a lot of Mexico, but basically Latin celebrations from our community. So I think improving would be that. follow more that more than improve, that they continue doing that work, that they continue teaching our culture and our race to others within their beliefs.



Basically Spanish makes us unite despite the fact that we are not from the same country, we have the same dialect which is already something important and we have also fought almost the same battles, not many times against the law, against racism, not against exploitation and that sort of thing. And the truth is that I don't think I could perhaps improve in some aspects that I don't know right now, but I can't think of many, but if I feel that they continue doing the same thing they do, they are doing very well so far, no.

**[00:25:59] Joshua Chiu**

Yes, I think so too, if they do a lot at school. Here I have the last question. During your studies here at UCSD, were there any memorable, positive moments? Also, if there was a less memorable moment, feel free to share it too.

**[00:26:22] Angela Tohalino**

Mmmmmmm. I think it might be memorable that I got accepted to the university. I had as I said before, I think it was. That they have given me the opportunity. For me it was memorable. I never thought that I would be able to enter this prestigious university. I tried very, very, very hard. These years I have studied a lot, but. But I feel like it wasn't just studying but also the way I told the story. I think they saw potential in me. And another important, memorable part. I think it was getting to know the campus. That was one of my dreams because I didn't know him, since I took online distance classes due to the pandemic. And being in the classes was also very, I felt very, very happy. I think that in this quarter everything is new for me. I feel very, and very, very happy with and apart from, yes, with the educational level I feel that it is very advanced and that makes me strive harder and feel, I feel happy to do it, no. I know it's a bit, you have to have a lot of education and studying is very hard, but it's also worth it, no. I think that summarizing all that is, is that it is not a memorable moment in the university, it is feeling that you compete with a lot of people who have a lot of potential and you are not part of that, and, and you are also part of the change, not of a new generation, of a future, of new research, a new one, new promotions that come out and come out to make a difference, no. Basically I liked it a lot, a lot, everything at the educational level at the university, no. And not memorable. I think feeling a little bit like isolated in the sense that I don't have a lot of friends is all new to me. Even on campus I don't feel that even after two months at the university I still don't know him completely and I walk a lot on campus and I feel that I have felt a bit isolated and it also makes me a little sad that it is

my last quarter no. I am sure that many students are like me, that some do not even have, they will have the opportunity to attend the campus. And yes, that's a bit sad, but it's not a problem that the university has fostered. On the contrary, it has not been a circumstantial thing. But I really am, I am, I am very, very, very happy with the education and, and well, I think basically they are one, not having had the opportunity to get more involved with my teammates, to get more involved with clubs, and not having as much So many connections. I think that would be something that I have not been able to cultivate in my career or in my time at university.

**[00:29:44] Joshua Chiu**

Perfect. That was the last question. Well, thank you very much for your time and ability to share your story, although it is not difficult. Thanks.

**[00:29:54] Angela Tohalino**

No, thanks to you.

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**END OF TRANSCRIPT**