

Bianca Martinez transcript

Brittany Brown: [00:00](#) I'm recording now. Today is November 30th and we are in Bishop Hall and I am interviewing Bianca Martinez for my thesis research titled at the Latino South Race and Racialization. To get started, are you 18 years or older?

Bianca Martinez: Yes.

Brittany Brown: And can you state and spell your first and last name?

Bianca Martinez: Bianca Martinez.

Brittany Brown: And when were you born?

Bianca Martinez: [00:29](#) November 12, 1997.

Brittany Brown: [00:31](#) And where are you from and where did you grow up?

Bianca Martinez: [00:34](#) Oh, I'm from the [inaudible]

Brittany Brown: [00:38](#) Yeah, when you can say like where you, where you are, where you're from and like where you mostly spend most of your childhood?

Bianca Martinez: [00:45](#) Okay. I was born in Mexico and then I moved to Itta Bena, Mississippi and I've lived there for most of my life.

Brittany Brown: [00:53](#) What brought your family from Mexico to Itta Bena?

Bianca Martinez: [01:07](#) I think just a better life, a better opportunity. Um, they're really low key about like some things because I think it was pretty bad and they don't want to talk about it.

Brittany Brown: [01:20](#) Like the move was pretty bad or like the reason for moving? Okay. And what about it'd be like, what was there?

Bianca Martinez: [01:28](#) Oh, I had family in Itta Bena and they were able to secure my parents' jobs. They're cool.

Brittany Brown: [01:35](#) And have you ever lived in any other places?

Bianca Martinez: [01:37](#) I've lived in Dallas before. I lived in need to be, but that was short and we moved back and forth between, but we

like stayed in. It'd be enough like after I was five, five and then in the state.

Brittany Brown: [01:53](#)

And then what brought you to Oxford?

Bianca Martinez: [01:55](#)

Um, college I applied here and this is the one, the university that I got the most aid from. So.

Brittany Brown: [02:01](#)

Is race an important part of your identity? Why or why not?

Bianca Martinez: [02:07](#)

Yes. Um, I think, um, it's something that just stands out, like the skin tone and um, I don't know, it's kind of a sensitive topic in the US and so I think, yeah, my race, it's pretty big part of me. Like it's the first thing you notice,

Brittany Brown: [02:44](#)

And um, how has your experience been at ole miss and living in Oxford?

Bianca Martinez: [02:49](#)

Um, it's been a kind of isolating but it's, it's okay.

Brittany Brown: [02:56](#)

Isolating how?

Bianca Martinez:

Well there's not that Latinos here, so it's not easy to relate to people. Like if you want to talk about like some goofy thing your parents did at home or something, they can be like, oh yeah, that's funny. Or something like that. I don't know. You can't talk about similar experiences, someone without feeling a connection or something like that.

Brittany Brown: [03:20](#)

And um, what is your major classification and some notable involvement that you have on campus?

Bianca Martinez: [03:26](#)

Oh, I am a biology major. Um, and I am in between my sophomore and my junior year and uh, some activities I do on campus. I am vice president of SASI. Uh, I'm part of or college dems. Um, yeah, that's it.

Brittany Brown: [03:48](#)

Okay. And um, what are the most important aspects of your life right now and why

Bianca Martinez: [03:56](#)

Right now is trying to, uh, finish school because of the uncertainty of what might happen for me in the future. It's important for me to finish school. So I have a future secure before in case something happens

Brittany Brown: [04:15](#) So the US Census Bureau considers race and ethnicity as two different concepts. What is your ethnicity?

Bianca Martinez: [04:25](#) Latino, Hispanic, right. I actually don't know the difference between like the ethnicity in. Could you explain it? I guess Latina and Hispanic.

Brittany Brown: Okay. And um, how do you identify racially?

Bianca Martinez: [05:09](#) Racially. Oh, okay. So it's Kinda weird because when you're signing like documents and stuff without asking you are you Hispanic or Latino? And then there'll be like, are you white, black or like native American? And every time I hit like white and native American, they'll be like, oh, so what's your native American social security number? And then I'm like, oh, I don't have one. So I guess I'm white. So that's what I usually just one.

Brittany Brown: [05:44](#) What are you parents' nationality and do you identify with their nationality?

Bianca Martinez: [05:49](#) Oh, they're Mexican and I'm also Mexican born like them.

Brittany Brown: [05:54](#) And um, do you identify as Hispanic or Latina?

Bianca Martinez: [05:58](#) Latina.

Brittany Brown: Is there a reason?

Bianca Martinez: [06:04](#) Latinos are in the US. The definition is different. Like, because Latinos can be like part of Latin descent in a way, and then Hispanics are like, but the definition is different in the US. So Latinos refers to like, like the, the country you were born. Right. So I think it will go with Latina.

Brittany Brown: [06:39](#) And so studies show that the Latino population in the US is growing. How do you think this will affect the way race or race relations is viewed in this country?

Bianca Martinez: [06:56](#) In the south it doesn't seem to be something that is becoming acceptable as fast as like cities with higher Latino, Latina, Hispanic populations. Um, but I'm hoping that Latinos will gain as much recognition as other like majorities.

Brittany Brown: [07:23](#) And how do you maintain your Latino culture while being a student here?

Bianca Martinez: [07:30](#) I try to cook as much Mexican food as I can and if I know someone that is Latino or speak Spanish, I try to communicate with them in Spanish or tell them to talk to me in Spanish because I want to keep it up because I don't use it as much.

Brittany Brown: [07:51](#) And um, has anyone ever asked you about your race or your ethnicity and how do you typically respond to these questions?

Bianca Martinez: [07:58](#) Um, yeah, a lot of people asked me and I usually just say I'm Mexican.

Brittany Brown: [08:04](#) In what way do they ask you what type of questions?

Bianca Martinez: [08:07](#) Oh, they're like, oh, are you Hispanic? I'm like, yeah, or are you Mexican? I'm like, yeah.

Brittany Brown: [08:15](#) And have you ever experienced or has anyone ever assumed, assumed something about you because of your race?

Bianca Martinez: [08:22](#) I've had some off the wall, like questions about if I was like Asian or something like that. I don't know, like that's a one time, one time I went to this VBS camp with this, with this white church and this boy was like, are you black? And I was like, no, stop. But yeah, that happened.

Brittany Brown: [08:49](#) And do you speak Spanish? If. Yes, how did you learn?

Bianca Martinez: [08:53](#) Yeah, I speak, I speak Spanish. I learned, um, well I was born in Mexico, so I learned, I already knew some Spanish and then when I moved here will communicate with my parents is the only way I could keep it up. So yeah.

Brittany Brown: [09:08](#) And um, how important is the ability to speak Spanish to the Latino culture?

Bianca Martinez: [09:12](#) Um, I think it's important to keep our, like Latino culture in the US and we shouldn't be ashamed to use it in public or anything. So yeah, I think it's important.

- Brittany Brown: [09:28](#) How does the university and the community both cater to and omit the and Latino population?
- Bianca Martinez: [09:37](#) Okay. Uh, I think on campus they do try to make an effort, um, like during Hispanic heritage month to like they hold events. But I think that they also don't do very well of trying to reach the audience and don't even try like this is for because like the, there isn't much Latinos here and no one is gonna. A lot of white people aren't going to be interested in that. And so if we had more Latinos, more people would come to those events and bring more people because I been to them and they're not that like grand, I don't know. They don't seem as grand as they should be.
- Brittany Brown: [10:32](#) And um, how do you view race in the US? And the south and here in Oxford
- Bianca Martinez: [10:38](#) I feel like it's really sensitive topic, um, but it's a topic that must be talked about if you put people of color in a room, they can easily talk about race because they can easily talk about what things we've faced and I think people shouldn't be afraid or they should just listen and just listen. And I think that if they actually listen and are open minded about it and relations would be better, race relations will be better in the US.
- Brittany Brown: [11:16](#) And how do you perceive the Latino population affecting the idea of racing yourself?
- Bianca Martinez: [11:21](#) How do I what? Sorry?
- Brittany Brown: [11:22](#) How do you perceive the Latino population affecting the idea of race in the south?
- Bianca Martinez: [11:27](#) Okay. Um, I think the south is starting to cater more to the Latino population, like in our grocery stores or it's like a small Hispanic section and, and um, but I don't think they know a lot about like the actual, like hurdles that we have to jump through to actually like be comfortable in the society and they haven't been able to do that as like they don't like, for example, the paper that I just wrote or not, I wrote that definitely broke. I'm like, a lot of people are talking about DACA now because someone mentioned it and because no one talked about before and I wish more people would come out and talk about things like that and we would have better relations

Brittany Brown: [12:40](#) What type of challenges do you face as a Latino student here?

Bianca Martinez: [12:55](#) There's a lot of isolation being isolated. I also, um, because the school doesn't offer scholarships for DACA students, it's kinda hard for me to pay tuition on time or pay tuition at all because one semester I didn't do that and so I wish they would do more and be better at that and try to get more outreach or something like that,

Brittany Brown: [13:30](#) And um, are there any other things that you'd like to discuss? Any of the topics that I didn't ask you?

Bianca Martinez: No.