

Collin Rivera transcript

Brittany Brown: [00:00](#) Alright, recording. Today's November 27th and I am interviewing Collin Rivera today for my thesis research titled, the Latino South Race and Racialization. I'm going to go ahead and get started. Are you 18 years or older?

Collin Rivera: Yes.

Brittany Brown: Okay. And can you state and spell your first and last name for the record?

Collin Rivera: [00:25](#) So Collin Rivera.

Brittany Brown: When were you born?

Collin Rivera: I was born in 1996. July twelfth.

Brittany Brown: [00:38](#) Alright, and where are you from and where did you grow up?

Collin Rivera: [00:41](#) So I'm from Tampa, Florida and I've grown up in Tampa, Florida my entire life.

Brittany Brown: So you never lived in any other place?

Collin Rivera: Never lived any anywhere else. Kind of moved around locally in the Tampa area, but we've always stayed locally like overall. So.

Brittany Brown: [00:57](#) So what brought you from Tampa to Oxford?

Collin Rivera: [01:00](#) Really, they approached me, the journalism program, they, they sent me a bunch of forms. I got a handwritten note from Dean Norton just saying, you know, if you're interested and set up a meeting, give a, we'll give a tour and everything. I took a tour here, uh, because I was originally looking at University of North Carolina, University of Georgia and I believe University of Florida kind of, um, and so really what drew me here was the class sizes were very small for the journalism programs versus the other schools. And really the out of state tuition wasn't as bad as the other ones would be like North Carolina was near the 70 grand range. Georgia was near 60 grand so that, that helped factor in a lot of decision making. So that I would

say mostly why I came here was the faculty in the people that approached me.

- Brittany Brown: [01:57](#) Is your race and important part of your identity? Why or why not?
- Collin Rivera: [02:09](#) Yeah, I think that as I've become older, I think it is, you know. On my mom's side mostly they're white ethnicity, you know, being from, from Ireland main region. But on my dad's side, they come from Cadiz, Spain, so they're, they're very proud of being from Spain. And my grandfather, who's my dad's dad at the time, he was from Puerto Rico. So his mom and his dad, his mom was from Spain and his dad was from Puerto Rico. So they take huge pride, obviously from a Latino standpoint. I mean, holidays were probably the biggest things for me. I mean, you could think of any kind of meal for, for the Latino community and that's literally what we were having. So I think that as I've grown older it's become a lot bigger deal obviously, you know, um, my religion being Catholic is huge and the Spain community and um, yeah, I would just say as I've grown older it's become more pressing issue I believe.
- Brittany Brown: [03:16](#) How has your experience been at Ole Miss and living in Oxford?
- Collin Rivera: [03:21](#) I would say, you know, um, just because of, I guess the, the level of the question if I'm looking from a Latino standpoint, um, there really hasn't been any presence. Um, you know, besides I would say, you know, restaurants and, you know, some events and parties, there really hasn't been that much exposure. Um, I would say it's been overall pleasant, you know? Um, definitely like I said, you know, before I was light during the winter seasons, like I get really white, so like it doesn't really show, but um, when I'm in Florida, like you can tell like, oh yeah, this kid's definitely either Puerto Rican or some kind of Latino. Um, but I'd say overall I haven't had any, any main issues living in, in Oxford.
- Brittany Brown: [04:11](#) And uh, what is your major classification and some notable involvement that you have on campus?
- Collin Rivera: [04:16](#) Yeah. So I'm a senior broadcast journalism major sports emphasis and the most involvement I've done is, is NewsWatch and Rebel Radio. Um, I have a sports talk

show that's two hours to two days a week for rebel radio and then on the sports director for NewsWatch.

Brittany Brown: [04:36](#) What are the most important aspects of your life right now and why?

Collin Rivera: [04:42](#) I think that, um, one thing that I've noticed, especially this past year, his family's very important, um, lost my grandmother this past spring and unfortunately I wasn't able to go down to see her before she passed. So I would say the biggest aspect that's important to me is, is just appreciating life. I've become more familiar with, you know, don't work too hard because at the end of the day your health is most important and if you're not alive to work then it doesn't matter what kind of work you're doing. So, um, I've, I've tried to find a balance of enjoying the little things, enjoying life, family moments, stuff like that versus just work, work, work and, you know, try to try to pay bills, student loans and stuff like that.

Brittany Brown: [05:28](#) And so the US Census Bureau considers race and ethnicity is two different things. Um, what is your ethnicity? What do you consider?

Collin Rivera: [05:37](#) Yeah, on the, on the census, I typically will put Latino. On standardized tests, I would typically put Caucasian, not really sure why that was probably just because I was in high school, you know, being the knucklehead that I was. Um, but typically on the census, I like to put Latino just because I think that that in more, if they get more data from, from people and my grandmother would kill me if I, if I didn't put that on the census.

Brittany Brown: [06:06](#) Was there a reason? Like why in high school...

Collin Rivera: [06:10](#) Yeah. You know, growing and learning, understanding. Yeah. So the high school I went to, I, I would say there was maybe four percent like minorities that went to my high school. The rest were predominantly white. Um, you could think of the most stereotypical like rich white, upper class student body is pretty much what I went with. And um, when I was in high school it didn't really affect me too much. I mean I was, I was very sports driven so I cared about was sports. I didn't really care about anything else that was going on. Um, so I guess that's kind of why was such a knucklehead. I mean I only focused on sports. I

played soccer for 14 years, so that was really taking up the majority of my time. We, we would practice Monday, Wednesday, Thursdays, and then we'd have a game on Saturday and Sunday. So literally that's, that's pretty much what took up my time. And then I was involved in the newspaper. I was the sports editor for my high school. So yeah, I mean sports was just 24/seven, so really didn't have anything else to think about.

Brittany Brown: [07:21](#) So in a way where you like I guess like trying to blend in and just dedicate yourself to sports?

Collin Rivera: [07:29](#) Yeah, high school was definitely tough for me. Um, I was, I was bullied quite a lot, especially in my freshman and sophomore year. Um, and I don't know if it was, you know, racial based or because you know, I was very goofy looking kid, you know, I had a, I was very, like I said, soccer oriented. So anything, any haircut, Renaldo had or Messi had. That's kind of haircut I would have because one, it's just, you know, you look really good in it when you have a soccer jersey on the uniform on. But um, yeah, for, for whatever reason was, was bullied a lot in my freshman or freshman and sophomore years of high school. Junior year I kind of just started sticking up for myself and I was, I pretty much had enough. I, I've fortunately had good enough, um, teachers that actually cared about how I was doing outside of classes. So, um, that helped me a lot. But I guess you could say, you know, just trying to fit in, you know, I guess you could say blend in, but I was really just trying to just get through the years I was, I was looking mostly forward to college. Um, I grew up on FSU football with Bobby Bowden and um, I grew up on Georgia football as well. And so that was really like one of the main things because Georgia was my top school, like I was, I was determined to go to the of Georgia. And then when I found out, you know, it's going to cost all this out of state tuition, I wouldn't have the scholarships that I needed, it just wasn't gonna happen. So during high school, that's mostly what I was looking forward to this college. I wasn't, I wasn't too focused on blending in. I was just looking to get out of high school more so.

Brittany Brown: [09:14](#) In college, have you found your experience be different or fulfilling?

- Collin Rivera: [09:20](#) Yeah, I think, I think with college I've, I've found the right niches. I think that, you know, it's a little bit easier I would say, and in a sense to find who you can hang out with, um, because, you know, it's with high school there's the social norms, like, oh, you gotta be you gotta be doing this in order to be with this college, it's a little bit more different. Um, there's still that, that perspective obviously no matter where you go, I mean even in the workplace that's going to happen as well. So I would say it was easier in college, I've definitely enjoyed college a lot more than high school. Um, but yeah, I would say was, it's been easier in college than it has in high school because my high school is like a very narrowed version of, of like the race issues that like owned is, that is, that is pretty much my high school. But just more like specific driven. So.
- Brittany Brown: [10:17](#) And uh, what are your parents' nationality? Do you identify with their nationality?
- Collin Rivera: [10:22](#) Yeah. So, um, during the World Cup, I was huge into Spain, like I love every, every bit of Spain. Um, whenever my mom will make international trips because she sees sometimes has, I think it's every four years they go on a major, like city trips. And so she went to Madrid and I was like, well, you gotta get me something from Madrid because that's one of the places I haven't been to. I've been to Italy and Greece, but like I've been dying to go to Spain, like um, whether it be Barcelona or Madrid. Um, as of right now, because like I said, my grandma passed this past spring. She was from Cadiz, so like I want to see where she grew up. Um, the records are all there and everything, so I really just want to see where she grew up, the kind of city that's like because it's a port city, so I'm very interested to see, see how that is.
- Brittany Brown: [11:16](#) And you said one of your parents is a Spanish and the other is Irish?
- Collin Rivera: [11:21](#) Yeah. Um, I definitely don't identify as an Irishman whatsoever. Um, I think that's more so my mom is just because her last name was Tune. She obviously married into Rivera and Tune is just a very, very Irish heritage name and pretty much the backstory with them is I think they immigrated in the early 1900s versus my dad's family. They integrated in the 1930ish region. So, um, yeah, I don't really identify as, as an Irish. Um, I definitely feel like if I

went to Spain I would fit in a lot better there or even go to Puerto Rico. I'd fit a lot better in there than I would in Ireland. I, I just really haven't had any big interest in Ireland.

Brittany Brown: [12:15](#)

How do you identify racially?

Collin Rivera:

Yeah, I think racially I typically do white just because I'm not Spanish speaking. So I think that's one of the biggest drawbacks for me is that I think if you're Hispanic you have to know at least some kind of Spanish, like whether you can understand if someone's talking to you and you may not be able to speak it or you can speak it fluently. I think that's a major key. Um, one of the things I've been trying to do is, you know, is get Rosetta stone, like try to learn Spanish. I tried to do it here, but with the language program, like they're so fast paced, like I could understand it on paper because like I did Latin for four years in high school so I could read Spanish. Like if somebody wrote out what they're saying to me, I could typically get four to five words out of the sentence. But I'm orally, I can't, I can't understand unless it's spoken to me really, really slow. So racially I usually do white, um, and Tampa, you know, I guess it's not a to racially driven city, you know, you can, you're fine. Whoever you are in Tampa. Um, but yeah, I would say typically white just because I can't speak Spanish and that's a big piece to me. If I can speak Spanish then I think I would be able to, to be labeled as that.

Collin Rivera: [13:43](#)

Um, I do Hispanic more so I'm just, because once again, the whole going back to Spain, Puerto Rico. Um, I used to be huge, like Puerto Rican roots back in the day I would say probably my middle school years just because of my, my grandma was relatively younger than what she was because she passed when she was 85 years old. So I'm doing my math. She was relatively in our seventies, mid seventies, so she still was able to move around. Um, she would show me all the kinds of stuff that my grandfather did. And um, the interesting thing I guess with my family on that side is that everybody could speak it fluently and then like the, my dad was the cutoff point because they believed that in order to make it in this country you need to speak English versus, you know, you're just going to only speak Spanish. And they thought that was a major disadvantage. So whenever, you know, somebody speak into my dad and in Spanish he knows exactly what they're

saying. He can't speak a lick of it because he wasn't taught it, but he knows, he knows what they're saying. So I typically, I went a little off the road there, but I typically will, will do Hispanic. Um, I guess it, it kind of just depends on the situation. So

Brittany Brown: [15:10](#) Is there a reason that you use the term Hispanic more so in identifying yourself rather than Latino?

Collin Rivera: [15:17](#) Yeah. Um, I think it's more so I just think that this is probably my brain, just being ignorant, just Hispanic and I typically just tie Hispanic, Hispanic, Spanish. So once again, I may show just how much, you know, we're, it's, I have, um, I just haven't, you know, I've noticed when I've gone to different events in Tampa and stuff that the Latino community has different kind of culture than Hispanic and I think that one thing that I've noticed is that they're coming closer together as, as time has gone on, but I don't think there's really any, any reason for it. I would say Latino just as much as Hispanic.

Brittany Brown: [15:59](#) So like the correlation that you have is correct. So Hispanic, it does refer to Spain or Spanish speaking people and Latino refers to people of Latin American descent. But that's interesting that you say like in Tampa there was a separation between Hispanic and Latino. A lot of times people use it interchangeably. Could you maybe talk about that a little bit because you're only the second person I've talked to from Florida and I feel like that's like an entirely different demographic of people.

Collin Rivera: [16:26](#) So I'm a perfect example. You know, you probably the person you already talked to from Florida, if you go to Miami and then you go to Tampa, totally different spectrum because obviously the Cuban community is huge in Miami versus Tampa. It's kind of a melting pot. You get Puerto Rican, so you get people from Spain that have immigrated over and then you get the Cuban immigrants as well. So one of the biggest things that I notice his food was a, was a real thing that I grew up on and like anybody knows Latino and Hispanic food can be very different. Um, so one of the things that I noticed, it's really not that they would differentiate from themselves, but once again you would know like in Tampa, you would know if you're Latino or if you're Hispanic, just because of maybe of how you dress or once again with just like in English there's,

there's different slanes in terms. So, um, they, you would be able to tell with that. But yeah, I'm, I'm surprised that you haven't gotten as many answers that, that there are different because I'm personally think that they are. I can notice it so different and like where the people come from, where their roots are or can you give me more examples of like the cultural difference in like how they dress, but like,

Collin Rivera: [17:50](#)

yeah, so in, in my personal experience I've noticed with Hispanics is that Catholic, you know, religion has been pushed really, really hard on. I can't speak for the Latino community because obviously I wasn't raised in that, but I feel that with Latino, you know, just going off the history that I've learned in, in Latin America is it's very, you know, listen to the arch bishop and everything like that. In the church versus Cat Catholicism, it's a little bit different because you're pretty much given the lesson and the lesson you have to pass on to everybody else. And I think that with the Latino community, religious wise, they feel more. I'm looking for the term of they, they need to go more to church versus Hispanics. They love church but it's not, it's not the number one like driving a pressing issue for them. And I think that that's one of the biggest things that I've noticed culturally. And then I would say, once again, the food is huge, whether it be the way black beans are cooked, I mean that could be a totally different thing whether they're, they're sauteed or they're cooked for hours on end. I mean that's the kind of things that matter and um, you know, I think that I can't personally speak for, for how they dress differently, but one of the things that I would notice like in Tampa is that Hispanics would typically dress the term, I guess higher end. I guess that's the term I would be looking for versus Latino would be more of the middle-class type dress. So that was, those were kind of the biggest things I've noticed in Tampa. So.

Brittany Brown: [19:45](#)

And we'll go ahead and move forward with the questions. Yeah. So studies show that the Latino population is growing in the US. How do you think this will affect the way race or race relations in this country?

Collin Rivera: [19:57](#)

Well, I think it's really interesting because obviously we already know about president trump. We already know about the caravan that's going on. I think that we are at a pivotal time and I think it's very interesting that you and me get to experience this at such a young age to at least say,

you know, we remember when this happens, we remember when that happens. I could say that this is the, the civil rights type movement back to Chavez for the Latino community that this is as big as I would say that scenario with, um, with the immigration that's going on. And I think that how it'll affect the race is I think race relations will. Well, I hope so. I hope that they will be good. Um, it's interesting to see once again coming from Tampa, the relations here in the south and how the south is a perfect example where the, where the nooses were put up on the state capital. Um, I've never seen that before in my life, like in Tampa and we've never had any issues like that when the whole, I think it was last year when all the confederate statues were going to pull down, like Tampa just pulled their's down like nobody protested, nobody care. And they were like, yeah, take the, take the statue down. We don't care. Me Personally, I didn't even know there was a confederate statue like in front of, in front of the, uh, City Hall. So I think that the way it'll affect race is that we'll see the population continue to grow. But race relations I think will be very interesting within, I would say two and a half, three years is what is what we'll see. It'll either be positive or it'll, it'll get worse. So there really isn't an in between on that.

Brittany Brown:

How do you maintain your Latino culture while being a student at the university?

Collin Rivera:

[21:56](#)

Yeah. So one of the biggest things is what I do is food again. Um, I'll make plan a lot. Um, I enjoy those quite a bit. And anybody from the Latino community knows that if you make plantations properly, they're really, really good. Um, and then soccer soccer's a huge thing for me. Um, I typically will watch La Liga soccer, which is the Spain, Spain League of soccer. So that's where Messi plays, that's where Rinaldo used to play, but Real Madrid, Barcelona, those are like the teams. So that's about as best as I can do. I'm here at Ole Miss, I know there's some parties, but um, you personally know me that there's too much, there's way too much work schedule for me go into to have time to do that kind of stuff.

Brittany Brown:

So what are some challenges you face at the university?

Collin Rivera:

[22:55](#)

Yeah, I think this is what I said earlier is where there isn't much presence here. You know, I think that it's one that

could, you could say as a country has been overlooked severely, is that there's, there's this minority that's here, but they're not being acknowledged and I think that the Latino community, I think also the, the Arabic Muslim community as well as one here that has not been acknowledged whatsoever. So I think that, you know, some of the challenges that I face is what if I wanted to have a Thanksgiving where I, you know, I have a Moho pork or something like that and I'm not able to fly back down to Tampa. I need to have it here. There really aren't a, there really aren't platforms for me to go with that. I would say as a university they need to step up to the plate with that, but once again they may not even know that it's going on because the Latino community is so overlooked.

Brittany Brown: [24:01](#) And. Has anyone ever asked you about your race and ethnicity and how do you typically respond to these questions if they do or not?

Collin Rivera: [24:09](#) Yeah, I think that it's very interesting. Minorities will actually ask me where I'm from because once again, if it's not the winter months they'll see my skin color in the last they'll go, are you from Mexico or are you from Puerto Rico or Dominican Republic? Any of those. And I go, no, I'm Puerto Rican and in Spain. And so typically it's, it's very ironic to see that minorities will ask versus if it's whites, I think you know, I'm at that stage of a, I pass as white so they would just seem that I'm white.

Brittany Brown: [24:44](#) And how do you, how do you respond to those questions? I guess how to say it might make you feel to kind of acknowledge like white people assume that you're white because you're white passing, but then minorities. I guess in a sense, can you kind of look at you and know, hey, there's something else.

Collin Rivera: [25:00](#) Um, I think it's, I think it's interesting to attention of detail is the biggest thing that comes to my mind is that minorities have a huge attention to detail when it comes to meeting people versus white people. I don't know if it's just on how they're raised or if it's just been passed down for so long. It's almost as if they're too busy to acknowledge any kind of history that you have culturally wise. If it's not, their culture doesn't really matter. So I don't know if, if that's the case or not. Obviously I'm speaking on a huge, broad term, but me experience wise, I, I appreciate it when I'm asked

because I just think that, you know, unless I'm wearing a soccer jersey, typically white people won't ask, oh, are you from like if I'm wearing a jersey or you have family in Spain, that's usually the, the open to conversation versus if I'm, if I'm in Tampa for example, um, you know, have, it could be the littlest thing and can be shopping at a, at a store. And they'll be like, oh, you know, you gotta you got some dark skin to you are you from so and so. And I'll be like, yeah, my, my dad's family is from there. So.

Brittany Brown: [26:23](#) And um, have you ever experienced any assumptions about your character because of your perceived race and ethnicity?

Collin Rivera: [26:32](#) Yeah. Um, I guess in, in high school I had, I had the typical strawberry joke, um, which was obviously a huge stereotype of owing and working on strawberry field because I was so dark. Like, I mean I was, I was pretty dark as, as a kid because once again, like I said, I played soccer for like five, six days out of the week. Okay. So, um, it's, it's pretty much a Florida stereotypes. So a lot of the Latino community will work in strawberry fields pretty much all year round because it's the best paying job, but they can typically get. And so because they work in a field, because Florida is like 95 degrees year round, is that their skin color gets so dark that you can easily identify like, yeah, they work in a field somewhere. So in high school, and this goes back to my freshman and sophomore years, is that as, especially when I'm like, that was the number one stereotype that you played soccer. Yeah, yeah. I would just play soccer and you know, when, when it's 95 degrees out, like of course I'm going to, I'm going to be getting darker. I don't, I'm one of the one things that like I first realized when I was like, Oh yeah, I'm definitely like Puerto Rican or Spanish is I would not get sunburned. Like I would just get darker. That's, that's how it worked. I would occasionally get like peeling on my nose and stuff, but this would never get sunburn my arms and like, so yeah, it was, it was really just in high school. Um, college once again, I think it's just the visible. I have not acknowledging the Latino community and I think, you know, once again us being, I guess you could say fortunate enough to see all the race issues go on here for four years at Ole miss has been very um, black versus white, not just minority versus white.

- Collin Rivera: [28:35](#) And I think that's one of the biggest issues that, you know, the Latino community wants to speak out, but who's listening? That's the biggest thing. So personally I haven't had any issues in university, but I think that's also because they're not acknowledged much. So do you speak Spanish? I, you talked about this a little bit earlier. If yes, how did you learn? If no, why not? Yeah, so I'm pretty much at the, I wouldn't even say kindergarten level of Spanish. I wouldn't know, you know the words for door and yes and no. And Hello? Goodbye. Good morning. So I know those I can't structure, you know, if I want to say something and passive voice or active. I can't do that yet. Um, but I can read Spanish. That's one of the things because obviously learning Latin for I did four years in high school and I'm almost at year two here at Ole miss. That's almost six years of Latin. I can pretty much read anything in Spanish. Like if I was given desk, Pacino, like on a piece of paper I could easily understand being being a set on paper, but orally is, is the biggest thing that I, I challenged with.
- Brittany Brown: [29:47](#) And why do you not speak Spanish? Just like you can tell that story again. I'm your father. And then you talked about earlier.
- Collin Rivera: [29:53](#) Yeah. So when my dad's mom and father immigrated here to, they originally went to Ellis island. They did the oh gee way of, of coming, coming through the, uh, rather than going to Miami at the time because I don't think they had it at the time for, to go through my butt. Went through Ellis Island in like the 19 thirties, late twenties. And um, they eventually migrated down to Tampa and one of the biggest things that, this was more my dad's mom is that she thought that the best way to get a job in the future is, yeah, you gotta you gotta learn English. Like you can't, you can't just keep speaking Spanish and not understand anybody that speaks English to you. And so my dad's, my dad was like the cut off point where, you know, if he wanted to learn Spanish and wanting to speak it and by all means we'll teach you, but otherwise, you know, you're just gonna learn English. And so after that, I mean my dad couldn't teach it to me and my brother. So we were kind of the cutoff point, which kind of sucks because I wish I would have not been the cutoff point. So I could speak it and pass that down, but yeah, that's, that's the main reason why I'm not able to speak Spanish right now. So,

Brittany Brown: [31:16](#) and how important is the ability to speak Spanish to the Latino culture?

Collin Rivera: [31:21](#) I think it's huge. I think that you, you think about once again with, with white people, they've got their, their slain in English and their slain in Spanish. I mean just in any culture, you know, when I went to Italy and Greece in Greek, I mean people were, were speaking slain and they would be laughing and it'd be like, Oh, you don't understand, it's a slang term. And they would try to say it in English and then I'd finally piece it together and it's an Italian was the same way. Um, so it's just like any culture, you know, I think it's, once again, it's an, it's an inclusion type thing. And in today's society, almost everybody, every country, almost every country can understand English. If it's spoken to them, they may not be able to speak it back, but they'll know what you're saying. Versus, you know, when you speak Spanish here, some people will be like, I don't know what they're saying, like it will sound like just like Charlie Brown where they're just murmuring and you have no idea what they're saying. So I think it, I think it's huge.

Brittany Brown: [32:24](#) How does the university have cater to and omit the Latino community?

Collin Rivera: [32:34](#) Yeah, I think that as the community, the best thing that I've seen is they give venues for, for events and that's about it. I'm one of the most striking things is if you ever get spare time, like just spend about two and a half hours at elegant bay or any other Mexican restaurants and just listened to the workers talking to each other and none of the customers now what people are saying, the majority of them, some of them do because they're, they're able to speak Spanish, but most of the people can never. I can never understand what they're saying. So I think that that's the biggest, um, like the question says, you know, um, it, uh, to the community is that there really isn't any integration where you're allowed to, to flourish as a minority here in Oxford that I've noticed versus, you know, really anybody you can be from, you could be a white guy from middle of nowhere, Canada and you could probably fit in just fine here versus, you know, if you're, if you lived in California whole life and you're dominant in your dominant language is Spanish, you come here, it's gonna be hard. It's probably going to take you at

least a year to get integrated with the right, the right niche. So I think that's the biggest struggle that the university has.

Brittany Brown:

How do you view race in the US? The South?

Collin Rivera:

Yeah. So in Oxford, I think that it's almost like a rubber band that hasn't snapped yet almost. Um, I think that in the 19 60s it was obviously snapped when, when James Meredith came onto campus and you know, people, people died literally just for a guy trying to go to a public university. So I think that as of right now, I think it's, it's a little bit of hidden racism in my mind. I think it's the, it's the smile and wave, but then behind they're like, oh, it's that person. So I think that's the problem in Oxford and I think that could, can honestly be the problem in the south. I think Alabama is definitely a little more blunt about it. I'm not that Mississippi is, and I'm not trying to knock states by one another, but I think in the south it's, it's very interesting because I have, I have people that I know that are older and they don't see a problem with the confederate flag or they don't see a problem with the statues and they're like, it's piece of history and you know, they only counterargument I give is I'm like, yeah, the, you know, the Nazi flag was part of history, you know, Germany's not out here flying that publicly. So I think that in the south people are just hanging onto stuff they don't need to hang onto. And I, I once again being from Tampa, you know, that may be just my viewpoint versus somebody who's lived in the south their whole life and that's just what they believe. But I mean, I've, I've voted for the flag and taken down on campus. I was like, who cares? I'm like, why does it need to be up? It's, I'm not from Mississippi. It's got the confederate symbol on. I'm like, I don't, I don't see the, I don't see why it can't be taken down. Like it's obviously going to offend people, but in the US it's very interesting. Um, just because you look at obviously the presidency that's going on right now. Um, it's, it's very, very interesting because it's just, it's just more disappointing because you look at, you know, you go to other countries and there's racism and other countries too. I'm not going to the gate and say other countries are perfect, but it's just very disappointing when you, when you talk about, you know, home of the free home of the brave and, you know, you see, one of the things that struck me, you know, my dad's a police officer. The security guard that got killed in Chicago... I mean this guy literally pins down the shooter and the police officers

end up killing the security officer instead of, you know, saying good job, like a job. And because, you know, I, I purely believe in a, in a city like Chicago is because of his ethnicity. And I think that there's too many turning of, of the heads and I think it's because it makes people uncomfortable. But when you see multiple, multiple black people getting gunned down by police officers or really just anybody at this point, um, the school shootings, you know, you, it's hard to turn and I, when, when all this stuff is going on and I think that it comes down to parenting in my opinion. I think that, you know, yes, you've got to be like, if it falls on, on who leads us in the presidency, but I think the only way it changes is at the local level is if parents teach their kids like, hey, it doesn't matter if you're, you know, purple like Barney the dinosaur or, or any skin color doesn't matter. You know, you just treat people with respect. You'll get respect back. And I think that the race issue here is that there's not respect. There's not that I give you respect and get respect back. It's the, it's the past history of, Oh, you know, I watched a season of Narcos, so the Latino community, it's just a bunch of drug smugglers or I watched 12 years a slave. So, you know, they've endured enough. They're obviously very privileged now in today's society, the black community. So I think that there's too much of, of holding onto legacies and past issues for people on all these levels. Local, south, regional and um, and nationally to, to, to just make a change. And I think that's like, you know, tying back to earlier in the interview, I think it's going to be very interesting with them two and a half to three years to see where this country's going to go, whether we're going to have. Because I don't think I could be totally wrong, I don't think the race issues are going to get any worse. I think it says worse as it could possibly get. Once again, you know, crossing my fingers, you know, probably could get worse, but you know, it's either going to stay as bad or there's going to be improvements. And I think that, you know, people have to look in the mirror and see, you know, how do you treat your neighbor and you know, if you're not even treating your neighbor right then that's obviously one of the first steps you need to make to change.

Brittany Brown:

And how do you perceive the Latino population affecting the idea of race?

Collin Rivera:

[39:46](#)

Yeah. So tying back to my, my home state of Florida is the huge stereotype is that, you know, people will come on rafts from Cuba or wherever. Especially when you know, um, Fidel Castro and his family were in rule. That was the huge stereotype is um, people are washing up ashore from Cuba and I think that in, in this, in the state of Florida is the stereotypes need to be changed. Have they just work in strawberry fields or they work in any kind of field and that's all they do. I think that, you know, anybody that knows that the Latino community is very, very welcoming and they're, at least from my personal experience that they are built strictly on respect. Like if you give them respect to get respect right back, if you disrespect them, you're going to get disrespect right back. So I think that, you know, how their population will affect the idea of race is that once they are acknowledged enough, because you know, I saw, I saw today on, I think it was NBC need the image of, you know, this Latino woman and her children getting tear gassed at the, at the border, you know, those are the kinds of things where it almost, you almost have to show those things in order to wake up. I mean, one of the perfect examples was the holocaust going on in world war two. Literally the white population didn't think it was happening here in America until, you know, we had to have generals go, now you're going to film this. So people can realize like, hey, this happened. Otherwise it will be for a forgotten. I think that with the Latino community is when you see these images, you need to acknowledge what's going on and then you need to. You need to treat them just as, as any other person and in the US that has just as just as many rights as, as they do. So once you, once you treat, you know, respect with respect, I think that's when you'll see change.

Brittany Brown:

[41:56](#)

Are there any other points or topics that you'd like to discuss that I didn't ask you?

Collin Rivera:

[42:06](#)

Um, I mean, not off the top of my head.