

Jazmine Herbert transcript

- Speaker 1: [00:00](#) All right, so today is November 28th. We are in the center for inclusion and cross cultural engagement. I'm conducting an interview with Jazmine Herbert for my honors thesis research title, the Latino South Race and Racialization. So we'll go ahead and get started. Are you 18 years old or. Okay. And can you state and spell your first and last name for the record?
- Speaker 2: [00:26](#) Sure. Jazmine Herbert
- Speaker 1: [00:34](#) and when were you born?
- Speaker 2: [00:36](#) I was born June 26, 1999.
- Speaker 1: [00:39](#) And where did you grow up and where are you from?
- Speaker 2: [00:41](#) I grew up in the Maryland area for part of my childhood then I moved to DC.
- Speaker 1: [00:47](#) And um, where in Maryland?
- Speaker 2: [00:49](#) I grew up in silver spring, Maryland for the beginning of my childhood. And then when I was about eight I moved to DC with my grandparents and my mom.
- Speaker 1: [00:58](#) Okay. And um, what, what kind of motivated that moved from Maryland to DC and then ultimately you moving from DC here to ask her?
- Speaker 2: [01:07](#) Sure. I, my grandparents actually had a house in silver spring originally, but my grandpa, his dream was to always have a brick house, so they went house hunting and my grandpa fell in love with the house as well as my grandma and my mom and that ultimately made them move to DC.
- Speaker 1: [01:24](#) And what about moving to Oxford?
- Speaker 2: [01:26](#) Oh Gosh. I feel like Oxford was such a whim. It was like just such a like last minute decision. I really liked the campus, which was great and that was what made me come here originally.
- Speaker 1: [00:00](#) So is race an important part of your identity? Why or why not?

Speaker 2: [00:09](#) It is different because I think that it's important to remember your roots and where you actually came from instead of where you're living.

Speaker 1: [00:19](#) And um, how has your experience been at the university and living in Oxford?

Speaker 2: [00:26](#) It's been hard. I haven't had like the best experience ever and it's been me view the university and Oxford differently now that I've actually been here for a good bit, but it's been okay.

Speaker 1: [00:41](#) What's been hard about it? I'm like, how has it affected your view of the university?

Speaker 2: [00:48](#) I find it to be isolating. I do, I just, I wish that the Hispanic community was bigger here. That's something I would like to see change.

Speaker 1: [00:58](#) And is that what you find to be isolating the fact that the Hispanic community is so small? Are there, are, are there other factors playing into that as well?

Speaker 2: [01:07](#) Sure. I think that definitely Greek, like a, like Greek life on campus makes things isolating too because it's like almost like a club, you know, there's elite club and it seems like that's the only way you can really make friends, you know. But living in Oxford, I mean I liked the town itself, I think it's a cute little town and I think it definitely has its up and downs for sure.

Speaker 1: [01:36](#) And what is your view of Oxford and the university mail after being here for a little, for a while

Speaker 2: [01:42](#) I liked the campus, don't get me wrong. I think the university needs to work on a lot of different issues that had been kind of swept under the rug, like the building's ventures and Lamar at that they have to be renamed as well as meek and how that's still a slow process because it still hasn't been changed and it's been a good while. So to see those changes.

Speaker 1: [02:03](#) So back to you were saying that the Latino community is so small, um, is that something that is different for you? Like did you grow up in a majority Hispanic or Latino community? And then coming to the Mississippi and to the

university because I had been a culture shock. What, how would you compare the culture here to your home?

- Speaker 2: [02:26](#) I think that, you know, when I'm back home I see all these different races, Hispanic, Asian, Indian, more so than here. So when I go back home, like when I was walking through the airport, going back home for Thanksgiving break, I was like, oh my gosh, like this is like such a culture shock already, you know, seeing all the different people. And I've always gone to like the Hispanic parts of Maryland in DC. Some really I'm used to, I'm used to seeing a lot. But here I'd say every once in a blue moon I feel like.
- Speaker 1: [03:06](#) And what is your major classification in some notable involvement that you have on campus?
- Speaker 2: [03:11](#) Sure. I am currently a psych major with a minor in education and I would like to become a school counselor.
- Speaker 1: [03:18](#) And what's your classification?
- Speaker 2: [03:21](#) Sophomore.
- Speaker 1: [03:22](#) Okay. And um, do you have any involvement on campus?
- Speaker 2: [03:26](#) Currently? Not as right now, I'm just a student worker currently for the Center for inclusion and cross culture engagement, which I've enjoyed a lot.
- Speaker 1: [03:34](#) And um, what are the most important aspects of your life right now and why? And we're going to pause and wait for that. Pick it up.
- Speaker 2: [03:45](#) The most important aspects of my life right now are probably just. Oh, okay. I'll think about it.
- Speaker 1: [03:54](#) Okay. So whenever you might typically do this in an isolated room so we don't have like office noise but that's okay. It gives us time to think about it.
- Speaker 2: [04:29](#) Okay. Whenever you're ready. The most important aspects of my life right now are just really trying to focus on school and really trying to get outta here as soon as I can.
- Speaker 1: [04:41](#) And does that have something to do with the culture here or.

Speaker 2: [04:47](#) Yeah, pretty much. I just, I'm much happier when I'm at home. Like that's home. I don't think anything in the world could ever replace that and I just would like to graduate soon.

Speaker 1: [05:03](#) And so are you planning to like leave this university and finished her degree at another university? He closed on a home or

Speaker 2: [05:14](#) hopefully that would be like the dream. That'd be the dream to go back to graduate school maybe in Baltimore, Maryland.

Speaker 1: [05:21](#) So you're going to stay here for Undergrad? Yes. And um, let's see. Number 11. Yeah. So now we're going to get it more into questions about race and identity. The previous missions were just more about background and getting to know yield. So the US Census Bureau considers race and ethnicity is two different concepts. What is your ethnicity?

Speaker 2: [05:43](#) Hispanic. I feel like I've always said Hispanic, not really used Latino or Latina.

Speaker 1: [05:50](#) And um, what is your parent's nationality and do you identify with their nationalities?

Speaker 2: [05:55](#) Sure. My grandparents on my mom's side, born and raised in Mexico, came over to the states when they are about in their mid twenties legally. And my mom was born in the states as well as my uncle on my dad's side. His whole family is in Mexico currently and he came over to the states when he was about 17.

Speaker 1: [06:20](#) So both of your parents are Mexican? Yes. Okay. And, um, do you identify as a Mexican American? I do. And um, how do you identify racially? What is your race and why?

Speaker 2: [06:36](#) I would say definitely Hispanic. I would, I mean I do consider myself, you know, Mexican American, so I always on like the forms. I always put Hispanic.

Speaker 1: [06:47](#) And um, do you identify as Hispanic or Latina and why? Which term do you prefer more?

- Speaker 2: [06:54](#) I've just always said Hispanic. Sometimes I'll say Latina, but that's like every once in a blue moon, but Hispanic has just been something I've always said.
- Speaker 1: [07:03](#) And is there a reason or just.
- Speaker 2: [07:06](#) I don't know, I was just kind of like, it's one of those things you kind of say without thinking about it, you know,
- Speaker 1: [07:11](#) is that the language that your parents use? Like the, that's what they told you, like you're Hispanic. Um, is that something that the language that you use in your home, Hispanic or you just kind of gravitated more to Hispanic?
- Speaker 2: [07:24](#) I feel like I've just gravitated more to Hispanic on most forms I filled out. It always says Hispanic.
- Speaker 1: [07:29](#) Okay. And um, 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 is viewed in the country?
- Speaker 2: [07:40](#) I, I've seen that the population is supposed to, you know, grow like a crazy amount, which is not shocking, but it is shocking to most people and I think that's, I think that's, I really think that's great. And I really hope that the nation changes their views because right now we do, you know, have a president who did bash on Mexican specifically and I really hope that people open their eyes to, to not be us. So negatively.
- Speaker 1: [08:13](#) And um, how do you maintain your Hispanic culture while being a student?
- Speaker 2: [08:18](#) Oh Gosh, I love listening to Mexican music, Hispanic music. Um, I like, I like watching novellas and I just, it's Kinda hard here. I will say that because it's such a small culture here and there's not much Hispanic related in the town itself, but I try just to, I try to read in Spanish too so I can just practice.
- Speaker 1: [08:49](#) And um, what are some challenges you face at the university as a Hispanic student?
- Speaker 2: [08:57](#) I feel like, you know, I was driving back home with a friend and on, on the back of a windshield of a car, it said build the wall, trump. And I was like, what, like how could

someone, you know, have the heart to really put that in on the back of their car as a sticker. And I think that's, that was hard for me to even like look at or to even like think like this is actually real. It's not just, you know, something I'm imagining and I think it's hard because Latinos and Latinas I think are just misunderstood in the car on the campus. Um, especially with some students and I think people are just really quick on their feet to label. Everyone is Mexican. So that's definitely like, I think some challenges.

- Speaker 1: [10:02](#) And has anyone ever asked you about your race or your ethnicity and how do you typically respond to these questions?
- Speaker 2: [10:10](#) You know, what's so funny, I, some people, yes. And some people know it, just some people know what they're looking for and if you don't really know then you're just, they won't ask by how best people have asked me for sure. And I've always said, you know, my parents are Mexican, I was born here and some people are like really cool about it. And then some people will make racist jokes. So just depends.
- Speaker 1: [10:35](#) Um, how do people typically ask you and what are some jokes that you've had it?
- Speaker 2: [10:40](#) Sure. Um, people. I've usually said, where are you from? And that's a very broad question. I'm like, I usually answer like, oh, I'm from DC. And I was like, do you mean like ethnicity wise? Like, yeah. So I'm Mexican and they're like, oh, like. And they'll say some people I like the wall or how like trump said this. And then I just usually like walk away. I'm just like, I can't even handle a conversation.
- Speaker 1: [11:05](#) And are these questions that you experienced, like in your dorm room and the class went home with friends, how do what and what form do these questions typically present themselves?
- Speaker 2: [11:18](#) Sometimes with a group of it was specifically the group of people I was hanging out with last year and I don't hang out with that many more, but it was typically at the grove during football season.

- Speaker 1: [11:35](#) And people would ask you. Yep. And um, excuse me, have you ever experienced any assumptions about your character because of your perceived race?
- Speaker 2: [11:46](#) I mean, sometimes people are like, they'll ask me, are your parents documented? And like mean yes, but like I don't understand why that has to be a question, you know?
- Speaker 1: [12:00](#) And how do you respond to that? Or how does it make you feel as a Mexican American woman living in the south?
- Speaker 2: [12:09](#) That makes me feel just really sad for them that they would even ask that, you know, I just don't think that it's necessarily an appropriate question to ask someone when you're barely starting to talk with them. And it makes me just upset. But I, you know, I try to keep myself collected. I'm like, I just tried it. I answered what the honest truth. Like, no, like, you're wrong, but my parents are documented.
- Speaker 1: [12:38](#) And do you speak Spanish? If yes, how did you learn? If no, why not?
- Speaker 2: [12:42](#) Yes, I do. I. I grew up with my grandparents ever since I was about to and they would always talk to me in Spanish.
- Speaker 1: [12:51](#) What Spanish or English? Your first language? Spanish and I'm in school. In the DC area. Was it common to see other students whose first language was Spanish in the classroom with you? How was that education like coming from a household where you spoke Spanish primarily or Spanish was your first language and then going to school where? I'm assuming the education wasn't equally.
- Speaker 2: [13:19](#) I would always talk in Spanish with my grandparents and my mom would always see her best at speaking English with me, but my best friend actually from kindergarten when she entered preschool at the school I was at, she didn't speak any English, like she didn't know anything and so like they're at school, like they were teaching her English and now she's completely fine and can speak it perfectly well, but I know it was challenging for her to have that communication barrier by think teachers do a really good job at trying to teach students

- Speaker 1: [13:51](#) and what's that communication barrier and there for you with this Spanish being their first language and then learning English at the same time as well. Was that ever a struggle or.
- Speaker 2: [14:05](#) No, I'm definitely sure that it was. I just have such a hard time remembering, but I'm sure I did have a hard time. I know when I used to go to Mexico back when I was much younger, about five or six, like that was hard too because I only know. I only knew so many words. I only understood so much at like five or six. So that was hard too.
- Speaker 1: [14:24](#) And Are you completely fluent in Spanish, reading, writing, you know, that or different levels or what's your comfortability in language?
- Speaker 2: [14:33](#) You know, Ryan is hard for me. I won't lie, I can come, I can type easily on the, on my phone because I have the Spanish keeper and just a lot easier. But I still would like to learn sometime in the near future hopefully. And for reading I can read, I can get by speaking, I have no problem.
- Speaker 1: [14:55](#) And um, how important is the ability to speak Spanish to the Latino culture?
- Speaker 2: [15:01](#) I think Spanish is just such a valuable language to know, especially with the Latino, you know, population growing and growing in the states and it's becoming super important. You know, most jobs, you know, if you speak Spanish it's like a thumbs up.
- Speaker 1: [15:20](#) And um, how does the university and the community catered to and omit the Latino population?
- Speaker 2: [15:29](#) Well, I want to say the Hispanic community here is about three percent and I want to, you know, that's a really small percentage. So I do think that the university could do a better job at recruiting Hispanics
- Speaker 1: [15:46](#) and how, how does the community and the university kind of cater to and try to include a Hispanic students and how does the university and the community kind of omit or forget about or exclude the Hispanic community?

- Speaker 2: [16:01](#) Well, I know we have lasso which is like the Latin American club, so that's a way like the community welcomes, you know, Hispanic community but omits. I just don't think that's a hard question after like, I just don't think that the university pays that much attention to the Hispanic community.
- Speaker 1: [16:31](#) And um, how do you view race in the US in the south and here in Oxford?
- Speaker 3: [16:40](#) I think.
- Speaker 2: [16:43](#) Well I was always, I was always kind of warned about the south and like being Hispanic people don't like I know my uncle's wife told me, you know, like most northern nurse, you know, don't really make it in the south. They usually end up coming back home and I never really understood why she said that to me. And now I kind of see why because I do feel like northerners and southerners are like, they're very different, you know, in their way of thinking and in their thought process and in the way they view race because I think the south still needs to become more culturally accepting to all races and I think that's something we definitely, you know, definitely have to work on. And I do feel like sometimes in the north you do have people who don't culturally acceptable. Racist too. I feel like you can't wait.
- Speaker 1: [17:41](#) And what about in the south? How do you see race in the South and here?
- Speaker 2: [17:46](#) I see, well I haven't seen, I kind of, I'm in the middle because what I've seen is what I've experienced and what I've seen is also what I've read on papers, you know, like the daily Mississippian. So I just, I'm not sure.
- Speaker 1: [18:10](#) All right. And um, how do you perceive the Latino population effecting the idea of race in the south?
- Speaker 2: [18:19](#) I think that I think that the Latino population is definitely trying to make their own definitely like their own path. And I do feel like people in the south are still hard, so still having a hard time accepting that and still referring to most as like illegals and in terminology like that. And I really hope that, you know, the south really changes that view of

Latinos because right now what they have is the idea that trump is feeding them.

Speaker 1:

[19:08](#)

And um, I already asked you about challenges number 26 inches. Always forgets her name from the questionnaire, 17 as well. Um, are there any other points or topics that you'd like to discuss it I didn't ask you or anything else that you'd like to touch on?

Speaker 2:

[19:26](#)

I think you did an excellent job at covering everything. Alright. Well that is.