

Sabrina Ramirez transcript

- Speaker 1: [00:00](#) Today is November 11th and uh, we're doing an interview for my thesis research title with the Latino South. First question, are you 18 years or older? Can you state and spell your first and last name for the record?
- Speaker 2: [00:41](#) Sabrina Ramirez. December 19, 1997. And where are you from and where did you grow up from? Miami Beach, Florida. I grew up in Miami. I say this, I was about 14 or 15 and then I moved to Ridgeland, Mississippi. Then I came up here. And
- Speaker 1: [01:13](#) have you lived in any other places other than what you just told me? No. And why did you move from Miami beach too?
- Speaker 2: [01:20](#) Um, for my dad's work.
- Speaker 1: [01:25](#) And would you mind like going into further detail about that or
- Speaker 2: [01:28](#) um, he does like carpenter construction things like their roofing housing.
- Speaker 3: [01:34](#) Okay. And
- Speaker 1: [01:37](#) why did you decide to come to. Oh Man. So I just, some of tasks
- Speaker 2: [01:46](#) I came to ole miss because I was studying medicine and they offered me a lot of scholarships more than other ones would I was going to Jackson state at first, but it just didn't work out.
- Speaker 1: [02:02](#) And is raised an important part of your identity and why or why not?
- Speaker 3: [02:08](#) Does that mean
- Speaker 1: [02:09](#) like, I mean it's an important part of who you are. Is your rights important part of it?
- Speaker 2: [02:17](#) I guess culture wise it would be like my language and like my family and our traditions. It's important to me but I guess. So that's, that would be why
- Speaker 1: [02:31](#) and how has your experience being a comic going to old miss and living enough?
- Speaker 2: [02:38](#) Um, it's been good. It's been different. It's just very southern.
- Speaker 1: [02:49](#) Can you kind of explain a little bit of how, so you were, so you were born and you grew up in Miami, so kind of, I guess like the

cultural differences of coming from Miami to Mississippi and then coming to Oxford. You said it was different here, so how so how was it different when you moved to Mississippi?

- Speaker 2: [03:09](#) Miami is just so much more diverse and we're all mixed in together. Like we're not like, okay, that person's why that person's black, that person's Hispanic or up here in Mississippi. If you're Hispanic they consider you to be Mexican. I feel like everyone who's Hispanic is just called Mexican, but like in Miami where the Medicare, like Colombian Cuban, like everybody's there for everybody's more diverse. So then over here I feel like everyone's more like in their own race and sticks to each other like split up.
- Speaker 1: [03:44](#) And what about here? Is that the same in Oxford or.
- Speaker 2: [03:49](#) Honestly from my experience so far I feel like it is. And then I don't really know a lot of Hispanics anyway. I've maybe I've met like one or two at the most, but so far. Yeah. See everyone just sticks to their own race.
- Speaker 1: [04:05](#) Did you see a problem with that? Are you okay with that? What? What's my response to?
- Speaker 2: [04:11](#) I don't really like it. I feel like, you know, everyone should be more diverse. It makes the Internet like to learn more about other people. There's just a lot of racism in Mississippi, but no, I don't like it. It's kind of uncomfortable.
- Speaker 1: [04:26](#) Have you ever experienced any racism or any, any of your friends or anything ever talks about any racism which you may have experienced in originally or here?
- Speaker 2: [04:37](#) Um, I was in Walmart with my family ones. This was back in Ridgeland, Mississippi and um, my family is first all main language is Spanish, so they don't really speak English. So we were at Walmart Grocery shopping and we were just speaking Spanish and a lady came up to us. She was like, you need to speak English because you're in America now. And she was just saying I was like racist. The
- Speaker 1: [05:08](#) how did your family respond to that? How did that make you feel?
- Speaker 2: [05:13](#) I'm independent. My mom kind of just went off on her. I don't think I can say all that, but yeah.
- Speaker 1: [05:21](#) And is that something that you and your family experience in Miami?

Speaker 2: [05:26](#) No, not at all.

Speaker 1: [05:28](#) And was that your first time experiencing something like that when that happened?

Speaker 2: [05:33](#) The first time I've experienced racism like this when I moved to Mississippi.

Speaker 1: [05:39](#) And um, what is your major classification and any notable involvement that you have?

Speaker 2: [05:45](#) My major is Spanish and nursing. My minor psychology if you need that. I'm a sophomore and involvement like clubs, organizations. Okay. In opa community service, sorority and I'm also in maps and I'm on the committee for the community service

Speaker 1: [06:06](#) and he's me what? OPA and maps for just like him.

Speaker 2: [06:10](#) LPA is like friendship leadership and like giving back to the community and the university like

Speaker 1: [06:17](#) doesn't like OPA.

Speaker 2: [06:22](#) Okay. Yeah. This is a minority association of premedical students and ops, Omega Phi Alpha.

Speaker 1: [06:32](#) And um, what are the most important aspects or parts of your life right now? And why do you mean what's most important to you right now?

Speaker 2: [06:43](#) Like just in general, like um, I wouldn't say school right now trying to get all my classes yet. I'm trying to graduate a year early to

Speaker 1: [06:52](#) probably. Yeah. And so now we're gonna get into more questions about race and identity. So the US Census Bureau considers race and ethnicity as two different concepts. What is your ethnicity?

Speaker 2: [07:08](#) Um, I guess Cuban, Colombian because my dad's side of the family, his coat is from Columbia and my mom's side of family, they're all from Cuba.

Speaker 1: [07:18](#) Okay. And what is your, when you just telling me, what is your parent's nationality? Do you identify with their nationality?

Speaker 2: [07:26](#) Identify as Cuban, Colombian. So as both.

Speaker 1: [07:29](#) Okay. And how do you identify racially? So somebody just says, what's your race? What do you typically say? His fanny. And do you prefer the term Hispanic or Latino?

Speaker 2: [07:42](#) I use Hispanic more than let's say no.

Speaker 1: [07:46](#) Is there a reason why or your shifts. And so studies show that the population has grown in the US. How do you think this will affect the way race or race relations is viewed in this country?

Speaker 2: [08:02](#) If the population grows, you know, maybe the racism would go down a little bit more. People be more open to new races and cultures probably.

Speaker 1: [08:12](#) Um, and how do you maintain your Latino culture while being a student? Maintain your Cuban culture? You're Colombian culture?

Speaker 2: [08:21](#) Um, I don't really know a lot of Hispanics, like I said it or I don't know any Hispanic organizations or anything, but it is my major. So I do speak in the class and at home I cook for my roommates. I make them like Colombian Cuban food all the time.

Speaker 1: [08:37](#) Okay. What are some challenges you face as a student here? As a Lebanon? I guess

Speaker 2: [08:51](#) not being around like my culture is much kind of fading apart for me. Like when I go home and speak to my family's like, oh, I forgot something would like to say some stuff in Spanish because I speak so much English here.

Speaker 1: [09:05](#) And has this issue about your race and ethnicity and how do you typically respond to these of

Speaker 2: [09:12](#) um, as you get asked about my research and they study a lot and I tell them like, how makes with Cuba and Columbia most of the time everyone just thinks I'm Mexican because that's their idea of Hispanic. But yeah, a lot of people don't know where Columbia is or Cuba.

Speaker 1: [09:29](#) And was that something you started getting asked him once you moved to Mississippi or did people ask you that in Miami or how

Speaker 2: [09:37](#) it was really just in Mississippi.

Speaker 1: [09:41](#) How does it, how do people typically ask you?

Speaker 2: [09:44](#) They're like, are you Mexican or are you make or what are you going to ask you? Something else I forget.

Speaker 1: [09:55](#) Yeah, that's fine. It'll come back to me. Have you ever experienced any assumptions about your character because of your perceived race? So has anybody ever stereotyped you or said anything to you that was stereotypical just because of how you look?

Speaker 2: [10:11](#) I do, I want to make some Tacos for them. I'll get caught like Enchilada, but there'll be like playing around but still like a burrito. They'll be like, do you want to go eat at Taco Bell?

Speaker 1: [10:29](#) And who normally says and that that's what was going to ask you to, who normally says these things to you and not like snakes but groups of people and who normally asks you what your race is.

Speaker 2: [10:41](#) Um, I mean like that, just people I communicate with people I surround myself around, people who like play around and say their probably like people hang out with like my friends.

Speaker 1: [10:53](#) And is that something that you're used to, do you accept that? Is it Kinda like you just brush it off or do you try to like

Speaker 2: [10:59](#) at first it did bother me but we talked about and it's like they're like, they're just playing around and they don't, they stop if they feel like okay, she's getting offended. No, but I know they're just playing around most of the time.

Speaker 1: [11:13](#) And um, do you speak Spanish?

Speaker 2: [11:18](#) Yes, I do speak Spanish. I grew up learning it so it was kind of my first language until I just stopped hanging out so much at home when I moved up here.

Speaker 1: [11:29](#) And growing up in school, elementary school, like education, taught in just English, Spanish. Was it a mix? Because I know like the community is totally different. Just I'm interested in seeing if that was different.

Speaker 2: [11:47](#) It was English, but a lot of teachers will like make like their ethnicity or their race and all that. And we had a lot of Hispanic teachers

Speaker 1: [11:56](#) and growing up in Miami. Did you grow up in a majority Hispanic community and here who do you typically hang out with them? You said you haven't been able to find a, a large Hispanic community. Who Do you. I guess who is your. Who's your group? Who's your friends? I guess

Speaker 2: [12:15](#) what do you mean like race names?

- Speaker 1: [12:18](#) Basically just to kind of see honestly like I'm trying to see like in this research, how do people in a sense like assimilate into like this white or black steel? Very,
- Speaker 2: [12:34](#) yeah. All my friends are black here. Like I honestly hadn't even met now like Caucasian people or anything. I just, all my friends are black. That's like what I've been used to in Mississippi. I feel like the black community is more accepting and more open to different cultures and everything. But I haven't really ever made like Caucasian friends since I moved to Mississippi.
- Speaker 1: [12:58](#) And how important is the ability to speak Spanish to the Latino culture?
- Speaker 2: [13:03](#) Um, I feel like is really important because this is like your culture. You should understand this kind of like a piece of me.
- Speaker 1: [13:11](#) And how does the university and the community catered to Latino students?
- Speaker 2: [13:18](#) Element is. I really don't know. I haven't seen them like, just do anything.
- Speaker 1: [13:27](#) Um, and how did the university and the community for good about or a Latino?
- Speaker 2: [13:35](#) Mm. I don't know. I know the community doesn't really have a lot. Well that scene for Hispanics or organizations are much. I feel like they should like have more involvement in the Spanish community. I haven't really seen anything so.
- Speaker 1: [13:54](#) Um, and how do you raise in the United States? In the south and Peter in Oxford. It's really open ended. Just how do you, how do you see race? What is race mean to you? How have you seen it?
- Speaker 1: [14:12](#) She was playing out because of race and really anything, anything like that. So it doesn't have to be just racism. It can be like, you know how you were saying like here in Mississippi you'd mostly hung out with black people. Like you grew up in a majority Hispanic neighborhood in Miami. So just like you're the first person I've interviewed this from somewhere else in the United States, most people have either Dan from another country or from in Mississippi. So I'm really trying to kind of see how that dynamic works since Miami is super duper diverse, but it's still in the United States. So yeah, I'm really interested in here yet. Well
- Speaker 2: [14:53](#) I grew up like the way my family is, they're really like open to race. We don't have like, they're not racist at all. We're really open. I always like, I grew up like it was a Hispanic community

but it was like we have black and white Hispanics and everything. So I was, grew up around a whole bunch of different races and that's just what I'm used to. So like when I came up here, you know, I've never been racist so all my friends are like because of that, because they're the most accepting up here. Um, I don't have anything against white people either. I just haven't met any who are just like really open and accepting of what is mom. I don't know. My friends, they experienced racism up here too. So I see that like, it's not just the Hispanic community, a lot of them, we went to the movies and we watched some movies on Jackson Avenue and when we were leaving the movies, Oh, white guy called one of my friends that inward and it just threw me all, like, I've never experienced that in my diary. So I don't know, I feel like race is really like, everybody's just separate up here.

Speaker 1: [16:03](#) And what did you and your friends do? Like when you say, what was the response like?

Speaker 2: [16:10](#) Well it was like a lot of us. Everyone really just went like crazy when he said that he was just insulting them and he just like kept going, but we like nobody got into a fight or anything. They were mature about it.

Speaker 1: [16:25](#) And um, so you said growing up in Miami, you grew up around Hispanic people, black and white, Hispanic. So did you do, like you've already said like here because would be people think that Hispanic people are Mexican growing up in Miami and obviously you know, you come from a Colombian Cuban family, people of all races are from Colombia and Cuba. Cuba, so like do you really, or is that something that you grew up around, like knowing that there are white Hispanics and blacks, Hispanics or was that something like I'm, I don't know, like in my app is my question. Making sense? Like even though like, pardon me, Dominican, and she, she looks like a black woman but she speaks Spanish

Speaker 2: [17:12](#) and from some islands.

Speaker 1: [17:14](#) Yeah, some somewhere down here somewhere. I can't even like a moral, a neighbor like she's full, she's from the Dominican Republic. So it's been interesting to see how people respond to people who look black but Hispanic as well. So is that something that you knew growing up or something that you were exposed to growing up in Miami? Like there are waiting, standing people, black, Hispanic people like just hispanics of all shades.

Speaker 2: [17:43](#) I just grew up around this new American, like African Americans, Caucasian. Like now Hispanic too. I just grew up around all that. So I was just like, I guess I was used to. I already

knew that I was very cultured on it. I knew about it because like in my family we had like why Hispanics and blacks, Hispanics as well

Speaker 1: [18:06](#) being in Mississippi because even the questions that I've gotten, like people asked me, why would his party be with a mile and a Gra like I have to explain. Is that something that you people ask you about that? How do you respond to that? How does that happen?

Speaker 2: [18:25](#) Um, I've got that. They're like, how do you please black? She's not Hispanic until they saw her speaking Spanish and stuff, but I try to coach with my friends a lot. Like on the background of that and try to explain to them that there's not only African Americans. It's also like Cubans, like Colombians, Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, everything.

Speaker 1: [18:46](#) Yeah. And how do you perceive or see the Latino population? It can be race here in the step,

Speaker 2: [18:58](#) that idea of race. I don't know it. Wait, explain a little bit more

Speaker 1: [19:08](#) like, um, like there are more Hispanics moving to the south, places in the south that aren't typically were Hispanic people move to like not Miami, not Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio. But more and more people are coming to Mississippi and Alabama, Louisiana and so with that, do you think or how do you think the Latino population is going to affect race in the south? Like even you coming from Miami where it was very diverse and people understood different cultures and subcultures, but here in, in Mississippi it's just like black and white, you see the Hispanic population affecting that at all.

Speaker 2: [19:55](#) As the Hispanic population grows, the more that will become more cultured into it like other places because I'm sure before all these Hispanics got to Miami, Atlanta everywhere they were like how Mississippi is. And so I just feel like it would become more of a developed stay. It'll become more cultured on there. Yeah. On that race.

Speaker 1: [20:21](#) Okay. And are there any other points or topics that you'd like to discuss that I didn't ask?

Speaker 2: [20:29](#) Um, no, I can't think of anything.