

HIST 1302:605

Maria Harris Oral History Interview

Eddie Pantoja

Eduardo: My name is Eduardo Pantoja; Today's date is March 7th 2021 and today we will discuss the experiences of people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Eduardo: Today we are in San Antonio, Texas, and I am interviewing-

Maria: Maria Harris.

Eduardo: And for the first question we're going to start off, give us a little bit about yourself.

Eduardo: When were you born?

Maria: I was born April 2nd, 1980.

Eduardo: Where were you born?

Maria: I'm from Mexico, San Luis Potosi, but actually I am living in San Antonio, Texas.

Eduardo: What is, or what your occupation?

Maria: My occupation as of right now is a teacher aid and a mother of three kids.

Eduardo: When or how did you first hear about the virus? Can you explain your first experience?

Maria: Yeah, the first time when I heard about the virus was on TV, and I thought it was gonna be, just something like a sickness like nothing past that, I never thought in my mind that it was gonna be a pandemic.

Maria: It's almost a year already and we still have this sickness and I never thought we would get like this, it's been so bad for all of the population

Eduardo: Now, can you explain how the Corona virus affected you and your family? What has changed since when it first started?

Maria: Well as of right now, Covid already have a year, of course it affected me and my family.

Maria: Me, and my daily week routine because now, before when Covid just started, I couldn't even go to work anymore, I couldn't even go to the store, grocery shopping or family vacations.

Maria: And now we have to be here 24/7 at home, with my kids it's so stressful because they want to go play in the parks and be outside and get fresh air, but now it's like we can't do anything else like that anymore, so yeah it really affected my family.

Eduardo: But how has it been when you actually have to go shopping at a grocery store? How was that experience like?

Maria: Wel; it's been like a bad experience because now I have to be careful, and wear gloves, wear masks and get hand sanitizers to make sure I don't Covid in the store, shopping carts, whatever I do I need to be careful even going inside of my car I need to get hand sanitizers first before I touch anything.

Eduardo: This is constantly being worried about getting the virus.

Maria: It's very bad.

Eduardo: Well, due to the pandemic have you been able to work from home?

Maria: Last year I used to work as a waitress, I couldn't even work anymore in that moment because they shut down all of the restaurants, bars and it was bad, it was bad.

Eduardo: Are you able to work from home now?

Maria: Now I'm available to work, but it has been hard.

Eduardo: Okay thank you, onto the next question, do you know anyone who has been affected with the virus?

Maria: Yes, I got infected by the virus, my family, my parents, my mom passed away from the virus. It's been such hard year, hard for us.

Maria: First of all, my family got infected, all my kids got infected, my husband got infected, I got infected and I had to sanitize each room and taking care of all my family plus me getting sick, it was such a bad time.

Maria: And it is crazy because I always tried to protect my family by not taking them nowhere, just stay home and we still got infected, this is crazy how we got infected without even be traveling or going to the stores, I always try be safe and take care that way we don't get the virus but we still got it.

Eduardo: How has adapting to the virus affected your work or your school work? And how has it affected you personally?

Maria: Well personally it didn't affect me a lot because I've been taking my classes online and my work is online as well.

Eduardo: So, you're already used to it?

Maria: Yeah, I'm already used to it so it didn't affect me a lot.

Eduardo: Did you start during the pandemic or before?

Maria: Well, that's what I'm saying I started after the pandemic so It didn't affect me a lot

Eduardo: So, you're already used to it?

Maria: Yeah, I'm already used to it

Eduardo: Okay we're almost done, during the winter storm a couple of weeks ago where you thinking about covid?

Maria: Of course! About the winter storm, you know they were telling us "Oh you need to be prepared" and all that stuff I mean of course you need to go to HEB and go grocery shopping or whatever you need to get to be safe at home and you go over there and its super crowded.

Eduardo: Not only was it tough to get to HEB but the roads were iced over-

Maria: Exactly!

Eduardo: but once you got there everybody was already like-

Maria: like crowded, everybody inside trying to get-

Eduardo: just in a rush to get everything that they need.

Maria: Exactly.

Eduardo: No concern over Covid.

Maria: And I feel that a lot of people weren't even concerned about Covid, and me I was really concerned about Covid, (at the risk of) getting sick and trying to get the food that I need and Covid at the same time, it was super bad.

Eduardo: And all supplies were just blown off the shelves, everyone was taking as much as they could.

Maria: Exactly, it was bad and of course I thought about Covid, it was the first thing I had in my mind.

Eduardo: Onto the final question, what would you like to tell the future generations about the pandemic?

Maria: About the future generations I would like to tell them that hopefully they never go through this bad experience that we're going through because this is a bad experience that's gonna be like history, we'll never forget about this.

Eddie: And what if a pandemic does happen again, what advice would you have?

Maria: I would suggest to the future generations to listen to the professionals and be very careful about everything and don't take it like a game, take it very seriously because this is not a game at all.

Eddie: Well, thank you for being my guest and taking the time out of your day to answer some of my questions, thank you very much

Maria: You're welcome!