

Hermanica Thelusca  
January 20, 2021  
Brooklyn, NYC

Shania Torres: Okay, so my name is Shania Torres and I will be interviewing her interviewing Hermanica, in my room on my phone on January 20, 2021. Do you give me permission to record and distribute this oral history?

Hermanica Thelusca: Yes.

ST: Okay, great. So what is your full name?

HT: Oh, my full name is Hermanica Thelusca.

ST: Okay, what are your age?

HT: 21

ST: What is your occupation?

HT: Student

ST: Your racial identity?

HT: Black.

ST: Okay, and your gender identity?

HT: I'm female.

ST: And what is your sexual orientation?

HT: Bisexual.

ST: Okay, where are you from?

HT: Originally, I'm from Haiti.

ST: Nice. Tell me a long story of how you or your family ended up in New York City.

HT: Well, my father was in law. My father had been dating my stepmom for a while. I called her mom for like, years, I think. And it was time for him to come to the States. And you know, because my stepmom is from here, my stepmom is African American. You know, work here go to school here. So no, my dad said this was best for me and him to come here, especially for me since I was young. And also mean that I'll get a better educated patient and have a better shot alive. So yeah, that's how I ended up here because my father was in love.

ST: Wow, that is amazing. Just to look up for his daughter. That's really nice. And if you don't mind me asking, what happens to your like your mom?

HT: Oh, well, I grew up with my with my dad since I was a child. My dad raised me. My, my biological mom, she wasn't much in my life. You know, I didn't know from time to time. I'll spend a couple of summers with her. But she wasn't much in my life. My dad and my grandmother raised me while I was in Haiti. But my mom, she's still no, she's still in Haiti. I'm still in contact.

ST: Well thank goodness, you have someone like your dad and your grandma to look after you and keep you safe with shelter. And love of course. Okay, how was your Coronavirus? How has the Coronavirus changed your life?

HT: Oh. I mean, it's been a roller coaster, you know, it's been almost there gonna be a year since like, we had the first lock down and ever since that lock down life has never been the same. When, when when everything had happened, I was a student at Guttman, in my final semester, getting ready to graduate in May. I was posted in government. I was a peer mentor. And then on top of that I was also working on my college applications. And all the sudden, you know, I had to, everything has stopped. I had to move back home because I was I was dorming at a CUNY dorm for the year and that dorm had kicked us out because they needed it to, they needed it to the space. They needed to put Coronavirus patients in there.

ST: Dang that's so crazy.

HT: Yup, people who they needed to contain there. They was using, the Governor was using all the CUNY dorms for people who needed to contain and things like that. I had to move back home. That was like going on like the second the third week of May. I had to move back home and then you know, everything kind of like shifted. Now all classes are online. Everything I had to do was online. There was still a few schools that I was still applying for. **an iconic plus motivation to apply for them.** Because I was like, what's the point? You know, and on top of that, there were other schools that I had on applied for, and I was getting in, I was hearing back from them, but they were all rejection letters. And I was like, okay, what's the point of me still applying to, to these private colleges? If some of the colleges, I wouldn't want to go to? They said no. Yeah, so I'm like, I may as well just like stay in the CUNY system and, and just finish my education. So that's how like, I stop applying to supply to colleges.

And on top of that, I got sick. I think, you know, I'm pretty sure with the virus, they wouldn't do any testing back then like that. But I was extremely ill. Ill, but thank God I never had to go to a hospital. Oh, no, I was able to just stay at home. And, you know, within a few weeks, I was feeling better. And I went through a very depressing stage.

ST: Oh man

HT: \*Chuckles\* You know, just being inside 24-7, being back home 24-7, and I wasn't keeping up with my schoolwork. I was falling behind my schoolwork. I wasn't that into an email. Basically, I was not doing what I was supposed to do. Because it was just like, it was too much. And I couldn't handle it.

ST: Yeah, like your mental state was like, you know, all over the place, like scattered everywhere.

HT: Yes. It was all over the place. And I was like, okay, no, like, what am I gonna do? Like, what is this? You know, I don't want to do this. This is this is horrible. And it will cut you off. But I think I was just about actually like, what was it like to be home so often? When I feel horrible, just like the idea, I'll just like be in school again. You know, I was, you know, I was active. I was an active student, I always have things to do.

Now, it was just me and my mom. Yeah, so me and my mom. And we don't have that much space. She's a professor. She says, I'm a student, when it is different. We needed space and things like that. So it was just like, it was just the feeling of being stuck. And again, that knowing, not knowing what's next. And the feeling of being or feeling uneasy. You know, because as people, we want to know what's next. Because if we don't know what's next, that's when all in value starts to creep along. And then we just, you know, cuz we need to know what's next. Because that's, that's how that's how, you know, that's how we operate. As human. We need to know what's next. What's the next move, so we cannot just stay still, and don't know what's next. So that was really a problem for me not knowing who was next.

ST: How has it impacted you socially?

HT: Socially, I was just alone. You know, because I couldn't see my friends. Again. I'm only child. So it's not like I have any siblings around. I have anything because I'm the only child I mean, in the house. And, and I was, you know, I wasn't seeing my friends as often as I used to see them. I wasn't going over to their house, they were coming over to my house, to my house. It was, like miserable. Yeah, no, and then everything, you know, then we had to rely every week. Everything that needed to be done was rely on technology. Which was, you know, which can be exhausting at time. If you know for definitely. Exactly. You know, it's all that you use in a get exhausting. You know, it was you know, FaceTime, zoom. teams, you name it. It was just, it was just like, a lot. And I can say before this pandemic I had never heard of, I never heard of zoom. I had no idea what zoom was before this. Yeah, that was like the new 2020 website. Web stream. Yeah, like, everybody's like, you know, you want to get in zoom like was this what is this zoom? And, you know, and on top of everything that was going on, and also there's the racial tension happened in America. And, you know, it was just, it was just take so much. I wonder, like, around me, me and my mom had like a conversation. Because there was still one school that I that I, that I could apply for, although we were in May was like, I think it was literally like the beginning of May. And that application was due the 15th of May. And me and my mom had a conversation. She was like, I know you I always wanted to go to that school, you know what's going on why you want to apply to that school? And then sit down like, I don't know, just like all the other schools I apply for doing accepted me. So I'm like, No, I'm just, I'm just gonna settle, you know, just go to a four year CUNY and I'll be fine. I guess the moment is like you're stressed and you're like, yeah, whatever. Come Yeah, like I was ready to settle. And after, you know, a few hours of our conversation, I'm like, you know what, let me just apply to that school. What do you have to lose? Nothing. Yeah. And I and I apply to those schools. And then, like, I did everything so fast, because I didn't have that much time. Now, they have nothing to lose. I may as well just like wait and see what's going on. And so that the wish attention, I survived us, in know, the murder of Joe Schmo, and we're just, like, allowed, and they just like, you know, me, you know, like she and dad flowing around, you know, knowing that George Floyd couldn't be mad. You know, that could have been my father. That could have been my uncle that could have been, you know, anybody in my life. I know, personally, any more than that could have been them. Putting time in history. Yeah, it was. It was a lot. It was a lot.

ST: How did it impact your family?

HT: Well, I'm trying to think over which isn't so bad from the Coronavirus had got in the way was my parents had already divorced.

ST: I'm sorry.

HT: No. That's okay....So I decided to stay with my with my mom, because it was it was the better option. It was the most stable better option to stay with my mom, then stay with my dad. You know, during that time, I don't. It has been like much this like before. So my dad, so I didn't see my dad in person. For like, I think it was like until May when I saw my dad. And the last time I saw him before of the virus was a one new year. That was the last time I saw him and then because of the virus and in CMS, so like, actually, until June is not in the name. It was until June. You know, so not you know, not being able to see my dad was kind of like, really heartbreaking. Yeah, you know, cuz he, you know, when I was in Haiti, he basically raised me, you know, like, I'm a daddy's girl, you know, I love my dad, and would do your whole life. Yeah. So it was you know, that Paul was really hard, not being able to see my dad in person, being able to hug him and things like that, you know, me and my mom, were here, we're fine. You know, we're doing you know, we're doing really good, you know, financially considering, you know, what other people had been through and things like that. And I was lucky that Mom, you know, my mother had a job where she could work from home you know, and that's good and fine. So that's something I'm extremely grateful for.

ST: That's so crazy because the next question is says are people in your household working?

HT: Well, this question is very complicated, because I quickly live by myself. I live with my parents anymore with independence, but you can be like you Gil kind of get with you at least

13:58

Well, you got it. You got this Oh, yeah. Both of my parents are working you know letting them go before they like working now currently, like after me because what happened with the Coronavirus? Yeah. Me no, I am currently unemployed. Okay, yeah, I'm good. And recently the government is you know, given people is that the import themselves?

Is that then Impalas?

HT: I'm a full time student anyways, and then I'm, and then I'm going, I'm going back to campus, and like two weeks, so it's just like.

ST: Okay, what have you learned about yourself and your family since the beginning of this crisis?

HT: About myself? One thing I've done my job number myself is like, how was it since I Um, then you know, and everything, and everything that I've been through to this virus, you know, I've lost a lot of close people to me, and things like that and I still managed to, like, you know,

ST: Stay strong

HT: and move on my goal. And you'll although in the beginning of this, I was I was depressed, I was like, ready to, like, give up on my dream, you know, give up on like, one of my goals is right now knowing that not I go to my dream school now. And it's just like, look at you think, you know, I was willing to give up? You know, I was like, no, maybe no. Maybe this is a sign for for me to just like, settle.

ST: God was like nope.

HT: Yeah, settling was not for me. And I, and I push myself. And I ended up getting what I what I wanted, and what I needed. As well, my family is definitely, no matter like, no matter what was going, like, no matter how me and my family is, no matter, the drama that is going on. By the end of the day, if I can differ my parents know, although, you know, they cannot stand each other in a room. But, however, you know, when it comes to me, you know, they'll drop everything you know, and come in, when it comes really exactly, you know, like, you know do Nigerians the same the same, same time. But if it has anything to do with me, they put all the differences in focus on was what is more important, which is me.

ST: Aw that's so nice, What has been the hardest part of this pandemic for you?

HT: Um, just nagging about to socialize. Going to school online, just like being in front of this screen 24/7. That's why I'm so happy right now actually have a week from school. Because the first semester was just like a lot. You know, I was just like on zoom. 24/7, it's all my computer 24/7, if I wasn't showing you, I was in a meeting if I wasn't in the meeting, I was doing work. Play? Oh, no, it was like never a break. (17:32) And then also like socializing? No, I'm somebody who likes to socialize. I'm somebody who likes to network, connect to like, meet new people. Definitely, you know, don't, you know, I have met a lot of new people. But zoom has made it 10 times harder, because you don't get that same connection that you would get in person, then you know that you get online, it's really not the same no matter how hard you try. But it's not the same as a different level of connection that you can make with somebody in person, then you will never be able to make over zoom over system, whatever. Over any virtual thing.

ST: So has there been anything positive to come out of this pandemic for you?

HT: I'm slowing down to be honest. Yeah, definitely slowing down. Because, you know, when I got out, when I was in high school, I was very active. I was doing anything that you can think of every time I had, like, I needed to stay after school. And then when I got to college, when I got to Guttman, I pretty much did the same thing. You know, trying to get as busy as I can. And now this is actually this is actually the first time this like period right now, this is actually the first time that I ever had all of January of that have nothing to do. I've never had that before. You know, that's like something new and I'm trying to go like manage has like, hot like use my time although I have all the time in the world. Because like, you know, I don't have to deal with school at the moment. I don't have to deal with work at the moment. And but but I just have all this space. You don't know what to do with this. Yeah, exactly. So you know, still trying to like manage it. You know, what do I do with it? and things like that. Definitely. applause and also like yeah, like I relate to say like my mom being home to be honest, although I don't live you know, a lot only by home anymore. But now you know, I do go every other

weekend. No, I'm no more exactly. I'm seeing her more because because as you know as a child I don't like I'm a woman but see my mom that much evertrying to get to like know her more.

ST: Exactly. Now that you're like available.

HT: Yes. So you know, you know it was? No it was perfectly perfect timing. Yes.

ST: What do you think the nation and the world should learn from this pandemic?

HT: The nation as I think we all need to understand that as the world, we all need to understand that everybody is going through it one way or another, ill or, you know, if you're not, you know, you see somebody around, let's say, if you see somebody and the engineer, like putting a happy smile in their face, 24/7, that doesn't mean they're not going to win. That doesn't mean they're not understanding what's going on in the world. Like, for example, for me, you know, like, I understand, you know, I've come to realization that what's best for me right now, is to stay off social media as much as I can. And especially when it's like, regarding, like, black trauma, black people stuff, like all the trauma that's going on the world. And he's, you know, I realized that I know, like, this is like, I need to do what's best for me. And that being, because everybody, because everybody can, like cope with like, whatever is going on around the world differently. Now, just because you don't see somebody posting on social media, when what's going on the world. That doesn't, that does not mean they're unaware. They're just choosing the way that they choose to, like, acknowledge the power, but also keep yourself sane, because that is the most of it. Right now. The world is going crazy, the best thing that you can do as an individual is trying to stay sane and also to have other people have compassion. You know, we just all we all need to have compassion for each other because the word of mouth, let's just say, you know, we're just gonna, like, get through this and then hope for a better future. Whatever that looks like. together all. We should all be in this together.

ST: Yeah. Okay, now we're going into Black Lives Matter protests. The topic is Black Lives Matter protests. Explain to me why do you think these anti racist protests is that way?

HT: Can you read that again?

ST: Explain to me, why do you think these anti racist protests erupted? Why did they like come apart? Like, why are they so like, massive now?

HT: Wow. Oh, you know, I, you know, what, it's massive now, because it's like in the world, you know, by full flight individuals, you know, athletes, I can speak for black people for like black people with my other activists. Now, we didn't know, you know, we know, these, these, these movement has been in the ground. There has been in the ground that the black mass movement is active 24 chapters. Now, you know, just because the news chose not to, not to cover it because there's not there's not something I suggest happening in the news, you know, doesn't choose to cover that doesn't that does not mean it's happening. You know, yesterday, I went to a Black Lives Matter protest. Was it yesterday or the day before? What MLK Day? One of them MLK Day was out. But it was Monday. I think it was Monday or Tuesday, or whichever that was no, there was really a lot. There was a book. Yes, there was that blood 6060 POTUS on your city. Oh Man. And on MLK Day. You don't hear about that. You know why? Because the news is now calming. Because it's not crazy. Yeah. Because it's not, you know, it's not

showing destruction. It's not no, although the NYPD came in and try and like, do some self-destruction. But like, you know, the show we want to show. Exactly. So, you know, these hotels then happening? You know, and we understand that, you know, we understand that black people understand like how much in danger or large is it just like now other people's get caught it on camera and posted online? No, nothing I had no, I know, I've had multiple encounters over the years with the NYPD where like my heart's racing, because I was like, Oh, shit. Oh, shit. Yeah, like, what's gonna happen? What could possibly happen? Yeah, you know, so, you know, there's this, there's this fear right now where people are saying like, No, dear black, it's fun. It's late. But it's dangerous at the same time, but that's what make it late. Because eventually it'll like me and my family joke about this all the time. Like, you know, if, you know, if we leave our house, you know, there's no guarantee we'll be back. You know, I mean, that's sad to say, you know, that's like, that's, you know, that's a really sad, you know, that's a sad thing to say. But at the same time, it's so chilled You know, it's a choice to say every time that my father leaves his home is not a guarantee that he'll be coming back. Because he's just like, he's buggin. So it's sad. But again, you know, that's what makes makes me in Black Swan, you know, knowing that your life is constantly in the engine, as I need to say.

ST: Why do you think and what say became an epicenter of the protests?

HT: Well, oh, well, why don't you why I can say, because of the NYPD, because the NYPD has history what like, at least you know, what I've known for, like, I don't know, that's like, if that's true, or anything, but when it comes to like the different police department in the state, the NYPD, one can say the NYPD is one of the most corrupt one, one of the most violent ones. And it also you have to remember, like, in New York City is supposed to be this like, this, like magical place. Where, like everything, everything has, you know, this magical place where there's no racism, you know, but you know, Eric Garner, no happen here in our own backyard. You know, and the list goes on and on. And that's actually happened in New York City that you don't really feel, you know, so near the end, like the center of this POTUS, one is New York City. You know, and until, you know, people are tired of living like, of, of living in the fear of the NYPD, because of how the NYPD chooses to choose to, to, to deal with the black and brown people versus how to deal with the white people like, I don't know, she'll if you remember that, in the beginning of the pandemic, when it started to get warm. There were decided to, like, open up the park. There are a bunch of I was sitting around with no match in the NYC there was that given the match. But on the corner of a bodega. I think it was like in the Bronx, it was in the Bronx, or like, combined, I don't know, the West, there were a few You know, there was a group of black and brown men, now we're sitting around didn't have a mask. But the next day, you know, and why Peter was sitting, sitting in on what's sitting on the back of them, because just because they have a map. You know, it's just like, go like what's going on? You know, like, let's go and they don't have what you know, like you choose to give why people match because they don't have that. But you want to you want to choose black and brown people like like animals because they don't have men. Because all because their color skin just because exactly just like make these who would make rules like that. But this is we're all human, we all breathe the same air. It's just crazy. We all believe the same kind of blown, ridiculous. Guess?

ST: How have the uprisings across the country shifted how you think about your ethnic identity and your place in the US starting?

HT: It has not shifted at all. No, you know, I'm just, I'm just now happy that you know, like, the Black Lives Matter movement is becoming actually a global movement. You know, it's actually becoming a global movement. Because, you know, if you've been following the news, black people then all over the world, from Brazil, to England, to Ireland, black people are then everywhere in the world. So like, it has not shaped my identity at all. I only know that, you know, I am black. I am live in America, in black and I'm living in the world. And I only know that this world is in time black. And America is racist, and it's highly black. So I'm just like, you know, I'm just trying to live my best life, you know, trying to like, enjoy the best that I can be has money. Or the negative? Yeah, yeah, you know, I'm still you know, I still know, I still know. I still I still know the valley. You know? How like how people perceive me because of my skin color, or how they see me because of my skin color. So no, it's nothing new for me. Nothing you want to

ST: Do you have any stories who are willing to share about encounters you have had with racism or the Police Story among friends and family members when shared about racism and the police since the protests started?

HT: Um, since the fourth is our stories Oh, no, really, you know? Yeah, I've been to a few courses where I had to warn if I didn't want to get caught by the NYPD and god knows what could have happened. Um, you know, I have been not not doing not doing this porters. But there have been detained by the NYPD before in the protest. You know, so we're just like, Oh, well, you know, and it's a it's a scary thing too. Because, like, your heart starts to drop. You know, you're trying to like, you're trying to defend yourself. Yeah, trying to defend yourself and practice your constitutional rights. But at the same time, you know, that, you know, if anything will happen to you, there will be people who will try to justify what happened to your, or provide maybe your skin color or like, the people around you. Yeah. Who you're around. Yeah, you know, you know, if God forbid, you know, something happens to me. No, I can only Yeah, you know, I can only I can only see like, you know, people trying to just justify my dad by saying that, oh, in middle school, she fought in the gym, she had a fight in the gym so that, you know, because of that, she deserved to get gunned down. You know, because that's how, you know, that's how racist people have justified the murder of an online people. You know, they'll find something that you feel when you watch out, and then be like, Oh, well, you know, she should never had a fight in the gym when she was in middle school. Like,

31:40

that's just so disgusting. Yeah. Sadly, that's the way it is. Have you learned about an experience of someone close to you, like related?

31:51

Um someone close to me the lady. I mean, somebody that I know now Do not wait close close to me. But we call like in the same circle in the local a well known activists alone, a one word to put this was happening. He couldn't leave his his house for like days, because the NYPD was surrounding his house with a helicopter and things like that, you know, he's somebody that as much with that I know as much with you know, and things like that. We like cut lug nuts in the in the same in the same in the same anti black, anti racist organizations in New York City. And have you ever heard of the word warrior? Gordon's word regarding? No? Yeah. Yeah, they're all good as a nation. I've been with them for like, like a year. But like one of the events and one of the founders. You know, the NYPD has to end life multiple times. No, just because, you know, he's going on the NYPD on their bullshit. That's crazy.



That's insane. Yeah. Were you active in the protests at all the new digital or in person way? over the last six months? Yes, sir. Have also, um, well, first started it was in May, was like in May, or like the beginning of June I'm trying to remember. But I went to my the first purchase that I went to regarding this year during a pandemic regarding regarding especially with gun he also was probably like, one may. And it was in it was in Brooklyn. It was in it was in a it was at the Grand Army Plaza. I don't know if you're from Brooklyn. We have a Godwin. We're at the Konami Plaza. We had a few people spoke, I spoke. It was that POTUS was actually a lot of different black organization like from like, the Haitian community, the Guyanese community, the Jamaican community, the pan African community. So we had, you know, it was a bunch of like, black people from different from different backgrounds, from different ethnicity coming together for one common cause. And of course, I was in the Haitian organization side, because I'm Haitian, you know, I love my people. I love all my people. You know, and we, I talked, I spoke to like a large group of people, I was still emotional, even to this day when I'm watching the video on my day. I was really emotional that day, but I was emotional that day. And then from there, we finally When I'm your clients our we work all the way to the profit center we have like a cloud and the profit center. We stay in the back pocket center for like about 30 minutes and try to decide when to act stupid is kind of like Loki attacking us. So we kind of like left and then we turn back to the ground because we had a more we had like another goal setting so that was like the very very first process our two cats Yeah, there were a lot yeah. Oh yeah. Yeah, so the NYPD charges No, no, we can't because it's the NYPD

35:44

trying to like know like people people don't want to sit at night night is because the Black Lives Matter protests are peaceful. And any of them that started to get valid is because the police whatever police it is, then they taught in it. Yeah, so people are quick to say Oh, the Black Lives Matter movement is valid. The dish 12 days No, no. All the posters I've been to they all have been balanced if they had any incident is because the NYPD started. And I've been to a few where like the NYPD started like la went war one was in Korea like one September onwards it was it was it was one Williamsburg we we we Oui. Oui. We first got to admit me recalling Paul that suppose that our windows were and from there we were just like, sure we want to like go over the bridge and things are bad. In the morning we're going to lower my hat is that a mental states, but especially the hall. And the nature we know, we live we live literally was accelerated by the NYPD would like, you know, because they started to to ride bikes. And then like pushing that night against us and like that bastard. What are you? Yeah, that's so rude. And as much as respect? Yeah. Yeah. Does the NYPD for you? Why did you decide to get involved within those protests. Um, because I was tired of like shooting around, sitting around putting on social media, donating money signing petitions. And I had like, so much like, anger inside of me. Especially like, during the fourth first protest that I went through, which was a call on me. I had, like, so many hurts so much anger. So much disappoint on pointment inside of me that no, I needed to elicit one way. And if the no and if that way I was diagnosed, these two are full of full of oriented like, getting emotional. No, you know, taking the streets, you know, demanding, demanding that they stop killing us and getting away with it. So like, and I've always gone and impulsive, because, you know, that's like, that's a better way for me to call and express myself you know, after you know, even like after doing some work in the background, like signing petitions calling calling different politicians office donating money. I know help in any ways I can but sometimes you know, we just need to take the street itself shouting and let you know and just let that talk. Yeah. So how how have protests in the context of the Coronavirus shifted the way you think race in America we can you repeat that? How have protest in the context of the Coronavirus shifted the way you think race in America

39:12

as much as much because you know, you know, all the blind people will tell you that it has not changed at all, because we only knew now as you know, as a black person, even America, I only know all this, I only know what this country's capable of, you know, I only knew what those impacts in powers of you know, capable of, you know, like, black people we already know, we already know so it's really nothing new for us. But are we grateful for that now like the world gets to see why we didn't talk about for like years. Yes. Definitely. Because they because like people who you know people didn't believe it. You know, I had like I had like, ask my wife friends you know for some reason because no evidence Before this, when I was talking to the motion things, they didn't get it, which I need a second to get it, you know, because you're not black, you know, but, but I said the shin how, like, everything has worked around, like, Oh my god, like, this is literally once you've been telling me, you know, for the past year and a half, and you know, for some reason it wasn't clicking, and I'm sorry, I'm like, Bill, you have nothing to sell your boss, you know, it's not your fault, you know, but I just want you to understand, just because just because you don't experience it, that doesn't mean it's not happening now. And I think there was a quote, or that was, you know, once I once was when I was playing around and was like, you know, like, two things that COVID in racism has in common is that nobody believes it's true as soon as they are affected by which made perfect sense. Now a lot of people don't think the Coronavirus is real but the moment they got the virus Oh, yeah, it will stop way you met allow you to never been affected by racism. The woman they had the first racial encounter. Oh, yeah. It's no, I don't want you to say no, so yeah. It's nothing new to me. I really had to say but I'm not surprised or shocked a bit. Like, for example, what happened? What happened at the Capitol building? Not long ago, was that? I was not sure. No. I was not shocked at all my mother was not shocked people in the minute you see like, if there was like people of color in the in the building, it would have been like bombing shooting me or they that was a little lockdown. Yeah, like I'm not sure that you know, you know, like those, you know, they get they get their way was to get basketball. I'm not sure what that was. I was shocked when I saw the the the State Capitol Police open the thing for them know, was on shell windows or post offices taking a selfie? No, because I will know. Like, I was just like, Okay, so now as the world gets to see, when bright people have been saying for decades. How have the past few months changed how you think about police and racism? legalists

42:16

have the same incident? Does? Did you learn more about the history of racism in this country since a protest started?

42:25

Oh, no, really? No. No. Have you learned anything? How about learning? What have you learned? I would like to say it. No, I really had to say no, I don't think I've done nothing. It was just like, yep, we told you so. Yeah, we told your soul. You know, could you know, you know you only even if you're like a black person who's not from from this country, but like the moment you come to this country, and you all are, you know, in your surrounding or run out of grad school. Like for me, now I'm lucky, you know, because my mom is African American? No. So you know, as I know, as a child, I was learning as much as I can. And, and then a lot of the things like if, you know, a lot of things that happened did not surprise me because these are things that my mom, someone mentioned to me, my grandmother been saying to me, you know, my family from the south when talking about my, you know, my African American friends that I made, you know, and things like that. So it's not, it's not new. And it's more of a, like, I told

yourself, haven't been aware of the world. This is what have you seen your peers doing that inspires you? Oh, man, my peers. I see a lot of my face actually, like blew my mind this year. would have how and how, like, you know, besides picking up on they, they try, you know, the sides learn themselves instead of actually not of people, instead of asking them blind people to teach me about this. Like, for example, friend of mine, she actually did like an amazing, an amazing event. Not long ago, she had she had a she had a lot of young, young youth activists from like, all different, like, background with the city, race come together to you know, to address the issues that we see. as a as a as the as the new generation. You're saying like a lot of the things that are being that's happening now. A lot of like policies that's happening now the other thing that's happening out now, it's gonna affect us in the future. So our kids or grandkids Yeah, you know, So, and the list goes on. So one of my friend, you know, she did this event, which was a, which was so amazing. And it was like, so powerful, it was just like, it was a, it was a outfit that, you know, all of these like, fucking politician would just like sit down and just say I have this mature conversation that that a bunch of a bunch of 17 to 25 year old just had, that was the age wish that we had it was it was between 17 years 17 year olds and up to 25 and you're just having an amazing conversation. And you know, you had in your head different people with different views, you know, you you had the Asian community bring that the issues, you had the Hispanic the Latino community when when the issues, you have the brown community bring the issues, you had the white community when the issues, you know, you had woman funding the issues you had, you had gay lesbian transgenders, everybody was bringing their issues as beautiful. So that was a very empowering to see she did that. That was so proud of her. Yeah, my had been doing good stuff. That's good. And I'm pretty sure you're like a great supportive friend to always be there to help them be by themselves. Okay. Well, what have you, what have you, what do you what do you think about the cops response to protests again in May 2001. Um, you know, for the cops, you know, they are they are being taught, you know, they are being called out they are being they are being called out to face the action, they are being said, No, they are being told No, you cannot do that.

47:03

And that, you know, in that English then low key, to be honest, um, you know, and somebody that was having a conversation with not long ago was, you know, one of my mentors, I was having a conversation with him. And then we were kind of like talking about, you know, what was recently been happening, you know, what had happened at the state capitol. And then he said, Now, this is, you know, and this is a Hispanic man. And then he said that, you know, do you know why all these white people are angry? And I'm like, oh, because they're racist. She was like, No, no, no, no, because the racist, they are angry, because this is the first time in history they are being taught, they are being told no. People are saying no to them, because then I used to not know. And I used to people say no to them, then I used to not get in their way. So when they don't get their way they act up. So that's why they're the ones who are the real animals. Yeah, that's why the angry, you know, is you know, it's not allowed them wasted. Yeah. But that's the men within know, is because this is the first time in history they are. And in this, and they have never been, you know, nobody has ever told him. No, you cannot do this. No, not because they have always gotten in the way of the power. Exactly. You know, in the same thing, can you know, the same thing goes for cops, you know, for you know, for years, the cars been abusing the powers. And now you have people saying no, you cannot, you know, you cannot accept your power. So now they're angry. And then when they feel important, they're gonna try to instigate and, you know, indeed the shit out of you. And instead that oil was because you alone? You know, so? Yeah. What do you think about the local and national governments response to protests that began in May 2020? Um, I think many of the local governments have done have done like, decent job. Funny, so anyhow, no, did you have like,

the male was like, I don't remember what you said. But it was just like, I forgot what he said. But what he still was just saying horrible. And then the next day, right. Yes, daughter, his daughter was the parent of POTUS. Which like no, which I'm now happy, you know, which I'm not happy about. We also don't know of anybody being detained for for like sending four passes in the constitutional world, but we're just like, you know, you were saying or like just to share your what you were saying when it will be shared because your own child doesn't agree with you. Know, so I was, I was just I know So what, you know, what you had told the NYPD how to treat the people when you want them to treat you childlike essence a child has been detained by the NYPD. No, you wouldn't. You know, a lot of the local governments, you know, like, for example, the mayor. I think the mayor, the mayor, the mayor, and Elena, was it the mayor in Atlanta. I remember, like, they had like dinner like a great job, although we know they were trying to call like, keep everything on the lap, given people curfew. But one thing that I love that the mayor of Atlanta did, is that I feel close, you know, late after curfew. But like any cop sell a car on camera, you know, like being abusive, they will automatically but now with the NYPD do that? Hell no. So, yeah. How would you like to see this movement be resolved? Um, I'm talking about the Black Lives Matter movement? Yes. Um, what the problem is, then you change, you know, there needs to be change, there needs to be change. And so many would like, you know, like, I'm a leftist. with IBM says, I do not believe that no, like, I will not believe that. The institution that we have in place can get better, not only way of delivering data that can get better and just by destroying, and sorry, all over again. I'm a leftist. That's fine moving. Okay. So a lot of people, you know, we want to say in a lively, you know, like, we need to like, really, like change, you know, there needs to be changed to be to be made. This is a no, you're not this, that doesn't need to be any change to be made in the system. Because the system the act is actually doing what you know, why I was supposed to be doing, what needs to be doing is like the system needs to be decriminalized. The system needs to be break down battles, break down all the way to the ground, and start over again. You're saying so unless,

52:05

you know, unless there's this systematic, alleged systematic change. For me the way I believe that is the man show success, just like the bad is trying every single system that was that was that was made to benefit white people. Amen. You know, like, because I guess you are awake, straight. Men? You're good. Yeah, I'm not gonna worry about now until you add in a question until the day out. But like, you know, like, these are the three main points your wife, straight men, the system is working for you perfectly, because that's why I was designed to do so of course, not gonna set up the systems and you know, me, I'm black. I'm an immigrant, a mom of two children, I'm not a Christian, I'm officially. I'm bisexual. So therefore, this system was not meant for me to be. And I'm a woman. Hello, This system was not meant to help me in any way, shape. So it doesn't work for me. It doesn't work for me, it doesn't work for me at all. So the only way for assistance to be worked for me is that a whole new system be created. And unless, you know, unless that new system is created, the black was horrible, we will be here forever. To follow up on that, what would be your role in achieving that outcome like that outcome to like, to be resolved? Or to like, you know, like you were saying to you, when I do just do what I do stay cute, non jerky.

53:55

You know, a wave that I see myself in or breaking down the system as I should, you know, you know, I'm like, you know, I'm in the process of getting my education. You know, I see myself working in government, I see myself doing activism work. You know, do I see myself saying, you know, selling out to a black to the white man to make some money? I mean, yeah, cuz I mean money. But, you know,

once you know that, because I like to say that, people exactly. And I say that when people always ask me, you know what I want to do you know, that's, that's something like, fancy really, like, call me out. Oh, and you're like, yeah, yeah, you're gonna be a sellout. I'm like, I'm gonna be a seller for right reasons. Look, this is what I'm gonna do. I'm gonna get my law degree, go to the whitening profession, corporate law, Sue a bunch of other white people get money and lose. Hey, that's the plan goes to otherwise people are you know, you know, watch how other white people to each other. Get running, and leave and then come back into shape from a community, you know, come back into shape or people of color, combating the shape of black people combined into shape a black woman come back into shape for immigrants. And that sometimes is miserable. So, you know, I do see myself, you know, I do you see myself working in working in the government, you know, my ultimate goal, My dream is actually to be the chief of staff, to whoever's gonna be president, when I'm old enough. So as like, that's actually like, my goal. Like, I feel like one of my, my, my dreams that used to be to be the chief of staff to a president. You know, so one of my other friend has asked me and one of my other friends we have, you know, we have a look and make a pact because I'm like, you know, you, you're white men, although you gay, but you still don't like man. So therefore, you can run. Any time you want be engaged will be something like normal, you know, but you'll still be white, but you still be a man. So you know, you have a better chance than me. I mean, that might change now close, you know, we just, as of today, we had our first you know, we have our first woman of color by strengthening, you know, so, no, maybe that might change. But, you know, I definitely see myself working in government to kind of like, and also like, in academia, in schools, because nothing that we have to do is actually decriminalizing the education system. So it's something that's very important of how history is being taught.

56:42

You know, so is there anything else about the anti racist uprisings you'd like to share? Um, actually, no, no, I just want people to know that just because the news in you know, it's not showing any protest, as doesn't mean, there's not any black lives matter protests happening. There are a lot that's happening. So don't get ignored, the movement is alive and well. It just the media is not putting it out. Okay. So what are your reactions to the invasion of the US Capitol? Like we were talking earlier by Trump supporters on January 6 20.10? Was that surprise? No, actually, you know, what's so funny is that, like, when this whole thing was happening, I actually was sleeping. I woke up, I went to Instagram. And I see a bunch of myself didn't know what's going on. Like he points on a Capitol building. And I went to Twitter to try to speak on what's going on. It was a Trump supporters. Which the council building? How does? How does one break into the county building as big as this has happened for building about two times right? There. That's that's the train is started in TSA, you have many possible one gets to a position where they get to the Senate floor, where you get to the Speaker of the House that is pulling the fleet up, like how is that even possible? And again, they want to know why would any mess with john go over them if they weren't wearing any masks? And so, you know, I felt like he was sick. And he told me, I'm like, Oh, well, nothing new. I was like, and nothing new, and nothing new. It's nothing new. Again, as I was saying, like black people was not surprised at all, because I was on black Twitter. And it was just like, I was just like, people was like, just make a new mobile because you are not surprised. You know, and that was that same day. Like it was destined day later on, like, later on when that same day happened when I spoke to my mentor, that when he said no, you know, like, the reason why do people have control is because this is the first time in history, they don't get their way. So that's why the agricultural field calls the races, but that's not really the main reason. The main reason, the main reason is because this is the first time they are being told no, this is the first time they don't get their way. So what happened one children doesn't get the way. They asked. This is not gonna happen. They Yeah, we saw

the former president of the United States did that. You know, so, you know, it's now he surprised that his supporters will do that, too. Of course. What do you think led these people to attempt to violently overthrow the government?

59:56

Do I think they were trying to overthrow the US government? No, I was in your well being over, I think there was trying to overthrow the US government. And it was they were trying to do it doing exactly what Donald Trump told them to do, which was gutter cap to the election was stolen from us voter Council in college funds stuff. And let people know that I'll be here when I started. No, I was in there was trying to overthrow the government. I wouldn't know. I wouldn't know things that, you know, I think there was just like, sad. I hate to say that I know that they're there. They're a little I don't even know what to call that min anymore. But the former president of the United States, I can't believe we have to refer to him as the former president of the United States. The former president of the United States, you know, he just, you know, he has a big baby, you know, has a big section, you know, he doesn't get his way, then he's act out. No, so that's exactly why Boris was doing out, you know, I don't think they were trying to overturn the US government. They were just trying to try and get final ways to have Trump stay for another four years. And, you know, and eventually college Cuse us, like, Congress, people, as I said, collateral. Were you surprised how they were treated by the police? No, no, I was not. I was not because they are the same people. Not only I still question, how will you feel if you like a cup, right? And then you feel refined in the end and the other side as well. You want to shoot your whoever? When you want to do it. You want to shoot your mom, your cousin? No, no, because people it's the same people like one of the men actually, like one of the men that was the I think it was actually the man that was sitting on and she Pilates office, the high speed up. He was a he was a he was a former cop. This is not the catenary, oh, I don't know if all the same people, you know, like there was a there was \$2 going along those like no, the same reason why the counseling or like, the same reason why the police and they show out, the way that they show us for for for the Black Lives Matter movement is the same with the way it'll be handled on time Miley Cyrus in the same room. And then you will never see my size and hammer time to film because this impression. So that's what the past in the KKK deshante was other people. And if you're not just the people, they're related. Exactly. So he's just like, no. There have been reports that members of the group stuff form the US Capitol and included police officers, elected officials and members of the US military. What if an ancient society do with information that's sent to us law enforcement, elected officials, and tried to overthrow democracy? What do you think? Really? So can you repeat that again? Okay, sorry. Um, so there have been reports that members of the group stormed in the US Capitol like including the police officers, elected officials, and the members of the US military, right. What, if anything, should we as society do with information, a segment of the US law enforcement enforcement, elected officials and the army in the armed forces tried to overthrow the US democracy? Like what should the society do with all that information that was given from all the investors to overthrow us democracy? I think it's also like as society, we need to know who will be electing, you know, and I think like, it's also like, you know, a lot of us are so focused on the federal government and the federal election in the federal government that we don't really, we don't really pay attention when it comes to the state and the local official, no, because if you have, you know, if you think about it, every, at least, or at least, you know, at least for except for Donald Trump, but, you know, for like, for example, every US president no husband like they have had some type of like, compound like experience, you know, that you know, and allow allow people who are in Congress, a lot of people, a lot of people who are senators or House of Representatives in these people, you know, they have had some type of like, locals things that

1:04:48

they have been elected for local position before. You want to say which led them to go to you know, to go visit the state go to within a district in Washington, so it's also going out no one like who You electing in NASCAR? in NASCAR is in the local government. You know, and, and also like, you have to like, like I've been on it, I really have to say you have to like what I suppose like characters, you know what type of person they are, you know, you can just welcome anybody to know, to the highest office and just like expecting to, like know how to act. And like know what common respect is, know what good sportsmanship is, you know, you know, you know, like, you know, if our if our the FBI, I will try to do more trees and cars, what they did is actually treason. Now, you know, even if, you know, even if they were just trying to make a statement, but like to to bridge a state capitol? It's not, you know, it's not normal, you know, and allowed it allowed them was saying that, oh, it's a public office, it's a public office. Yes. But what you don't understand when it comes to public office? Yes, to our category, I forgot, I forgot the name for him. pacifically. But there's two types of public public public space, for example, like, like parks, or different types of public space, then then then, then then then the council buildings, then any like state, then any state or federal buildings, there are a different type of private property. Now, yes, it belongs to the public. At the same time, it doesn't really belong to politics, because because when when doors used to be closed, and then to the business day to be done, regarding the democracy of of the country, the safety of the of the of the citizens, was definitely issues of citizen, you know, as a US citizen, we don't need to know, everything that is going on. Because at first, you know, if we have no if we have no license, and that's the twist, Twister, I know what like is the average, like American know, like the second class like to do is say cases, nobody will be able to handle it. So that's why, you know, we're still in like, Federal Building. Some of them are off limits. Now, but I guess, for some reason, we can't the average American cannot comprehend that information. Like, just because it's not the public doesn't mean it for you.

1:07:33

What did you think about President Trump's reaction to the invasion? I mean, did I wonder why should we ask them to do this? I don't remember Washington's reaction. But like, I, like I'm on Twitter, he was saying like, Oh, I understand your hurts. We also, you know, are angry. Go home. I mean, I'm not surprised, because that's been men vs. Yeah, I'm not surprised because that cement on wasn't like in 2018. What happened in Charlottesville, to me last year was fine people on both sides, even some guys fine people in the kitchen. Like, like, it makes sense. Like, people who was a villa one, they were wanting to cloud, which one of them they end up killing a woman to acquire by we have a call, they had them the check in white power. They were cheating Jews will not replace us. And you see, like, there were people in both side. Who said shit like that? So I'm like, lunatic? Yeah. No, I wasn't surprised. When back in the day, he was saying he told me you know, he could even be mass white, white, white, white supremacy. He just says no pipe was and then back and then cloud. And that's exactly what they did on the mystics?

1:09:07

Well, I just want to say, our interviews are us. And there are no more questions. Sadly, this was great. And I just want to thank you for your time and you just being new. And awesome. And thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Just let me know if you have any more follow up questions. And once you send me the consent form, I'll I'll try to sign it from my iPad because like, I'm not home so I don't have I don't have access to my computer. So hopefully I'll be able to just sign in too much. Okay. If not, our privacy

like she said tonight and I'm not able to find it. Then I'll probably do it tomorrow when I get back to on my apartment. Okay, so I just said a few tomorrow then. Okay. Perfect. Awesome. Thank you so much. Of course, you stay safe. Have a great night, you guys. Bye

1:10:08

bye