

Project Title: Documenting the CSUSB COVID-19 Experience

### Interview Summary

This interview was based on Samantha Espinosa a student at CSUSB and her experience with COVID-19. With the changes she had to face with school, work, and with her family and friends. Also discussing her thoughts on the Black Live Matter protests and the Trump rallies.

**Interviewees:**

Samantha, Espinosa

**Interviewer:**

Sandra, Patron

**Interview Date:**

October 16, 2020

**Location:**

Zoom Meeting, Moreno Valley, Perris California

**Interview Summary completed by:**

First name, Last name, 4-digit year

Sandra Patron 2020

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**Topic:**

Short description of topics discussed/covered

COVID-19, Virtual experience, Trump rallies

**Keywords:**

- Add keywords that describe the topics discussed/covered  
People affected mentally, New to virtual learning, and people not wearing masks

**Comments:**

Additional thoughts, impressions, or points that should be documented

**Interview Index:**

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
MP4	25mm:04ss	COVID-19 affects, Virtual learning experience, Trump rallies

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**Related Materials:**

Short description of related interviews/material if available

**Full interview transcript can be found below.**

**Sandra:** What do you remember about the day in March when CSUSB announced their response to go virtual due to the pandemic?

**Samantha:** It was around finals week for our Spring quarter. I had gone in because I had to meet with my group for one of my classes and then like I didn't know if some classes were, if they're finals were going to be virtual or if they're gonna make us go in because my Human Resources teacher kept telling us like no matter what we're gonna go in to take the test. And I was like okay and then they announced it and I was like oh. And then like I just kinda waited for the professors to get back to me to be sure like what was going on and stuff it was confusing.

**Sandra:** Yeah it was super stressful.

**Samantha:** Yeah and I think it's because it was finals week too it's like horrible timing.

**Sandra:** How do you stay connected to the campus community? For example, like emails and stuff like that?

**Samantha:** Oh yeah. I mean I read my emails to make sure it's like nothing like important on my part I guess but their mostly like workshops and like things that are still going on in campus but I just don't feel comfortable like going to those things?

**Sandra:** Do you ever do the workshops like the ones that are online?

**Samantha:** No unless their like extra credit.

**Sandra:** What roles has technology played during the pandemic and have you had to acquire any new skills that you're unfamiliar with?

**Samantha:** Yeah technology obviously played a huge role because we have to like be up to date with our stuff like our computers and stuff and like learning how to work zoom and like everything else. Umm I think one thing skills wise, I guess it's not knew but kinda like one would be like getting out of your comfort zone and like well for me I have break out rooms with people and like well I mean you have to talk on there otherwise everyone's just quiet and it's kinda awkward so that and then also like organizing and like not procrastinating as much because you can't you know because we're not on campus anymore and it's just different you have to be really organized with your stuff because there's no like professor to tell you, you know what I mean it's al on you like literally. And I guess like management learning to, when

you can work the best and stuff because since it's all on you, it's all on your own time so you have to kind of know when to do your work.

**Sandra:** What about classmates do you like keep in touch with them? Do ever have to do like zoom meetings with them?

**Samantha:** Yes so like in my administrations class, it's like a whole, it's literally base on your group project, it's a lab and like every day before class we meet just to make sure that we have everything in order and we also have like a group chat to make sure everything's like getting done and like it's just for questions. And also like all of my classes have like a group chat where we all just kinda remind each other when something is due or like people can ask questions so I really like that because it's like you're not alone in the sense and just ask the group chat, hopefully they respond.

**Sandra:** How about like communicating with your adviser and stuff do you keep in touch or?

**Samantha:** I had a, I only had one meeting with my adviser because she wanted to meet with me for like my graduation check and she just asked if I had any questions and stuff like that so she's the only one I really met with but all my professors are available to meet whenever we need to so I like that but like I haven't had the need to.

**Sandra:** And with your professors are they like understanding when you're confused with anything?

**Samantha:** Yeah for the most part I try, I get really I don't know why embarrassed to ask in a sense I usually ask the group chat before and if they can't like clear it up for me then I'll go to the professor And I think they're understanding that we're all new to this just because I'm obviously sure that they're new to this as well so we just like learning together.

**Sandra:** As for like your workspace do you just study in your room?

**Samantha:** Yeah for the most part like at night when it's quiet and I can get more work done because I don't have any other place to go and obviously during the pandemic it's not easy to go to like the library, somewhere quiet so you kinda have to make the most with what you have.

**Sandra:** Is it hard for you to have zoom meetings like during the days?

**Samantha:** Yeah because, well I mean since my sister and my brother work and stuff like all the kids are here we baby sit them so it's like 24/7 like yell and stuff so yeah but no one's really upstairs so it's a little bit more quiet but even then I think not just like during the day I think zoom meetings in general are kinda like hard to like be attempted to because it's just like it's so easy to get distracted you know. Especially like being somewhere that's very easily distracting like your room or something like having your room and they can't see you especially most professors don't even require you to turn on your camera so it's like easy to like turn it on and like go somewhere you know and so I think it's like kinda hard in that sense.

**Sandra:** How has it been learning virtually?

**Samantha:** Yeah I think it's been difficult for a lot of people because it's also easier to like kinda cheat on stuff like not just tests but like homework to and I think that like it helps like not give us the motivation to like stuff or actually learn the work it's just more so like okay well I can just like easily pass and move on to like the next class so it's like we're not really learning we're just kinda like doing what we can to get by and I think like I'm pretty sure everybody is doing that and I think that's why it's kinda like cheating us out of like an education which kinda sucks but at the same time like it is just very hard to learn like virtually and like especially certain classes where you need to be there in person and depending what type of person you are with learning it can be hard you know like people that need to like be there to learn and I'm sure that's hard for them Even older people that like don't really know how to work technology I'm pretty sure it's hard for them.

**Sandra:** Yeah I'm taking film so like all of my film classes I haven't done it because it's all hands on.

**Samantha:** I know and like for me too like I was suppose to do like internships and most of them are like not taking applications because like the whole COVID thing and it kinda sucks because I'm graduating soon and I feel like I should have some experience and I'm not even able to get that chance right now. But I did get in email I have an internship on Monday or like interview for an internship. I applied to three, two of them were paid and one of them was unpaid and the one that was unpaid replied I was like dang it but it's okay because experience is experience.

**Sandra:** Hopefully, everything goes well though. How has the quarantine; isolation, and social distancing affected your life and relationships with your family and friends?

**Samantha:** Quarantine I think affected like my relationship with my family like, at first very like negatively because I feel like when you're just like stuck with someone for so long and you're not able to see other people or go out and get away and like really get that time for yourself, it's super like frustrating and like those are the only people you're around all the time so you just take out your anger on them and vise versa you know so at first like we were at each other's throats all the time at the beginning because we just weren't use to it and then slowly like as we got use to it and everyone kinda like adapted to it now were like much better and I think we got a lot closer like I'm a lot closer to my sister now because like pretty much all we have is each other so we just try to make the best of it and stuff. So at first it was negative but then it was positive and yeah like on myself I think just like mentally wise at first it was just really hard because you know you got from like living your routine life and I was going to school and work to literally nothing and then like, it's very hard to like clear your mind when like you're surrounded by a bunch of people you know what I mean even when you're like alone in your room you're not really alone or able to really like let it out I guess like not able to go for a drive or like sit alone on campus like I enjoy doing and stuff. At first it was negative but now like again adapted to it and so it's fine now.

**Sandra:** How was your family like were they scared because of the whole thing with COVID?

**Samantha:** I think everyone was like optimistic at first like they weren't scared I think they were just more like okay like hopefully this just lasts for like a few weeks and we'll be able to like get over it and stuff and then I feel like it dragged on and the more it dragged on I think my family just kinda got frustrated with the whole thing like not being able to like go out or go do their day to day things and like with a lot of birthdays and stuff like my nieces and stuff it just kinda got a little like sad and I think that's mostly it.

Sandra: I feel like this quarantine got everybody super depressed or like very anxious.

Samantha: Yeah I think so too like it changed a lot of like, I think everyone was just anxious because of how long it's been and I think now it's most like we just don't know when it's gonna end and that created like anticipation and like anxiety in some people because you know I think especially if you have like mental illness it's very hard to like stay in one place and not being able to like socialize or like kinda go out to get your mind off things like you know so.

Sandra: And how has it affected you with work?

Samantha: Yeah my work closed so, that at first I didn't think like was gonna have such an impact on me because I was like okay great more time to focus on school and like things at home. But you don't realize how much you miss something till it's gone and like I think I miss like even driving to work and having that time to myself and just like kinda work being like a way to like escape whatever was going on whether if I was stressed about school or whatever was going on at home like work was fun and you know we all get along with our coworkers. It's fun it doesn't feel like work even just like all of that, I guess.

**Sandra:** Has the closure of the campus affected you?

**Samantha:** Yeah I think so because like even what I had like gap at school I would use that time to like get my work done and be productive and it like forced me to do something because you're already on campus you know what I mean or even if I knew I had something important to do for school I would just stay later then I had to and get it done because that was just like, something about being at school just kinda forces you to be productive. And like, even like during lecture for classes you can easily get work done there and stuff like that and I think being at home like it's not the same you just don't feel productive because it's so easy to like put it to the side and do whatever you're doing so I think it has affected me in a sense like productivity.

**Sandra:** Yeah and I feel like whenever we have zoom meetings it's hard to get up?

**Samantha:** Yeah and like it's just so easy to like not go because especially if they're recorded.

**Sandra:** Tell me about how you're feeling given the uncertainty of these times? So basically, how are you feeling right now?

**Samantha:** I think I'm feeling like I wouldn't say hopeless in a sense but kind of like not so like optimistic anymore you know because at first when this kind of started it was just like okay we can do this until like summer and then I was hoping like by summer it should be gone that was

already a few months and now we're here like what six months later it's just like now it's a little bit more saddening I guess because the holidays are approaching and not that it's any different because you spend the holidays with your family anyways at least at your house but it's just like in a sense it's not the same you won't be able to go see light the Christmas lights like down town or like do all those things that are like, the pumpkin patch you know what I mean. You're able to do them but like at a certain extent and so I think it's just kinda sad and not just for like me but like my nieces too these are like, my god daughter started school, this is her first year and she's kinda sad that she has to do this online so I think yeah it's sad.

**Sandra:** Yeah and I think it's hard for the kids just because like they don't know how to work computers and stuff and sometimes their parents are doing something else. And I feel like it's really hard for the teachers because you're like a little kid and they're like what? What's going on?

**Samantha:** Yeah especially like with a kid their attention span is so small and having them like stare at a computer for so long is just like you know and again like you mentioned the teachers to like my sister, since she teaches she says it's like so much harder because imagine like going to school normally what get like six hours to learn verses like the zoom meetings they cut them short to like maybe two hours because they can't be on the computer that long so like imagine going from learning to six hours to learning for only two it's like you can't learn as much you know so. I'm afraid that like this generations hopefully not like they get, I feel like they're gonna get left behind because you know you're not learning as much but I hope not you know.

**Sandra:** How do you think it's going to affect people socially?

Samantha: I think it's definitely gonna like kinda push us back and more definitely create some type of barrier because I mean we went from doing whatever we want to never thinking twice about being close to someone or anything like that to literally like now you're kinda like you need to scoot back. It's just like crazy because like our whole mindset changed and even like concerts are being so compacted to like small places and now like I can't imagine anyone being comfortable.

**Sandra:** Yeah and the whole thing like everything is drive-in now but it's not the same.

**Samantha:** Yeah I mean I know that place are starting to like slowly open up so I think definitely that we will slowly start to get back to where we were but I think it is definitely gonna take some time because this isn't something that's just gonna go away. And if it does I'm pretty sure people are still gonna be very anxious about like getting close and doing this and doing that. It's definitely going to take some time.

**Sandra:** What do you recall about the political climate with Black Lives Matter and Trump during this time and what new layers did you add to your experience with COVID?

**Samantha:** With the whole black lives matter I know that definitely like people were mostly against it too because like the whole protesting and people being close together definitely like obviously went against guidelines and stuff so I think that, that's why a lot of people were

against it. But I think also it definitely opened peoples eyes to see like it's not okay and that we do still have a voice whether like you know we're out there socially or not we're still important and our voice matters.

**Sandra:** What about the Trump rallies how they didn't have not masks? What are your thinks on that?

**Samantha:** I think it was super irresponsible I mean and now I'm pretty sure trump would agree considering that he got COVID you know but I think whether they got tested or not they should've still like set an example especially because they're on national TV like they should and especially him being our leader and being important higher people they should be able to wear masks for a couple of hours and set an example like look if our president and these people can do it so can you. And especially since Trump has such like a big weird following that I think like if he were to wear a mask and such like there would be no excuse for other people not to you know what I mean but they're gonna use that as an excuse like oh well they didn't do it so obviously it's not important. And then they should've been more responsible.

**Sandra:** That's true and also seeing like people on social media going crazy and not listening to anybody like when they go to the store and they don't have their mask and they start getting mad at everybody

**Samantha:** Yeah well I mean thankfully like a lot of places do require you to have a mask now and if you don't have a mask you can't go in which I think is important because you know someone is wearing a mask and being safe and you're not it's not fair to them you know what I mean like if you don't want to risk yourself it's totally fine but you're compromising other people so I think it's good that like stores and other places have informed you have to wear masks.

**Sandra:** When do you think everything will be back to normal?

**Samantha:** I wanna say maybe by like if definitely because I don't think it's gonna end this year especially because it's getting colder now and flu season is right around the corner and like you know. And especially with like Holidays approaching obviously people are going to want to go with their families and travel with their families. So I definitely think it's going to rase a lot of numbers and cases so I don't feel like it's going to end till like maybe like I want to say next summer that's my guess. And that's with me being optimistic I mean we don't know.

**Sandra:** Don't quote me on this but people say or maybe they just joke around that it's gonna be like 2022.

**Samantha:** I mean vaccines take a while to develop and especially like you know and like I mean I think we could've kinda been out of this if we would've taken measures more like seriously and precautions more seriously but I think it's not the people fault in a sense because I understand that you're like kinda in the middle like we weren't completely closed but we weren't like open and I think we were just in the middle d it just got really frustrating for people and so they decided well like I don't care and like you know it just started going from there. And I think

if we definitely shut things down like shut things down officially for good I think we could've had this under control a while ago.

Sandra: How do you feel about people like hosting big events like big parties like max people?

**Samantha:** I think it's irresponsible especially like, well when I think of like big parties I think of celebrities and I think in that sense for them it's just kinda like again irresponsible because it goes back to the whole following you know we see these people on social media and they have like very easily influenced people and like I think it's irresponsible for them especially because you know that no one is wearing a mask and even if they say they are like what they'll wear it for like an hour maybe and then take it off because let's be honest here no one's really gonna wear a mas to a party you know. Especially if it's not something like that needed to happen I don't think it was necessary to have a party

Sandra: Those were all the questions unless you wanted to add anything.

**Samantha:** No that's all.

## Interview Transcript

### **Interviewees:**

Samantha, Espinosa

### **Interviewer:**

Sandra, Patron

### **Interview Date:**

October 16, 2020

### **Location:**

Zoom Meeting, Moreno Valley, Perris California

### **Length:**

25mm;04ss

### **Media format:**

Ex, digital, audio cassette, video tape, etc  
MP4

### **List of Acronyms:**

Ex, JD = John Doe  
SP= Sandra Patron  
SE= Samantha Espinosa

### **Interview Transcript completed by:**



First name, Last name, 4-digit year  
Sandra, Patron, 2020

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**Start of Interview:**

hh:mm:ss

40ss

**End of Interview:**

25mm;21ss