

Ivana Giang
SIT Nicaragua
16 March 2018
YMCE Coast Interview

CODING

- *Age*
 - Sometimes age differences or similarities impact the kind of interaction and dialogue that people can have.
- *Campesinos*
 - There was a reason that we went to the campo, so I want to acknowledge the particular role of campesinos in our learning.
- *Children*
 - Interaction with children is different than adults who have context about many of the other themes I have listed here.
- *Community*
 - Rather than simply indicating a group of people, I want to understand why people come together and act collectively.
- *Death*
 - It would be interesting to be able to pick out moments where people talk about death and examine how they speak about death.
- *Education*
 - I think that by looking at education as a part of society, we will be able to come to a deeper understanding about the public sector and government structures.
- *Food*
 - It was mentioned that food is a deep part of culture that I think can speak to larger histories.
- *Foreigners*
 - This theme is a lot about how we, as foreign students, impact the space around us.
- *Gender*
 - I want to not only record specific moments in which people talk about gender, but also when gender dynamics are apparent in their responses.
- *Government*
 - When folks mention the government of their own accord, there arises a theme about how the government is perceived by its people.
- *History*
 - I want to acknowledge historical context whenever I can, in order to position my observations.
- *Home*
 - Our experience is driven by homestays, so I think it's worth looking at how we and our families interact with homes.
- *Language*

- Language becomes an interesting dimension when even people within our group speak different levels of Spanish.
- *Location*
 - More than just location, I want to think about how people interact with land, and the specific geographies in which they live.
- *Migration*
 - I want to record moments when people are talking about moving outside of or within Nicaragua, and the reasons for doing so.
- *Mothers*
 - Because our homestays are primarily driven by mothers, I want to pay attention especially to the role of mothers.
- *Nation*
 - This theme will observe mentions of the country, in case there is a chance that there are nationalistic tones.
- *Parents*
 - I believe that parents, within the context of family, have a large impact on how the family runs and how the family functions as part of the community.
- *Poverty*
 - This theme will touch on any mentions of poverty, whether it is individuals referring to themselves or individuals mentioning other people.
- *Power*
 - This is a big theme, but sometimes I talk about it explicitly and want to acknowledge that.
- *Religion*
 - Religion is a large part of culture that I think plays a key role in interactions between people, including us as visitors.
- *Wealth*
 - More than wealth, I also want to understand how money is a factor, sometimes a driving factor, in interactions between people.
- *Youth*
 - Different from children, youth are the adolescents and young adults who constitute a specific group in society.

TRANSCRIPTION

Interviewee: Megetah Humphreys, 31

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Megetah Humphrey's Home

Subject: Education

Ivana Giang: And then my interview—I wrote some questions about school and how the kids go to school, where do they go to school, and stuff like that, so it's not hard at all [education, children]. So if you could just start by telling me—if you could just start by helping me spell your first and last name?

Megetah Humphreys: My first name is "M-e-g-e-t-a-h, Megetah Humphreys, H-u-m-p-h-r-e-y-s."

IG: Is this a "j" or a "g"?

MH: A "g".

IG: G, okay. And if you don't mind telling me your age, how old are you?

MH: I'm 31.

IG: 31, okay. And we're at—this is your house?

MH: Yes.

IG: They just want to record the location and the subject is just about education [education]. Okay, so to tell you a little bit about myself first just to break the ice: I'm 20 years old, I was born in the United States in a state called Ohio. It's up near Canada, somewhere up there. Yeah, basically my parents immigrated from Vietnam in Asia and they had me in Ohio [migration]. I'm the oldest and then I have a younger brother and we grew up there. And then, when I wanted to go to college, I wanted to get out and see the rest of the country, so I go to the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California, and I study Public Policy and Global Studies [education]. So it's just—I want to do work outside of the country in the future, so we'll see how that goes. But yeah, that's a little about me. So can you just start by telling me a little bit about your family here in Pearl Lagoon?

MH: My family? You mean like me, my compañero, my three kids? Or it's like my parents or? Okay, I'm Megetah Humphreys, I'm 31 years old, I was born in the community of San Vicente, a small village, I grew from seven years old, my dad move us Pearl Lagoon, which is here right now [migration, parents]. And I come to the age of 31 right now, and my parents, they passed away [death, parents]. My dad, he will be six years since he passed [death, parents]. My mom, she will be two this August, two years since she died from the stroke [death, mothers, parents].

Comment [IG1]: I didn't realize any implications of my words in the moment, but listening back to the interview now even though she had expressed nervousness about the interview, it seems like I was assuming some kind of role in power by fully making the assumption that she would think that I would have more knowledge than her. I will have to consider my word choice with impacts like this more carefully during my ISP.

Comment [IG2]: I know she made a comment at one point that the correct Spanish pronunciation influences how she spells her name, and so in my effort to preserve her original spelling, I'm not sure whether I misinterpreted what she was trying to tell me in the moment of the interview. This raises a number of questions about how the power of Spanish language and culture has impacted her life and identity, right down to a single letter in her first name.

Comment [IG3]: This self-introduction wasn't something that I did in the campo, but looking back, now it's something that I wish I did. There was a comment made in class about how we should be vulnerable ourselves first before asking others to do the same for us. As I was talking a bit about myself, Megetah seemed to ease up a bit and later talked about the aspects of her life that I had mentioned about my own as well. It is interesting that I described some parts of my life in a way that I never have before because I was actively making assumptions about what she knew and didn't know about the world.

Comment [IG4]: She was very formal about her first response, and I wonder if that can be attributed to her stated lack of experience with interviews in the past.

IG: Oh, a stroke.

MH: Yeah. And I have three kids. I have two son, one daughter. My oldest son is 15 years old. My girl, Emma Jane, she going be 13. My last son Jake, he will be 8 [children]. I have a companion, which will be Anthony, five [gender].

IG: Five years since you've been together?

MH: Yeah, five years since we've been knowing each other. He's my kids, them stepdad [children, parents]. Well, I happy you all come around, because it's not the first time you guys come in and study because, you have to be study right? [foreigners]

IG: Yeah.

MH: And I really like that, you know? I finish fifth year high school, and I just decide choose the kids then [children, education]. I would love to continue studying, but I have my three kids now, so now I plan to just sit down and give them the education so they can go and do like same thing you guys doing, like studies [children, education, mothers]. And I always will give them courage to continue their school [children, education, mothers]. Oscar will be coming out high school next year, if God's [inaudible 4:40] life, we all live to see it [children, education, religion]. And they he say he want to study for laws, study laws, that will be we call it around here lawyers [education]. So I really encourage him to continue school, you know, so he can go to the university, finish, and take out his career and as long as they want it, we plan God's [inaudible 5:10] life, they can continue their studies, you know? [education, religion]

IG: That's okay, I have more questions so you don't have to—that's okay. So you were around 15 or 16 when you first had Oscar?

MH: Yeah, I was 15 going 16 when I have him I was like 16 years old. [mothers]

IG: Can you tell me a bit about your family history, talking about your parents and grandparents and what that was like growing up with your brothers and sisters?

MH: Well, my grandparents, my mom's mom, I didn't know her. She passed like two months later after my dad passed away, she died two months after my dad, so it's like my kids, them, I guess Oscar and gatita know her, but Jake, I don't think remember her [children, parents, mothers]. He were really small. So my grandparents, then, I know my grandparents, so I tell you, I born in a small village named San Vicente [parents]. My parents, my grandparents, they are hardworking people [parents]. I didn't know my grandma from my mom, and then my grandpa I also knew him, but my dad's mom, I didn't knew too what my dad's dad, I didn't knew him [mothers, parents]. I don't know who him is, but [inaudible 6:45] history I learned from them is they are hardworking people that do mostly farming and after my mom, I remember my mom used to raise her fowl, dogs, everything, animals, you know? She used to work hard on her farm

Comment [IG5]: She calls Anthony her companion, which I think comes from the fact that she first said *compañero* in Spanish, but then she says her kids call him a stepdad. At this point, I was already thinking about their relationship in terms of gender and power dynamics, especially since she had told me that usually when the students come, he does the talking and she does the cooking.

Comment [IG6]: It's also interesting that she mentions at the very top of the interview that she's happy that our group is there. Is the compensation that the families receive so impactful on the family's income that she feels pressured to make sure that I know that they're happy to receive us, in hopes of receiving other students in the future? The answer to this, I think, impacts what she would want to reveal to me in an interview, perhaps on a different topic.

Comment [IG7]: The power dynamic is apparent here. Even though I am about five years older than Oscar, I have already obtained the financial and institutional means of coming to Nicaragua and visiting their home. The way Megetah talks about the reverse hopefully being true for Oscar in the next five years reveals how much relative power I have.

Comment [IG8]: Because I know that Megetah talks about her living situation up until this point later in the interview, the fact that she calls her parents hardworking, perhaps in relation to her own perception of her work ethic, is fascinating to me.

[*mothers, parents*]. We had a big farm. And after my dad moved, you know usually the wife have to lead by the husband, so my dad and my people from Pearl Lagoon, right here Pearl Lagoon, from my dad's side, you know? [*gender, mothers*] My dad moved us here, we were really small, I came here when I were like almost seven [*migration*]. So it's a lot I don't remember, you know? And then, my grandma she died by the stroke also, and then my grandpa is still alive [*parents*].

IG: Your mom's parents?

MH: My mom's parents, she died by stroke [*mothers, parents, death*]. Then, my dad, his mom. She is named like me, I am named after her, my grandma [*mothers*]. That's why my dad did more deal with me a lot, you know? My grandma, she was, well I don't know much about her. You have sometimes we have parents doesn't like say, they say certain things, but not like the amount of things where, you know? [*parents*] My dad would more tell me like, when he were young, how he never someone like to make trouble with people, he were just a cool guy, he used to chill out and most of the time he used to live in the north, we call it, it would be some part of Puerto Cabeza. You hear about Puerto Cabeza? [*parents*]

IG: Sí.

MH: He used to be mostly like, you know, between there and Bluefields. So it's like, not much they explain me about their past things and things like that [*parents*]. Yeah.

IG: And what are you doing now?

MH: Well, right now, it's like last year, I went to Belize [*migration*]. Belize, it's the next country. I went to Belize, I worked there for like seven months. Now I came back last year August. Almost six months—I have six months since I'm back home with my kids [*migration, children*]. Right now, it's like for me nothing doing right right now, you know? In my hometown here, it's very few jobs, you know, most jobs is in the Pacific, but for me I have my three kids, if I go to the Pacific, I sum out, how much would I make from, like for example, the call center, they have decided, I don't know how many more, it's a lot in Managua [*children, mothers, wealth*]. I take out the calculations, it's like, if I go there and work to be closer with my kids then, because nothing is like when mommy's home with kids, you know? [*children, mothers, wealth*] It was really hard for me, leaving my kids then, but then, it's the next thing like this, it's a sacrifice also, because, basing on the job, we don't have a lot of jobs in Nicaragua, you know? [*children, mothers, wealth*] And they literally make, it's like 500 US dollars, or 600 unless it's in the call center, but for me, I take out that it doesn't cover my expense, you know? Because I would have to rent in Managua. I would have to send money home for my kids then, so it don't make sense for me [*children, mothers, wealth, location, migration*]. Somehow it's like 2006 I went to Cayman Island, I only had Oscar and Emma Jane, Jake didn't come then [*children*]. So, there the money is really good, CIE [*wealth*]. So that was really good, and I would love going back there, but right now it's kind of hard, you have to go in personal to do your own interview, you know?

Comment [IG9]: This was a huge flag for my theme about gender dynamics. Not only does she state that usually the wife has to follow the husband, but she adds, "You know?" to it, as if she has never been exposed to the same feminist movements that I have, and therefore would never guess that I might be appalled by the idea of women following their husbands.

Comment [IG10]: Again, I wonder how much of this has to do with her suggestion that parents in general don't share a lot about their lives with their children, rather than the father being influenced by machismo to put forth a limited but favorable image of himself as a child.

Comment [IG11]: Megetah has migrated to both Belize and Cayman Island to work within her 31 years of life, half of which have been spent as a mother. This speaks a great deal to the phenomenon of migration outside of Nicaragua for jobs.

Comment [IG12]: It would be interesting to take a closer look at the numbers for others from the coast who have considered traveling to work in Managua at call centers as well. If many others agree with her thought process, this could be an entire study on its own about the lack of employment because of factors other than just the number of jobs available.

IG: Can I ask what you were doing in Belize?

MH: Yes, I went to work. I was housekeeping [wealth]. I get to know a lady through one of my nephews, and she from Canada, she manage the Playa Villa Hotel in Belize, San Pedro Island, then three minutes from the island private [wealth, community, location, power]. Three minutes in the water taxi [location]. So that was pretty helpful for me, help me out a lot, you know, so I could get a lot of things back home done, and I thank God for it [religion].

Comment [IG13]: This comment speaks so much to how people do find jobs: in this case, it had to do with family connections. Megetah speaks a lot about her family, and I wonder whether family is the main factor for many others on the coast and in Nicaragua when it comes to such a large aspect of life as employment.

IG: I agree with you. When I was younger too, my mom had to put my brother and I—I have a younger brother—in daycare so that she could go work, and now she says she wished that she spent that time at home with us [mothers].

MH: Oh yeah.

IG: Yeah, so you said you arrived in Pearl Lagoon when you were seven?

MH: Yes, I was born in San Vicente.

IG: Right.

MH: And then my dad move us from San Vicente, because my mom was from San Vicente [parents, home]. You hear about San Vicente?

IG: I know, I've heard of it.

MH: Lafayette, Orinoco? Well it's between Orinoco and Lafayette. A small village, you know? It's like, more so like, right right now it's like a farm now, because a lot of people die out, a lot of people move to Costa Rica, a lot of people move to Bluefields [location, home, death, migration]. You hear about Bluefields?

Comment [IG14]: I really should have probed more into this passing comment, but it came after several mentions of death before, when she talked about her parents. I wonder about the level of desensitization to death for Megetah and for others like her as well.

IG: Yeah, we went there first.

MH: Okay, Bluefields. A lot went to Corn Islands [migration]. They all separate all over. Yeah so, now it's like a farm, you know?

IG: Why did he—oh sorry, go ahead.

MH: So, after my dad move us here, here's where I grow up all my life to the age of now, so I don't plan to go back to San Vicente, because my parents them, my mom was from that side, my dad was from Pearl Lagoon, all my family, we are one people. If you calculate it out, we are one people in Pearl Lagoon [community, parents, location, migration].

Comment [IG15]: She described San Vicente as a small village repeatedly, so I wonder if she sees her life in an upward trajectory in which Pearl Lagoon has been a notable step up compared to San Vicente. I wonder what that means for her in the years to come then as well.

IG: So did your dad decide to move back to Pearl Lagoon to be with his family? Is that the reason?

MH: He just move us this way, well to Pearl Lagoon, so we can get a better education [parents, education, migration]. So that is the reason why he move us here. Somehow, I have my dad and my mom, they have nine of us [parents]. My oldest brother die by cancer, tumor [death]. Yeah, then he passed away, so eight of us living, with me, five girls and three brothers. But I'm right right now, I'm the oldest one here in Pearl Lagoon.

IG: You're the youngest?

MH: No, I'm the number—I was the number eight. But now, how it's just eight of us alive, I'm the seventh one, you know, because the one that passed away, he not count anymore, so I'm the number seven [death].

IG: And can you tell me a little bit more about your kids, like where do they go to school and everything?

MH: Okay, my kids, from the start from first level, we have from first, second, third level, then from third level, we go from first grade to sixth grade, and then from sixth grade, we go to first year to fifth year, that's high school, finish to fifth year [education]. I don't know how you guys in English the proper way if it's first form, second form, or how you, standard or how you— [education, foreigners]

IG: I think it's the same. It's about the same.

MH: Well right now Oscar, he is in high school. He go to—from here, start from four years, because they have from different age where they accept you early in the class. It's like from January to March, when they accept you, you have to have three years old. And if you have like, from April onward, they does not accept, because they say the kids them they not ready to start out [education]. So he had four is when he, his birthday is August, so they accept him when he was four years, you know. So right now he in fourth year high school, so next year he will come out of high school to go university. Otherwise, from his start out, I send him always in the FADCANIC, we call it Academia of Excellence, this FADCANIC, the green and white school [education].

IG: We visited it.

MH: Okay he start out there. I move him when he first, second, third, three years in the High School Las Perlas, that is right in front of the Moravian church [education, religion]. You see the blue and white?

IG: Yeah, I think so.

MH: And now, this year, I move him back to FADCANIC, so he say he wants to finish in FADCANIC [education].

Comment [IG16]: Education has been a motivating factor for at least a couple of generations in her family now, by this point. I wonder if education is in the minority or majority of reasons why people migrate.

Comment [IG17]: Again, another flag towards the theme of desensitization to death, at least for Megetah.

Comment [IG18]: Megetah states outright that she doesn't know how school works for us in English—the proper way, and she also uses the word standard. This seems to reflect a powerful sense that the way of the students that come here from the United States or otherwise is correct, and/or that their way on the coast is just one way for school to function, if not, the incorrect way.

Comment [IG19]: We were told by Warren on the first day that the Moravian church is the landmark by which all people in Pearl Lagoon navigate—and it look like he wasn't wrong. I wonder how much power that church has on the community as a result of being a landmark, or how much power it already had on the community that it became a landmark.

IG: So only the first three years of high school?

MH: Only the first two years I move him to Las Perlas. Instituto Las Perlas. Jake and **gatita**, they've up to this moment, **gatita** in sixth grade, so she going come out the sixth grade—promotion, we call it promotion so they can go to high school first year. And Jake, well he in third grade, they're studying really good, you know? *[children, education]*

Comment [IG20]: Gatita, I believe, is Emma Jane, but she never clarifies this. It's interesting how she's got a nickname in Spanish.

IG: They're both at the FADCANIC now?

MH: The three of them are at FADCANIC now.

IG: Now, okay, got it. You already answered that question. And how was the decision made for the kids to attend school, and then those specific schools? Did you talk about it as a family or did you just decide that that's where they were going to go to school?

MH: What you mean? Sorry.

IG: That's okay. It's like, so deciding where the kids were going to go to school, did you and Anthony talk about it or was it already known that that's where they were going to go to school?

MH: Well, before I met Anthony, **I was like a single mom during all those years** *[gender, mothers]*. I sacrificed for couple years to bring my kids them to now *[children, mothers]*. I decided by myself, because them time, I was alone *[mothers]*. **I was a single mom with three kids raising and two sick parents, you know?** *[mothers, children, parents]* **So thank God to now I get to know Anthony and Anthony help me out a lot** *[gender, religion]*. The kids them are still going at the FADCANIC school, it just when, after we get in, me and Anthony well, I decide I want him to catch on the Spanish, so in the high school, which was Las Perlas school, Instituto Las Perlas, **Oscar for him to, so when he go, for example, in Bluefields to the biku, he can manage in Spanish, because in the FADCANIC, is like, they be using the English, like standard, you know?** *[education, gender, language]* So that was, after I get in with Anthony, I move him out there just to catch on the Spanish a little bit *[education, language, gender]*.

Comment [IG21]: By the tone of her voice, it is unclear whether she may have thought that being a single mom was difficult and therefore having Anthony became a blessing, or that despite Anthony being a part of the household now, she has always been able to manage as a single mom. Either way introduces a question about gender and power dynamics between the two of them.

Comment [IG22]: I'm not completely sure why, but I was a bit surprised to hear her openly talk about the struggle that she had in the past. It makes me happy that she would own her story in front of me and in front of her kids—Oscar and Jake were both in the same room as use for the interview.

Comment [IG23]: She thanks God for having this man in her life, but she had already said that she was a single mom who made the decisions for her kids' education already, so I wonder what that is about.

Comment [IG24]: I added a lot of labels about language that came out of this comment. We were told that Spanish and "proper" English hold a lot more power in Nicaragua, compared to Creole, for example, but this statement by Megetah solidifies it.

IG: They don't teach Spanish at Instituto Las Perlas?

MH: Yes, yes they give Spanish.

IG: Oh, they do.

MH: When I used to go to school, I finish at Instituto Las Perlas, and it's only Spanish, **matemática** is in Spanish *[education, language]*. Spanish, you have English, it's just English, you know? *[education, language]* And the rest of class is them they give in Spanish. It's just when it's English class, it's English, you know? *[education, language]*

IG: So you wanted to move him back to FADCANIC?

MH: So I move him back to FADCANIC now [education, children]. Yeah, that was on—well, me and Anthony decide that [gender, parents]. Well he was so happy to go back to FADCANIC, because he from the [inaudible 19:40] he say, “Mom, I want to stay in FADCANIC.” So you know, sometime you have to give the kids them what they, so they can have fun too [children, education].

IG: What’s the difference? Why did he want to go back, do you know?

MH: Well, because he just say he just want, how he start there from the beginning, so he want to finish high school in the end.

IG: At the same school?

MH: Yeah, so I move him back for that reason.

IG: Okay, I got you. Do they all like school? Do they all like to study?

MH: Yes, yes, they all do [education].

IG: Really smart?

MH: Yes. Oscar is smart. He get that for second place [points to framed certificate on the wall]. That was during high school, Las Perlas. So I just make it in a frame. It’s just a certificate that he was a good kids there and he did all his best, so I thank God for that, that give me good feelings [children, education, mothers, religion]. And, you know as moms how it’s, well you know you are not mama yet I guess, but your mom she probably—because whatever the kids them doing, it really is a good feeling, make you feel happy, “Oh, my kids are so smart, or she or he are so intelligent.” So, we’re happy for them [children, education, mothers].

IG: Yeah, that’s a really good feeling. What kind of classes are they taking at the FADCANIC school?

MH: Right now, it’s like—how much subject you getting back there? Nine, ten? You need to know the different ones?

IG: No, that’s okay.

MH: Like ten different subjects.

IG: Yeah, that’s a lot. Do they have cousins or friends that go to other schools in Pearl Lagoon?

Comment [IG25]: It’s a testimony as to how much Megetah values school for her children. She took the time to frame the certificate that Oscar received at school.

Comment [IG26]: This catches my attention because we had learned from several charlas that under-aged pregnancy has been a persistent problem in the community, therefore, it would not be out of the ordinary to see mothers in their teens. I’ve already mentioned that I’m 20 years old, but I never said that I don’t have children. What I’m getting is that Megetah assumes that a student from the United States like me would not be like teenaged girls in her community with a baby of my own. She was right.

MH: Right now it's just three, four schools with the universities, technic schools, we have in Pearl Lagoon, right in Pearl Lagoon, Pearl Lagoon, basic. We have the high school, Instituto Las Perlas, we have which is we call it Byurla Light Burn School [unclear 21:50] that is from first level to sixth grade, and then they decide if they want to go high school in the FADCANIC or to the Instituto Las Perlas [education]. And then, when they finish, if they want, if we can afford, it's like to the university we send them, we have a university technic school in the back town right there [education]. I don't know if Anthony take you guys so you can see.

IG: I don't think we saw the university. What's it called?

MH: Yeah, we all went through and exrolled them. And if they would want to go to Bluefields University at the biku, you heard about the biku? If you can afford, and they go to Managua. It's like the better education [education, power]. It's also the key. Lucky do they sing it: *education is the key* [education, power]. They have cousin because—so I explain to you, we have, it's like Pearl Lagoon, you sum it up, calculate up, it's like we all are one people we all are first cousins, second cousins, like their second cousin married into first cousin, like third cousin married into second cousin, so we all are one [community].

IG: Okay, I see.

MH: So they have cousin that go to the same school, to the different school, and all over, yeah.

IG: What's the name of the university here in Pearl Lagoon?

MH: Oh, sorry.

IG: That's okay, don't worry. I can probably ask Mr. Wesley too.

MH: Yeah, maybe you can ask him because I really don't manage it.

IG: Let's see. What opportunities do you think, or do you hope that they'll have in the future because of the education that they're receiving? Or do you know what they want to do in terms of jobs and careers? Like, he wants to be a lawyer. Do you know what Emma Jane and Jake want to do?

MH: Well, for me in the future, I really don't know what the other people them think, but for me it's like—in Pearl Lagoon we need a lot of things [poverty]. It's like education, the kids then go and work. We have, like for example, if they study to be a doctor, we always have people from the Pacific, which will be Managua, that they are doctors here in Pearl Lagoon [education, migration, power, wealth]. It's like, just like two to four doctors from right here Pearl Lagoon, Pearl Lagoon. The rest, they are from the Pacific, so if the kids them study for doctors, we have more nurse from our own community, Pearl Lagoon a lot of nurse that is studying and from Pearl Lagoon, but we have less doctors or doctress or you know? [power, location, wealth, education] It's like—so for example, my son study for a doctor, then he will be one of the third to

Comment [IG27]: Looking back on Megetah's responses, I think she really did think that I expected her to be able to answer a lot of technical questions about how the community and specifically the education system functions. I should have done a better job explaining that my interview was to learn about her story as a mother.

Comment [IG28]: This is the first and I believe only mention of an idea along the lines of everyone being related within the community. It's interesting and I wonder if Megetah is the exception in believing this or deeming it appropriate to share in a setting like this.

Comment [IG29]: It speaks a lot about Megetah that when she expresses her opinion, she wants to make sure that I know that she is not speaking on behalf of others.

Comment [IG30]: There's a number of notes in here. First, there's the tension about folks from the Pacific coming here to take up space in the Atlantic. Then she also says the word doctress—which isn't a word in English, but she wants to be inclusive of females who want to enter the field of medicine as well.

fourth doctor in Pearl Lagoon, just from Pearl Lagoon municipality, you know? [*location, power*]
And then if he want to study for lawyer—it's lawyer you could say?

IG: Lawyer, yeah.

MH: Lawyer, yeah. If he study for that—he want to study for that. As long as God give us the life, I want to support him [*education, mothers, religion*]. I don't want to say, "Oh, I don't want you to do this but—" I would like him to either study and like sport. I like sport. My favorite sport is basketball. [

Comment [IG31]: I should have clarified whether she viewed sports as an equivalent path of life as education/becoming a lawyer.

IG: Basketball, yeah.

MH: Yeah, I love that sport, but around here it's like—it's not say we want money or anything like that, because money's not everything in life, as long as you have love, and it's like what more happy than, what about you have money and you're not happy? [*wealth, power*] Then it doesn't work, right? But then too worry, it's the same, right? Because if you have a little bit of money and you have love, everything works out good, you know? And, if my son study to be a lawyer, so he say he want to know the laws, then that would make me feel happy and proud, you know? [*education, children*] And I want to see how I get a good job so I could support him, you know? [It's not like I looking back for my kids to give me any payment, oh no [*wealth*]. I'm a parent, I just want to be happy and just want to see my kids them grow to be their own men and own woman and have their wife or baby [*parents, children, mothers*]. I say I want grandkids before I go. Yeah, that's my dreams, you know? My dreams is just to support my kids in their education [*education, children*]. That's my dreams, and I just begging the Lord to give me the strength so my dreams can come true [*religion*]. And every day I dream, every single day every night, and I happy to continue dreaming [Anthony walks in and her voice lowers], yeah so, like how I say it's like [*gender*], I don't know but it's a lot of things in Pearl Lagoon. Number one we would want like the kids them have the education so we can have more support, it's like, more doctors, more nurses, more judges, you know? More jobs, number one, a lot of jobs need here in Pearl Lagoon, you know? [*wealth, location*]

Comment [IG32]: I love how the interview ended, because she was finally talking about how she felt about education for her children without hesitation. She was certainly the most enthusiastic when describing her dream. To be honest, her dream is the same as my mom's and her mom's, so it makes me think about universality of motherhood.

IG: Thank you so much, those are all the questions I have for you, so is there anything else you want to add before we finish up?

MH: Well, not really. That is as far as I know. Maybe if you like something else you want to add, and you can maybe ask and if I'm long as I know, I will let you know.

IG: No, you got everything.

MH: Okay.

IG: Thank you so much.

Comment [IG33]: I wanted to write this specifically in the transcript because it was such a jarring moment in the interview. As I have just commented, Megetah was the most enthusiastic she had been during the interview just moments before, so to audibly hear her voice drop as Anthony walks in after his interview with Azani was noteworthy for me. I wonder whether she was just shy in front of Azani, or whether she hesitates to talk about these things with Anthony in a way that would make her ashamed and revert back to talking about the technicalities of education.