

Stony Brook University

## Academic Commons

---

Racial Unrest of 2020: Experiences from the  
Stony Brook University Community

Cultural Heritage Collections and Exhibits

---

5-14-2021

### Oral History Interview with Victoria Sarita

Mona Ramonetti

mona.ramonetti@stonybrook.edu

Victoria Pilato

SUNY Stony Brook, victoria.pilato@stonybrook.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.library.stonybrook.edu/racialunrest>



Part of the [Oral History Commons](#), and the [Race, Ethnicity and Post-Colonial Studies Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Ramonetti, Mona and Pilato, Victoria, "Oral History Interview with Victoria Sarita" (2021). *Racial Unrest of 2020: Experiences from the Stony Brook University Community*. 2.

<https://commons.library.stonybrook.edu/racialunrest/2>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Cultural Heritage Collections and Exhibits at Academic Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Racial Unrest of 2020: Experiences from the Stony Brook University Community by an authorized administrator of Academic Commons. For more information, please contact [mona.ramonetti@stonybrook.edu](mailto:mona.ramonetti@stonybrook.edu), [hu.wang.2@stonybrook.edu](mailto:hu.wang.2@stonybrook.edu).

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

RACIAL UNREST 2020: EXPERIENCES FROM THE STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY  
COMMUNITY DIGITAL PROJECT

Oral History Interview with  
Victoria Sarita

Stony Brook University Libraries Digital Projects

Stony Brook University

2021

## PREFACE

The following oral history interview transcript is the result of a recorded interview with Victoria Sarita conducted by Maia Gomis on May 14, 2021. This is a transcription of the spoken word.

This interview is part of the Racial Unrest of 2020: Experiences from the Stony Brook University Community Digital Project, created by the Anti-Racism Task Force of Stony Brook University Libraries.

Transcriptionist: Software and humans working in the Stony Brook University  
Libraries Digital Lab  
Narrator: Victoria Sarita  
Interviewer: Maïa Gomis  
Session Number: One session  
Locations: Stony Brook, NY  
Date: May 14, 2021  
Pages: 12

[00:00:00] Maïa Gomis: Okay, it is May 14th, 2021. This is Maïa Gomis interviewing—

[00:00:08] Victoria Sarita: Victoria Sarita

[00:00:10] Maïa Gomis: —for the Racial Unrest of 2020: Experience[s] from the Stony Brook University Community Digital Project. Firstly, thank you for spending the time to tell us about your experiences. Um, how are you affiliated with Stony Brook University?

[00:00:23] Victoria Sarita: I am an undergraduate student currently studying Psychology.

[00:00:28] Maïa Gomis: Um, when do you first remember hearing about the murder of George Floyd? How was your, what was your initial reaction?

[00:00:36] Victoria Sarita: All right. Yeah, so I was, um, in disbelief and then, like, I was also brought back to 2014, um, like freshman year of high school. Eric Garner literally just died like in Staten Island, like where I live by the ferry. Like I always, my friends and I always chill over there. And so, to see it again, it was just like, my heart is just beating out of my chest just kind of talking about it right now. Like, I, I couldn't believe that somebody would humanely do that to somebody. Like it, like what, what really baffles me is that you're not seeing that this is a person you're literally not seeing this as a person.

You're seeing that this is just something that's living that needs to die, you know? And the thing too, I couldn't even, I couldn't even sit through the whole recording because I saw the recording of Eric Garner when I was 14, and then to see this again, it was just like traumatizing. I just didn't want to relive that experience. So I, it was very uncomfortable.

[00:01:48] Maïa Gomis: Um, did you seek out any communication with anybody from Stony Brook during this time?

[00:01:54] Victoria Sarita: No.

[00:01:55] Maïa Gomis: Did you reach out to any friends?

[00:01:57] Victoria Sarita: Um, I mean to friends, yes, like we were all talking about it and I was talking to my boyfriend about it and how this is literally like insane. I just, it was just very incredible to just even think that that would have happened or was even allowed to happen at to that extent. Um, and at the same time, like I felt such rage and that's when I actually started, I, um, I got onto the e-board for the NAACP [The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People] here. I started getting into, I got, I started getting involved in the NAACP, like in my community and I did like a whole, like know your rights, um, like, um, webinar with like one of the leaders for New York City. Like I was out, I was protesting on Staten Island and stuff like that. Like I just, I felt like I had to be out there.

And it was very hard because at the same time that this was happening or that like all this civil unrest was happening, I was studying biochemistry and Bio202. So cell signaling, cell bio. So it was, I was, I had to focus on that and then I had this, like in the back of my head, just screaming at me at the same time. Like I was just like, I was very unrestful and then my whole family situation wasn't even good either because some fiasco happened. So like my focus was completely disrupted.

And like it honestly brought back a point in time where like my friends and I were kind of questioning one of my friends from like high school. Cause I had like, I have like a group of friends that we've been friends since like middle school and there's this one girl she's Albanian. And she literally stopped being friends with like me and my other friend Kiana who's also Black, um, because we would talk about race too much and she would feel guilty about it and this and that. And so then, um, like George Floyd die-, George Floyd dying was like terrible, but at the same time, like it brought back a lot of instances in my life that I've realized, like I was experience-experiencing like a lot of racial, um, just racial bias, just like anger towards me because of who I was. So, yeah. Yeah.

[00:04:29] Maïa Gomis: Yeah, no, it's, I'm right there with you girl.

[00:04:33] Victoria Sarita: Yeah.

[00:04:35] Maïa Gomis: So many people who witnessed the murder, um, described it as a pivotal moment in American history. Would you agree or disagree with that, with that sentiment? How do you feel about that statement?

[00:04:47] Victoria Sarita: I feel like it was a revival. Um, I do partially agree with that, but at the same time... Actually, I actually do agree with that because never have I seen so much go on in social media like I did after George Floyd. Like the amount of

activism going on on social media and the fact that people were even calling out people who weren't, who were just posting on social media just to post. And I was just like, what else are you doing? You know, like actually holding people accountable. Like I really think that it really kind of smacked people in the face to realize like, y'all really don't understand what type of privilege y'all have. Y'all really don't understand what we go through, what we have to experience every day in our lives.

Like I feel like it was a shocker for a lot of people to see something like that occur on camera, even though like, of course a whole bunch of stuff has already occurred like that. But this instance, and then the fact that Trump was president at that time, and you already have people feeling some type of way because Trump is president this whole white supremacy shit that was going on during that time as well. Like, I felt like I couldn't even be safe out in Stony Brook at a point because of that, you know? So like that building on top of the fact that this murder happened, was, was very, was very pivotal. Yeah, I agree.

[00:06:19] Maïa Gomis: Yeah, I mean um, even with the Ahmaud Arbery earlier in 2020. That one shook me to the core. I was like, wow.

[00:06:30] Victoria Sarita: To run, to just run. It's crazy because in high school, bro, I would run every, I would run four times a week in the park. And I live on Staten Island, you know, that place is white. So, so imagine that somebody was doing that. I just like, I just, I just couldn't, you know, and it's true when they say like, they really don't want to see you do well for yourself. This man was just jogging. How healthy is a jog, you know? And then like, it's just hunting him down like he's an animal.

Like again, like not seeing Black people like they're people. Like, that's just, that's just kind of like my thing. Like it's like it, it's just very, it's just very frustrating to me. Like I just, when that happened, that was insane. And then, and then there are a whole bunch of cases that happened after that a whole bunch of men were being lynched, um, during a period after that. And then you have, um, what was her name? Ma'Khia she literally died like when George Floyd's murderer, like when Derek Chauvin was, um, was called, was convicted finally, like...

[00:07:47] Maïa Gomis: the 14, 15 year old girl?

[00:07:49] Victoria Sarita: Yes! Like it's still going on no matter what. Like even though this man was convicted, like we still, what is that going to do? Put one more person away? But there are millions of people out there that don't want to see us alive. Like, so what's actually going to need to happen to actually change that, you know? So, I really forgot your question.

[00:08:13] Maïa Gomis: Oh, it's okay. That's alright.

[00:08:15] Victoria Sarita: But I really forgot the question because...

[00:08:18] Maïa Gomis: No you, you answered it. It was telling your experience. Um, but to get more into it, um, what changes do you think we need to see, you know, after everything that's happened and is still happening, what do you think that we need to see? What changes do we need?

[00:08:36] Victoria Sarita: I think people, I think there needs to just be accountability on a whole different level. I think to be honest with you, personally, I think this whole system needs to be just fucking shut down. Like I really truly believe that Black people, Hispanic people, all types of minorities really needs to come together like eventually, and just kind of break this shit down because I'm tired of it. Like, I, I can't, I really think the only way out of this is through revolution. If not through policy change, but how much more policies can you pass to undo the millions of policies that have been passed even throughout all of the history that this country has been going on to, to undo that shit. You know?

Like it's just, this has been going on for too long for you to just be like, oh yeah, we're just going to write laws to like fix things. And we're going to try and give people like their therapeutic intervention to be like a lot more comfortable with being around Black people and this and that, that like, no, that's, it's it's over now. Like at this point, there's, there's no turning back and you can really only go forward. And I just think that that's the only way to move forward.

[00:09:48] Maïa Gomis: No, I, I, I definitely, I definitely, um, I feel that, I agree with that. Um, so you said that you, uh, joined your local NAACP and the one on Stony Brook Campus. Can you get more into that - how you were active, um, with anti-racism and Black Lives Matter?

[00:10:09] Victoria Sarita: Yeah. So I wanted to touch upon things that was going on not only in the Black community, but also in the Hispanic community, because I am also an Afro-Latina. So that in and of itself was something that I, I needed to like kind of talk about. So I was a program coordinator, so I basically created all the, created some of the GBM events that were going on on, and whatnot, and of a lot of them, for me were, were very personal. Like they, one talked about, um, immigration. One talked about, um, women, Black women and like the medi- in medicine and how like that is basically equivalent to like policing of Black men. Another talked about, um, like the know your rights thing.

So we brought in like a lawyer to, to talk to people about what you should and should not do when you're approached by a police officer and whatnot. Um, we talked about marijuana and how the legalization was affecting, like, you know, um, criminalization of Black people and whatnot. So really just kind of having or spreading awareness of what we're facing as a community, but then also at the same time, like not only what we're facing as a community, but also bringing it

down to like the weakest most affected, not the weakest, but the most vulnerable person that's like in the room, which is a Black woman.

So then we also went into Black women in hip hop and how they're perceived. We also went into Black women and how they're basically like always thought to be aggressive and whatnot. And then we also brought in like gender roles and how that affects just the Black, the Black family dynamic and whatnot. So those things were all touched upon mainly because, I mean, we have our own internal struggles in this community.

[00:12:10] Maïa Gomis: Yes.

[00:12:11] Victoria Sarita: You could see it here on Stony Brook. Like it's, it's very apparent. So if we really want to actually do shit, like we got to make sure that we're okay ourselves first. And then go out. And so, I mean, that's how I personally was trying to be an advocate for everything. Um, I know that I don't have the power, and I don't have the status, and I don't have the credibility to be out here trying to create some policy change or whatnot. But what I can do is really try and affect uh, each person, one by one, you know? So that was, that was how I tried my best to be active in the NAACP.

[00:12:55] Maïa Gomis: No that's, yes. You gotta take one step at a time until the house becomes a house.

[00:13:01] Victoria Sarita: No seriously! And I didn't realize that, like I was getting really frustrated in the summer because my mom was like, "You can't be out here protesting in Manhattan," and "You can't be out here protesting," and this and that. And I was just, "Well, what do you mean? Like, I need to be out there." She was like, "No, you need to study. You need to focus. You need to focus." I was just like, "How can I focus when my people are dying? How am I going to be able to do what I have to do, knowing that I'm not supporting my community the way that my community needs me right now, you know?" And so, then I talked to my mentor about this and she was just like, "I understand where you're coming from." Cause she she's Puerto Rican. She was like, she's a med student right now. So she was like, "I understand where we're coming from, but like Victoria, like you need to be in specific spaces in the future so that you can actually do the change that you want to do."

[00:13:52] Maïa Gomis: Yes.

[00:13:53] Victoria Sarita: And like all in all, like she's right. But I'm impatient and I'm stubborn. So clearly I didn't really listen that much, but that's okay. Cause we, we learn at the end of the day, but still like, I'm gonna try my best. I'm gonna try my best. Sign every petition possible. I don't, it don't matter.



[00:14:15] Maïa Gomis: Right, I was definitely in a similar predicament. So I definitely understand that it takes a huge emotional toll. Um, what advice would you give to other people who want to join the movement, who want to help. To allies who want to, to be better allies?

[00:14:34] Victoria Sarita: Be humble and learn to detach yourself from your privilege. That's my main thing. It's like, learn about what you have, and learn about how, how other people not having that affect them. And then if you could go from there, you honestly, I feel like from there, like you honestly start to see like, okay, these people are human. Like they they're actually like people who have feelings and emotions and they go through shit like, yeah, bro. We're all out here suffering and y'all, don't even notice.

So don't ask me about my hair. Don't ask me about my skin color. When I get really dark in the summertime, don't ask me about my fashion and what I wear. Don't ask me about anything that has to do with my culture. You don't know about it, and I don't want to explain it. It's not my duty. It's your duty to understand what's going on, you know? It really, oh my, and it really gets to me because they're really white people out here that really just don't want to know shit because they feel personally attacked. Like that's why I'm saying detach yourself, detach yourself from your role, bro.

There was a whole thing about the critical race theory and how white people were like, "Oh my God. Like I just don't want my kids learning that." Detach yourself from your privilege, please. Because it needs to be taught. You know? I was, oh my God. That was another thing that I did when, um, when, uh, the George Floyd death happened and everything. I have a nine-year-old brother, he's half Ecuadorian and half Guatemalan. So he's not Dominican, he's not Black. But, he is Hispanic. He is mainly like Indigenous, but he's white passing.

And so I told him, I was like, you need to take a moment and realize that the color of people's skin do not make a person bad people. Don't ever do that because you are going to be attacking me. You're going to be attacking like, my other whole side of my family that you don't know. And I'm explaining this to a nine-year-old kid, like imagine. But like, me and him, like, I'm very, I'm just like mad, straight forward. Like, I, I don't really sugar coat shit.

So I told him, I was like, I know, cause he gets bullied by kids and he gets bullied by Black kids, I've heard. And I was just like, "You don't understand what they're going through at home. I know that that doesn't mean that, you know, they are, um, they're allowed to do that to you. Of course defend yourself, but just because they're doing that to you doesn't mean that they're bad people." And I was just, like, I brought that whole thing in, and then that kind of like stirred a bit of issues with my family.

Because I was talking to him in that manner and talking about race and whatnot. Because they were like, "Oh, he's too young he can't learn about this." And I was just like, "No, no. I was aware of the shit at nine years old. I was aware of a lot of shit at nine years old. You're not going to shelter him for this long. He's going to get out there in the world, and if somebody makes a racial slur about his him be Hispanic, how was he going to know, you know?" Like he needs to, and he needs to, he needs to understand race, to understand the ethnicity of what he comes from. Like, you can't be out here just, you can't just be out here, clueless in the world like that. You know what I mean? Right. So, yeah.

[00:18:16] Maïa Gomis: Yeah, it's um, it's the fragility that's um surrounded by the topic of race. Um, it's, I, a lot of people, I've, I have talked to a lot of people that had similar situations with their families. Especially over the summer, trying to break down the idea of what it really is because people are just too fragile to deal with it. They don't want to feel like they're the ones who are, um, they're the ones who are perpetrating, you know? So, that's really what it is.

[00:18:48] Victoria Sarita: And like, I, that's why I'm saying detach yourself from the privilege. Like, it's not you, I understand it's not you, but you really have to take a moment and realize that we are, we are all part of the system right now.

[00:19:01] Maïa Gomis: Right.

[00:19:02] Victoria Sarita: But for you to wake up and realize that your role is a lot more influential than what I can do is a big part in changing of what we're a part of right now, you know? So it's really, it's really that being the bigger person type of thing, it's really being that like, having humility and like being vuln- and being able to be vulnerable. I really don't think that people understand how important it is to be vulnerable consistently.

You know, because then, like there was a one point - I know this is very sidetrack - but there was this one point in my Cycle of Women's Health class that we were talking about drugs and whatever. And we were talking about like, oh, you know, alcohol poisoning and this and that. And they wanted one of us to share our experiences. I was just like, You know what I'm going to share my experience, fine. I don't care because to me, I've come to terms with like what I've done in the past, but to other people, like they might not have the courage to, to actually talk about that.

And so I was just like, "You know what? Listen, one night I got really drunk. I was on the side of the road. Police came up to me. I was handcuffed because I was trying to escape. I was, yeah, this was on Stony Brook Campus. I was hand[cuffed] cause I was trying to escape and they threw me to the ground, and they ha they put me in a, in a ambulance, and then I was sent back because I had like low potassium or something or high potassium. I'm not really sure.

But yeah. So like, that was a very traumatic experience for me, but I now understand what that period in time, well, what I was going through. And so like for other people to, to look at my experience and take that in and kind of reflect on my experience so they could understand theirs, is a lot more valuable than me keeping it in to myself, you know? So that's why it's like vulnerability is just, it's it's so important.

[00:20:59] Maïa Gomis: Yes. Yes. I agree with that. Um, and kudos to you because, um, what you did is very admirable. Not a lot of people can talk about their experiences like that, so um...

[00:21:12] Victoria Sarita: It took a lot to get here. I'm not going to lie. It did take a lot. It's not easy.

[00:21:18] Maïa Gomis: Um, now since we're on the topic of experiences, um, have you or someone you know, ever been a vic- a victim of racial discrimination.

[00:21:29] Victoria Sarita: Me and my sister just had this conversation the other day, bro. Like, I was on the phone with my sister and she works at a law firm, very like old corporate law firm. And. Um, so she was on a phone with a client and this man was like yelling at her or something? And he was like saying like, "All millennials, like you guys are just terrible. You guys don't know what you're doing." And then she was just like, "What do you mean, like we have like Mark Zuckerberg and like all these other people, what do you mean? AOC [Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez]?" And then as soon as she said AOC, he like, she had a feeling that he looked at her name.

Her name is Hilianna. And that starts with an H, H is silent in Spanish. So like, I don't know what people know that, but like, and it's her last name is Sarita. So like it's a mad-Hispanic name. And so at that point he was just like, "Oh, y'all are terrible." He started calling her racial slurs. He started calling her a monkey, this and that. And I was just over the phone and he was just like, "This is why I moved to Mississippi in the first place, to get away from you people." First of all, Mississippi has like the, one of the largest populations of Black people. I don't know why he said that, but yeah.

And so she went through that and she was telling me about it. She was, she was telling me that, like, she wanted to just cry. Not because she was experiencing that, but because like this man was just acting this way. Like people literally, like people are feel this way. Like how can you actually feel this way, and then put it onto somebody like that, you know? And so. She was telling me that she was just really uncomfortable and she just like, had this shit like running through her head for a very long time for like a week, I believe. And then she was still telling me about it, how it's it was still bothering her.

And I don't think that people really understand that that's the issue with like having such racially charged experiences. It's just like, I can't let this go because you really attacked my person, you know? And so. I'm going to, this is going to be on my, in my mind all the time in the back of my head, you know, like this, like, this is where this is where self hate comes from in the community. Like, you know what I'm saying? So to have, to go through an experience like that, it's just like, you're telling me that I'm literally worth nothing because of how I look and where I come from and where my family's from. Like no, bro. Like you need to relax.

I, and I had a similar situation like that. I was at, but this is the thing though. She, and she really explained it well to me, she was telling me like the difference between my experience and her experience was that she was alone on the phone with this person. My experience, I was with my friends, at a Cheesecake Factory. So basically my friends and I went to Cheesecake Factory. You remember Wild West Fest? Yes, of course. So we went to the Wild West Fest before the, well, we went to Cheesecake Factory before we went to Wild West Fest because it was my friend's birthday. Um, Marcia. And, you know, we went there, we ate some food or whatever, and then we go to the bathroom, and my friend Kerryn starts taking pictures, you know, very quietly too. Like she not trying to make a scene or nothing.

And then, so it was Marcia and Marcia is taking pictures of the mirror in the bathroom, right? And then this white woman, tall ass, 40 old, 40 year old woman comes in stomping and she's like, "I don't understand why you guys are taking pictures in the bathroom when there's a beautiful garden outside. This is ridiculous. You guys need to be educated, this and that." And I was just like, "Educated? I don't look educated to you? What does educated look like? I'd really like to know. Because you've got professors out here looking like hobos and they still educated. So what, what does education look like to you?" And I'm in my best fit right now too how you're not telling me I don't look educated.

And so, first of all, when she started yelling at like the, the one thing that just stayed in my head was "you guys are so uneducated" that just stayed with me, like in my head, from that experience. And she said a whole bunch of other shit too, that I can't really recall because, that was a moment. And I literally, that was my first experience that I was like, fully aware of what was going on. And I just couldn't say shit. And I literally just started crying. Like I literally just started crying and then she was saying like, "Oh, I'm gonna call the police on y'all. Why are you cursing at me?" And I was just like, I was just like, "What do you - for cursing at you, you're going to call the police? Really? That's what we're doing?" And so that just went on.

And like, after that, I was just like, nah, like these white people over here are really different. Like they're really different. And so then we sit back down and our waiter is Black, thank God. She was, we told her about it and everything. And then the manager was talking to us and whatever. We were really hoping to get a free meal out of this, because that was really traumatic. Like, come on, like at least they

didn't, they didn't give us that. I was like, "You couldn't give us a free, we were trauma- we were traumatized in your, in your place. This is ridiculous." But, after that, then I started to realize a lot of things.

Oh my God. Maïa, there was this one time where I was in just like the academic mall, like in front of the SAC [Student Activity Center]. Caps, dogs, just passing by with their owners. Oh, I love dogs. Love them to death. And I go to pet one and my hair is out, right? And this woman goes to pet me. Oh, my God, this woman goes to touch my hair, pet my hair, and I'm just like, "Please do not touch my hair. I am not a dog."

Like, you know the, what's it called? The analogy that was going on in that moment was a little too much, a little too real for me. Like it was really a little too real for me. Like it's shit like that, you know, that it's just like, why, why? And then I noticed, oh my God.

And then this is, this is also brought up like another point when I was in school, when I was in high school, I used to be in student government, this and that. I really loved it. And my COSA, my coordinator of student activities, he was like, I put my hair up one day and usually like, I always used to wear my hair out because I didn't know what else to do with it. So I always used to wear it out. Put it up one day. He was like, oh, it looks so much neater that way.

Bro. Me, at at 14 years old, not realizing what the fuck that meant, bro. What the fuck that meant. And now looking back, like, I'm just like, why, why did that need to be said? Why are you commenting on something that has taken me so long to get comfortable with? I used to cry in the shower, combing my hair. I used to want to have straight hair all the time.

I used to tell my mom, like, why was I born this way? Why was I born this way? Like literally shame. Like I had so much self-hate for myself because of the fact that I was so uncomfortable with my hair. Like, I didn't know what the fuck to do with it. And my mom didn't help either because she didn't know what to do with it either. So it was just like, you know, and then for somebody to come and tell me that I was just like, like what? It always looks great. It always looks nice and neat. It's always perfect. What are you talking about? You know, like I pride myself on my hair.

And so, it was, oh, you know, like as soon as, as soon as like George Floyd hit, and then all these other experiences were happening. When I was a lot more aware of like a lot more racially aware of like my place in the world, that's when a lot of like things from like my, like when I was younger, like started to come back to me. Like, oh, like this was that experience. Oh, this was the same experience. Oh this is that, this is this, you know?

And so, yeah. So I've, I feel like I've had a lot more experiences that I've really was aware of before I even like, before I was actually like present in the moments to say that they were. Even when I was younger. Oh my God. When I was like, when I was like in third grade, I was friends with this girl from Greece. She, oh, this is the funny part. She was like my best friend in elementary school from like first to third grade. I lived in Brooklyn at the time.

And why this bitch literally goes to this school now.

[00:30:36] Maïa Gomis: Um, okay, so our last question would be, what do you think about Stony Brook's response, um, and commitment to anti-racism and the Black Lives Matter movement?

[00:30:47] Victoria Sarita: Um, okay. So back when we came back after the summer, right, uh, NAACP was trying to host a BLM protest, right? And so in the midst of all that President McInnis was like, "Oh, like-", like I was in contact with her assistant. She was like, "Oh, like McInnis was told that she was going to speak." And I was like, "We never said that. This is a moment for the students. Um, I understand that she would like to speak to say her piece, but we would like to say our piece, because this is for us, you know?"

And so I, from that experience and then on with this whole diversity inclusion equity business, yeah you could put out statements, so do whatever, or to put up an image, but you still have racially charged RAs. You still have campus residencies that are literally when, when a Black student gets punished for something, they get punished to the worst degree. They get kicked out of campus. I'm sorry, but I don't believe that you, that the university understands what they're saying when they say diversity and inclusion and equity. That's how I feel.

[00:32:24] Maïa Gomis: Yes.

[00:32:26] Victoria Sarita: No, like that's literally it. My friend has been going through some shit for the past two weeks now because of some shit with Camp Res and they kicked her off of campus because of it. Meanwhile, I mean, I'm a psych major, she's a psych major. We've been in the shift for three, for three years now, learning about disorders and whatnot.

And I'm not joking with you, she kinda pinpointed a mental disorder that this girl may have, that she was having an issue with in her suite. And I was just like, you know what? Nobody is trying to evaluate why people are acting the way that they're acting. They just punish. Why are you just punishing?

You know, my friend has, um, depression. So she suffers with mental health, mental health issues, and yet the campus residencies don't care to actually address the

issues and ask why certain things are happening with my friend. They just go on to punish, you know what I mean?

And then also the whole position of RAs is like, They do not know how to detach themselves from their role. And it's literally the fricking prison experiment. Um Bombardo's [Sarita clarification: Zimbardo] Prison Experiment all over again, going on, like it's, it's just the same thing. They really think that they have such great high authority and they don't know how to detach their biases from the role of being a Resident Assistant.

So once that, once that's addressed, once other things are addressed about how most—oh my God, let me not even get into like the Culinart stuff, and like how they treat employees and whatnot—but once those things are addressed, okay, then you can say the university's on point with diversity and inclusion and equity, but I'm sorry right now, I don't believe it. And that's all I have to say.

[00:34:25] Maïa Gomis: Well, thank you Victoria, for um, doing this interview with us. Um—

[00:34:30] Victoria Sarita: No problem.

[00:34:30] Maïa Gomis: —we appreciate it. And um, go and be great. Don't let them stop your shine girl.

[00:34:35] Victoria Sarita: Thanks.

[00:34:36] Maïa Gomis: Go and be great.

[Recording stops]