

MC4M1 Methods of Research in Media and Communications

Summative Essay

May 9 2021

Abstract:

This pilot research project aims to examine how President Joe Biden's (Biden) political persona is perceived amongst First-Generation Asian American (AA) adults in New Jersey, United States (US). Using non-probabilistic snowball sampling to recruit participants, this study relies on qualitative semi-structured Zoom interviews to collect data from 15 participants, addressing questions about political embeddedness, political evaluations, identifications and partisanship. Coded through a two-level inductive thematic analysis, the results reveal two major themes: 'incompetent' and 'better alternative to Trump'. First-Generation AAs were found to perceive Biden's political persona in a mostly negative light. However, given the restricted scope of participants, it is important to note that the results are not representative of the larger population, meaning the results were inconclusive and require further research.

Background:

As the fastest-growing racial group in the US, the Asian American (AA) community makes up nearly 5% of the eligible voters (Budiman, 2021). Drawing on

findings from analyses of US political participation, a proliferation of studies have “shown that the boundaries between some Asian Americans and Whites are blurring”, meaning, ethnic origins are often overlooked and held to be irrelevant when considering voter attitudes and political partisanship (Li & Nicholson, 2020; p.2). However, the recent events sparked by the racialisation of the Covid-19 pandemic challenges existing understandings about Asian embeddedness and political assimilation. In effect, AAs continue to face “various forms of othering and racial discrimination” (Li & Nicholson, 2020; p.7). Despite warnings from Civil Liberties groups, many politicians and administrative officials have frequently referred to the Covid-19 virus as “Kung Flu” and the “Chinese virus”, not only causing extreme partisanship amongst supporters during the 2020 presidential elections between the Republican and Democratic parties but has also worsened overall anti-Asian bias; urgently calling forth further exploration in scholarship related to AA political embeddedness (Guardian, 2020; Yam, 2020). While there is a burgeoning body of research on AA political incorporation, existing research often fails to consider the impacts of what exclusion from the American social fabric may cause upon minority groups’ perception of politicians in power. Therefore, to move research forward in understanding how the role of racial positionality influences political evaluations, this study focuses on the political opinion climate within the minority population of First-Generation AAs, since earlier generational statuses are causally associated with lower political engagement, shedding light on how accepted Americanness potentially correlates with political evaluations (Diaz, 2012).

No doubt, one of the key factors contributing to anti-Asian hatred is attributed to the dissemination of discriminatory rhetoric used by politicians (Li & Nicholson,

2020). This being so, current theories of political assimilation certainly have their limitations, thus urging further studies which question how the interests of politicians and their racialised treatment towards AAs are correlated to political attitudes and identifications. Given the increasing relevance AAs have in US electoral politics, this research project aims to make clear the distinct racial positionalities apparent in American political life, narrowing our focus on understanding the perceptions of our current president-elect (Biden) within this racially targeted population of First-Generation AAs which is clearly understudied. Implications for future studies are also discussed.

Research Question:

In this study, the main research question that I answer is: How is President Joe Biden perceived by First-Generation Asian American Adults in New Jersey?

Rationale for the methodology used:

To analyse First-Generation AA's opinion climate surrounding Biden's public image, this study utilises non-probabilistic snowball sampling as its primary method to gain access to participants. Since recruiting minority populations can often be challenging, this chain-referral system enables effective targeting of participants who fall under the desired analytical criteria by locating others through one's social networks (Gubrium, 2002). Not to mention, with the ballooning anti-Asian sentiment, many find it difficult to voice out their opinions and may not feel comfortable taking part in a study that concerns sensitive topics like such. Since my research topic concerns

American political life, which many AAs already find themselves excluded from long before the pandemic, snowball sampling serves as an apt method in gathering subjects as it effectively filters out participants which not only fulfil the sampling criteria but are 'known' to willingly share their opinions on the US government. The snowball process is also one that is cost and time-efficient, further justifying the use of it in view of the limited time frame and budget of this project (Gubrium, 2002).

Designed to examine the perceptions and attitudes of First-Generation AAs within US political life, the unit of analysis is public perceptions. While most research on public perceptions utilises self-completion methods like surveys, the specificity of the research question proposed draws on a smaller sample size as compared to the larger American population, meaning, in-depth interviews would be particularly useful as it enables further probing and yields more detail-oriented data sets relevant to answering the research question. The flexibility and open-endedness of semi-structured interviews offer a better opportunity to capture the nuances within the participant's perspective, illuminating their attitudes and other "unexpected information that other forms of research might not discover" (Berger, 1998; p.97). According to Berger (1998), "the more people talk, the more they reveal (give away) about themselves" (p.57). As a group that is often neglected in the US political arena, semi-structured in-depth interviews would allow participants the opportunity to voice out their opinion which is so often shut down and/or marginalised within American political life (Reeves et al, 2015). Another advantage of in-depth interviews over self-completion methods is that the respondent is more likely to give their full attention, yielding more representative results, yet also allowing the interviewer to deduce the quality of each response. Since

opinions and attitudes differ from one person to another, semi-structured interviews serve as a fitting method that allows for tailored questions unique to specific situations and experiences – ideal for the purpose of this study. Lastly, since in-depth interviews can capture both verbal and non-verbal cues (e.g body language/speech pauses and hesitation), revealing a deeper level of feelings possibly not known to the participant themselves, this data collection method is particularly useful for exploring sensitive topics like such (Berger, 1998).

The chosen methodology certainly carries its own set of limitations. By using snowball sampling, nominated subjects are likely to share the same background, traits, and opinions, therefore it is possible that the sample that the researcher will obtain may be only a small subgroup of the entire population, consequently affecting the representativeness of the sample (Explorable, 2021). To combat the lack of sample diversity, this research project will strategically utilise diverse sample seeds with varying backgrounds, i.e education, religious affiliations, age, as a way to lead to varying seeds – enhancing richness of the sample set (Kirchherr & Charles, 2018). Second, in yielding opinion-based results through semi-structured interviews, certain participants “may not see written consent forms as at all protective” and feel reluctant to speak the truth behind their political beliefs despite participating in the project, thus, producing skewed results (Gubrium, 2020; p.89). As a remedy, the building of rapport is particularly important and persistent reminders that participants are protected by confidentiality should be set in place to build further trust.

Design:

This study centres around the research question: How is President Joe Biden's political persona perceived by First-Generation AAs in New Jersey. I aim to analyse how social exclusion on both an individual and group level influences political identities and evaluations. The study also aims to unpack how public perceptions of minority populations are influenced by various forces, including self-perceived identity, group identity, political rhetoric, and circulating media portrayals. 'First-Generation' is defined as any individual who arrived in the US after the age of 12, and/or have at least one parent born outside of the US; 'AAs' refer to any American passport and/or permanent resident (PR) holder from an Asian descent; 'adult' is defined as 21+ years old; and 'perceive' is defined as thoughts and attitudes of any sort, including those which are hidden to the participant.

Procedure

15 interviewees will be recruited through a snowball sampling method from the personal network of the principal investigator Stephanie Yu (I), such as relatives and friends of friends. Starting with 5 sample seeds which vary in educational background (Secondary, Diploma, Bachelors, Master, PhD), age group (21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 60+), and country of origin, each interviewee will provide the researcher with names and contact of another potential interviewee. To ensure participants are aware of the purpose and potential risks of the study, a written consent package that details the duration, purpose, risks and benefits of the research will be emailed prior to the interviews. Scheduling of interviews will not commence until the package is signed. Participants will be able to withdraw from the study at any point before April 20th,

2021. Interviews will be scheduled to dates and times convenient to the subjects to minimise disruptions, avoiding lethargic hours, rushed interviews and more.

All interviews will be conducted online over Zoom, a video conferencing software. Informed consent on audio recording and data usage will be reiterated once again before interviews begin and during the interview process if need be. To end, interviewees will be debriefed and "counselled so as to avoid any lasting damage from the experience" (Babbie, 2014; p.64). Interviews will last for approximately one hour with each participant. The structure of the interview will be set up in clusters of overarching themes as described in *Table 1*. Taking on a non-directive approach, interviews will be participant-focused, allowing them to open and develop the interview following their own perspective and pace (Berger, 1998). Interviews will gradually move from simple to more complex and personal questions. The interview guide will be finetuned accordingly (McGrath et al, 2019). Interviews will focus heavily on using questions like "can you tell me about..." to yield more detailed and in-depth explanations. Academic jargon will be avoided.

Table 1: Semi-structured in-depth interview structure

Section	Content
I	General information on the participant
II	General impression on US political life and AA political embeddedness
III	Impression on Biden
IV	Understanding reasons behind perceptions
V	Debriefing

All interviews will be audio-recorded and manually transcribed verbatim immediately following the interview. Notes on non-verbal cues will be taken throughout the interview process and accounted for in the analysis. Using Braun and Clarke's (2006) six-phase systematic process, the transcribed Zoom interviews will be analysed using a two-level inductive thematic analysis. Beginning at the semantic level of analysis, the transcripts of the Zoom interviews will be coded on a surface level for themes that are identified for their denoted meaning. I will then move to a latent level of analysis where I will begin to "interrogate the assumption, ideas and discourses that might underlie the spoken narrative", developing subthemes that further communicates political evaluations against Biden (Evans, 2018; p.4). Codes will then be gathered and used to generate a thematic map, reviewed for their quality, internal and external homogeneity, and sorted to reveal common patterns of thoughts relevant to answering the research question.

Ethical Considerations

The pilot study received supervision approval and adheres to The London School of Economics Research Ethics and Policy guidelines. All participants are allocated pseudonyms to protect anonymity.

As a study that involves human participants and the investigation of sensitive topics aka political beliefs, subjects are to only voluntarily participate in the study after they have read and signed the consent form as an indication that they acknowledge and accept the risks of the project. Throughout my data collection process, conscious attempts at keeping the study transparent will be made so that participants are fully informed of the role they play in the study. Deceptive methods are not intended to be used as a method to yield data.

Analysis and Results:

The 15 participants in the sample included: 8 Mainland-Chinese, 2 Vietnamese, 2 Filipinos, and 3 Indians.

Thematic analysis of the transcribed interviews revealed two major themes ‘incompetent’ and ‘better alternative to Trump’. Several subthemes were also found on the level of latent analysis. Themes and respective sub-themes are presented in Figure 1.

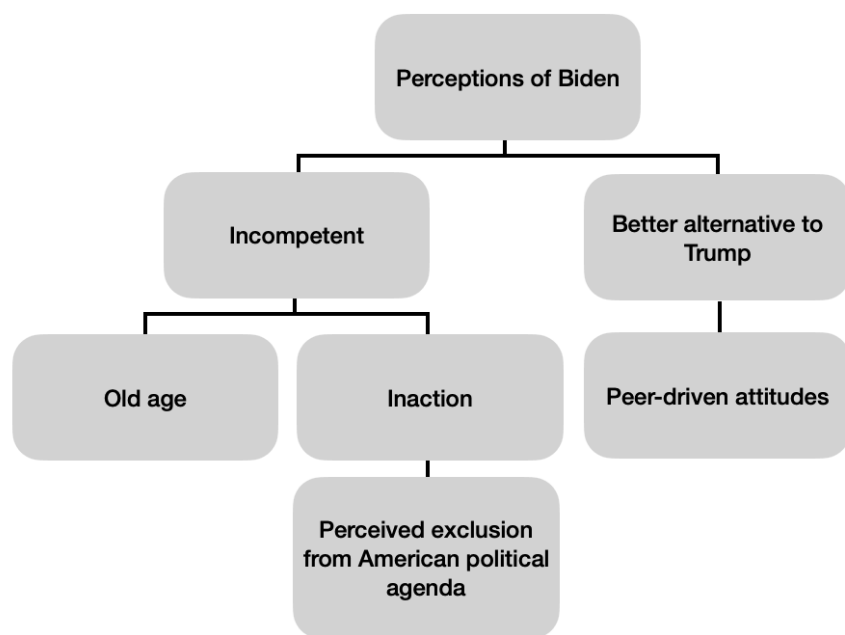


Figure 1. Thematic map of themes and subthemes from interview transcripts

Theme 1: ‘Incompetent’. This theme encompasses the unapproving attitudes against Biden political persona where participants responded with views on his incompetence. This involved opinions on the current political scene under Biden’s governing.

Tom: ...I don’t think Biden fully knows what he is doing.

Mel: He’s always such a mess.

Peter: American politics is going down the drain...Biden is a joke.

Discussions on Biden’s competence was elucidated in detail, dividing the theme into the subthemes of ‘old age’ and ‘inaction’ as measures of his political ‘ruling’ abilities.

Subtheme 1.a: 'Old age'. Responses indicated that Biden's old age poses as a hindrance against the trust citizens are able to instil upon him as a leading political figure.

Tom: During the election campaign, I feel that his age was getting the better of him, forgetting...contracting statements...An old and non-trustworthy candidate in my opinion.

Subtheme 1.b: 'Inaction'. Respondents drew strong links between Biden's incompetence and his lack of action since taking office.

Mel: What has he done? So far I've seen nothing, no improvements at all...Just a bunch of fake promises.

A further nuance observed was the emphasis on the lack of action in unifying the AA community as a core chapter of the American political agenda. Participants highlighted the stark difference between what Biden had 'promised' as a part of his election campaign and what he has done to date.

Subtheme 1.c: 'Perceived exclusion from American political agenda'. Through discussion on impressions of AA political embeddedness and US political life, participants expressed feelings of exclusion from the American social fabric.

Tom: Despite having lived here [the US] for more than half my life, I do not feel American...and I will never. As a part of Biden's campaign, didn't mention how he believes everyone should have a fair shot at this so-called American dream? But since he has taken office, nothing has changed for us minorities. Plus, Biden's really done nothing to stop violence against Asians. I don't think that Biden's priority is to help us [Asians].

Despite strong opinions towards Biden's incompetence, Biden was nonetheless perceived as a better alternative as compared to former President Donald Trump – providing insights on political identifications.

Theme 2: 'Better alternative to Trump'. Comparisons between past American governing/policing, particularly Trumpism, was frequently mentioned in relation to perceptions on Biden.

Mel: Not saying I am a fan of Biden, but at least he's not a racist like Trump.

Tom: ...Neither of the candidate choices were good, but he's [Biden] the better pick.

Subtheme 2.a: 'Peer-driven attitudes'. Frequent referral to the opinions of surrounding peers is observed, highlighting the influence social circles have upon political evaluations. Latent analysis revealed external factors which came into play in shaping their political opinions; not necessarily always related to their racial positionality and/or treatment as AAs.

Peter: I reckon a lot of my friends hate Biden but are all too afraid to say so in public. But those two [friends], We have a group chat just for sh*tting on him, and I think that definitely feeds into my perception of him.

Discussion:

This study sought to expand upon existing research on the perceptual effects political embeddedness has on First-Generation AA adults in New Jersey. Through inductive thematic analysis, preliminary findings revealed a "reasonable and logical chain of evidence" which points towards a mostly negative perception of Biden (Alhojailan, 2014; p.41). Despite being thought of as a better alternative to Trump, Biden's incompetence appeared as a key attribute to how First-Generation AA adults' perceived his political persona. While perceived exclusion from national political agenda was a pertinent narrative that contributed to affecting First-Generation AA perceptions on Biden's political persona, peer-driven attitudes serve as an underlying measure to political evaluations, providing further insights into the forces which shape political attitudes and partisan preferences.

Responding to the appropriateness of the analytical frameworks and methodologies, snowball sampling facilitated effective targeting of a sub-group who epitomised the analytical criteria, and semi-structured qualitative interviews served as a powerful constructivist approach attuned for exploring the meanings and experiences people attach to their political evaluations and identifications. Since the unit of analysis of public perception entails widespread interest, the flexibility and open-ended guiding frame of semi-structured interviews proved to be ideal for answering the research question (McGrath et al, 2019). Since little is known about the role racial positionality has on political evaluations, much less decisive conclusions, non-directive interviews were also well suited, allowing researchers to ‘fish’ for meaning with room for further explorations beyond the stages of data collection. While each interview took on different directions, follow-up questions aided responses to remain within the purview of the research question, facilitating underside explorations of hidden attitudes concerning Biden’s political persona, garnering a great deal of detail.

Limitations

First, while thematic analysis effectively captured the nuances and patterned meanings of public perceptions on Biden, given the way the research question was phrased and operationalised, the context of political embeddedness was not addressed, thereby demonstrating little correspondence, failing to align motivations behind this research study. Second, our sample was simply not large enough to reach succinct conclusions about the perceptions of First-Generation AA towards Biden in the state of New Jersey. Thus, full studies must expand the sample size to strengthen

representativeness in patterns of political perceptions. Finally, this study lacks reasoning behind why samples were drawn from a singular state – New Jersey – with no literature or theoretical justification of why this particular setting demands scholastic engagement in the background of the study – an eminent knowledge gap.

Due to the vulnerable positions AAs currently hold, I suspect that some of the participants were untruthful to some extent, avoiding any sort of ‘responsibility’ by expressing their true perceptions of Biden. Particularly since ‘peer-driven attitudes’ played a key role in shaping the opinions of participants, one of the consequences of this snowball sampling arrangement could be that what is revealed or concealed may be dictated by group consensus before undertaking this study, creating a sense of reluctance in speaking the truth in case data was revealed to participating subjects. This makes it difficult to identify whether the information gathered is accurate. Thus, other methods that ensure a higher level of anonymity such as convenience sampling should be used.

While I reckon that not only did the participants feel more comfortable opening up about their experiences as I, who also fall within the analytical category of First-Generation AA adults, can identify with their experiences coming from the ‘same’ standpoint/have similar “aspects of identity as resources in interaction”, this presents certain dangers to research biases (Gubrium, 2002; p.95). Since “meanings that seem clear to the interviewer can be unshared”, my pre-informed self may cause skewed interpretations, thus, posing certain limitations to the accuracy and reliability of results obtained (Gubrium, 2002; p.97).

Conclusion

Future study should be directed at improving the three main issues highlighted above. First, to strengthen correspondence between the purpose of this study and the research question proposed, the research question should instead be phrased as: How has the racial positionality of being First-Generation AA adults affected perceptions on President Joe Biden?, thus, better situating the research context, offering more specificity. Second, since "the best study design uses more than one research method, taking advantage of their different strengths", the monomethod used should be replaced by mix-methods to enhance holism (Babbie, 2004; p.115-116; Bergman, 2011). By incorporating elements of quantitative research, data collected can be cross-validated and/or "complement individual findings", strengthening overall validity (Bergman, 2011; p.256-257). Finally, since current findings revealed how peer-driven attitudes stand as a prominent narrative in the influence of political evaluations, future research should consider the use of focus group research as this methodology would be better suited to exploring the effects subjugated group identities have on political opinion climates – specifically targeting the socially-oriented aspect of political identifications.

Drawing on broader methodological implications, this pilot study effectively sheds light on the advantages Zoom interviews have over traditional face-to-face interviews. Identified strengths include: easy accessibility and enhanced comfort when discussing sensitive topics. By enabling participation within respondents' own convenient space, this provides the assurance of personal safety, thus, beneficial in breaking down defences "without compromising a meaningful connection with the

participants" (Gray et al, 2020). Observed advantages can therefore be used to aid future research advancing the qualitative research field.

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Appendix:

Information Sheet:

Understanding Asian American Youths' Perceptions of President Joe Biden: A study on Biden's public image

Principal Investigator: Stephanie Yu, Student, [REDACTED]

Department: Department of Media and Communications, LSE

Thank you for considering participating in this study which will take place April 1st, 2021 - April 8th, 2021. This information sheet outlines the purpose of the study and provides a description of your involvement and rights as a participant, if you agree to take part.

1. What is the research about?

The project is designed to assess President Joe Biden's public image, specifically examining young Asian Americans' perception of the president. As the fastest-growing racial group in the United States, the Asian American community offers an important case study to understand how one's perceived racial position influences the attitudes and views individuals have towards political figures. Fuelled by Donald Trump's racist rhetoric, asian hate crimes have been on a rise, causing outrage against Trump's political image, garnering blatant political partisanship. By collecting data regarding the opinions of a marginalised group, this study aims to contribute to reforming US political life; giving a voice to Asian Americans. You have been invited to participate in this study because of your key role in our study.

2. Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. You do not have to take part if you do not want to. If you do decide to take part I will ask you to sign a consent form which you can sign and return in advance of the interview or sign at the meeting.

3. What will my involvement be?

Your participation in this study involves participation in a video-on zoom interview and will take approximately one hour of your time. In the interview we will ask you to describe: your thoughts on President Joe Biden; voting preferences; and your level of engagement with American politics. We will also ask about your perspective on the circulating persona of Joe Biden over mediated spaces.

4. How do I withdraw from the study?

You can withdraw from the study at any point until April 20th, 2021, without having to give a reason. If any questions during the interview make you feel uncomfortable, you do not have to answer them. Withdrawing from the study will have no effect on you. If

you withdraw from the study I will not retain the information you have given thus far, unless you are happy for me to do so.

5. What will my information be used for?

I will use the collected information for a pilot research project.

6. Will my taking part and data be kept confidential? Will it be anonymised?

The records from this study will be kept as confidential as possible. Only myself and my supervisor (Omar Al-Ghazzi) will have access to the files and any audio tapes. Your data will be anonymised – your name will not be used in any reports or publications resulting from the study. All digital files, transcripts and summaries will be given codes and stored separately from any names or other direct identification of participants. Any hard copies of research information will be kept in locked files at all times.

Limits to confidentiality:

Confidentiality will be maintained as far as it is possible, unless you tell us something which implies that you or someone you mention might be in significant danger of harm and unable to act for themselves; in this case, we may have to inform the relevant agencies of this, but we would discuss this with you first

7. Who has viewed this study?

This study has undergone ethics review in accordance with the LSE Research Ethics Policy and Procedure.

8. Data Protection Privacy Notice

The LSE Research Privacy Policy can be found at: https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/SecretarysDivision/Assets/Documents/Information-Records-Management/Privacy-Notice-for-Researchv1.2.pdf?from_serp=1

The legal basis used to process your personal data will be legitimate interests. The legal basis used to process special category personal data (e.g. data that reveals racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, health, sex life or sexual orientation, genetic or biometric data) will be for scientific and historical research or statistical purposes. To request a copy of the data held about you please contact:

9. What if I have a question or complaint?

If you have any questions regarding this study please contact the researcher, Stephanie Yu, on s.yu25@lse.ac.uk. If you have any concerns or complaints regarding the conduct of this research, please contact the LSE Research Governance Manager via research.ethics@lse.ac.uk.

If you are happy to take part in this study, please sign the consent sheet attached.

Consent Form:

Understanding Asian American Youths' Perceptions of President Joe Biden: A study on Biden's public image

Stephanie Yu

PARTICIPATION IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY IS VOLUNTARY

I have read and understood the study information dated [10/04/21], or it has been read to me. I have been able to ask questions about the study and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.	YES / NO
I consent voluntarily to be a participant in this study and understand that I can refuse to answer questions and that I can withdraw from the study at any time up until April 20th, 2021, without having to give a reason.	YES / NO
I agree to the interview being audio recorded.	YES / NO
I understand that the information I provide will be used for pilot research project and that the information will be anonymised.	YES / NO
I agree that my (anonymised) information can be quoted in research outputs.	YES / NO
I understand that any personal information that can identify me – such as my name, address, will be kept confidential and not shared with anyone other than Stephanie Yu / beyond the study team.	YES / NO
I give permission for the (anonymised) information I provide to be deposited in a data archive so that it may be used for future research.	YES / NO

Please retain a copy of this consent form.

Participant name:

Signature: _____ Date _____

Interviewer name:

Signature: _____ Date _____

For information please contact: Stephanie Yu at [REDACTED]

Interview Guide:

Greet participant with self-introductions, explain the purpose of this research study, and the role participants play in the project. Remind participants of their right to withdraw from this study as soon as they feel uncomfortable and that their information will be discarded and omitted from the findings.

Ask simple/general questions to begin, then gradually building onto more complex and sensitive questions. Leave the least 'relevant' questions near the end, in case time runs out. Remember to ask probing, clarifications and validation questions throughout the interview process

**Highlighted in yellow are good questions*

** Notes made in red*

1) General information on the participant - Information seeking questions (Openers):

- Tell me a little bit about yourself. Your age, educational background, current occupation (if you have one), your race and ethnicity?
- How many years have you lived in America? What is your experience like?
 - *How has your experience been so far?*
- Do you like the US? What made you come to the US?
 - *Better Opportunities? Family reasons?*
- Did you find it difficult to assimilate into American culture?
- After all these years, would you say that you've fully assimilated?
- ~~Were the barriers to entry really high? In terms of social/civic assimilation?~~
~~Political assimilation?~~

- What do you identify *more* as ethnically? Would you say you're closer to your Asian roots or would you say you're more American?
- Have you ever experienced racism in America? Can you tell me about your experience?
- How do you feel about racism in America? Do you think that this is a systemic issue?

** Move to more complex question section - need to build rapport first **

2) Questions related to their general impression on US political life:

- Can you tell me a little more about your views on the political landscape of the nation?

A good question to ask when they show signs of being very politically engaged/involved

- How closely do you follow American politics? Does it matter to you?
- Which news channels do you use? And which channels do you prefer? Why?
- Do you think that news channels have affected your views on American politics?
- Can you tell me more about your political ideals? What are your thoughts on the current political scene?
- Did you vote over the past 2020 president elections? If so, can you tell me who you voted for and why? Why not Biden?
- Do you think Asian Americans are underrepresented in American politics?

Too direct

- How can Asian Americans get more involved in American politics?

Too direct

- ~~Do you think it would benefit the country more if Asians and/or minority populations were more involved politically? If so, how?~~

3) Understanding their impressions of Biden - More complex questions:

- How do you feel about Biden being our president?
- Can you tell me a little bit about your impression of Biden?
- Do you think that Biden is doing a good job so far?
- What are your thoughts on his political leading abilities? Is he a competent political candidate?
- Do you often compare American politics to leadership in other countries? Like your home country? Why or why not?
- Why/How Biden's old age is an issue? Why might it be?

**Old age seems to be common theme - so if they bring it up, try to follow it up with this question **

- How much trust do you have in Biden?
- Do you think that he'll do what he's promised before being elected?
- Have you seen some sort of execution of his plans so far?
- Do you think Biden did an adequate job at managing Covid-19?
- How badly has he handled the situation?
- Do you think that Trump would've handled it better? Or worse?

Many comparisons between former presidents esp. Trump

- What are the major issues Biden has which has made you feel iffy about him being president?

IF NOT, ask them to tell you why they like Biden

- What can Biden do to improve himself as a president?
- Do you see America progressing during Biden's term?
- Can you tell me a little more about what you think can be used as measures to measure the success of American politics and to measure the success of Biden?
- Do you think the majority of the American population made the right decision for voting Biden as president?
- Can you go into details and do a full-on evaluation of Biden? His good points as the president and his bad points?
- Can you expand on your perceptions of Biden?
- Do you think that being Asian/Asian American has affected your views on the American political scene and/or Biden as our president? **Add Why or why not? How so?*

** If they mention their friends**

- Do you often talk to your friends about political matters? Especially your political ideologies, who you support, etc? Why? Or Why not?
- How do your friends/social circles/family members feel about Biden?
- Are the majority of your friends/social circles also Asian American?

- Do you see stark differences between how a caucasian American perceives American politics and/or Biden, as compared to Asian Americans/other minority groups?

Other questions:

- *What are your thoughts on the recent surge in anti-Asian hate?*
- *Do you think that racism has been partially exacerbated by media portrayals? Or the way people have referred to Covid-19 as “Kung flu” or the Chinese virus?*

5) Debriefing

- Remind them of their rights to withdraw
- Answer any of their questions
- Thank them

Full Interview Transcript

00:01

I: Can you tell me a little bit about yourself. Your age, educational background, current occupation (if you have one), your race and ethnicity?

P: I'm 71 this year. I have 2 Master degrees and I'm currently working as a consultant for the US government. I'm Asian...Chinese actually.

I: Chinese racially or...? Ethnically?

P: I'm Chinese racially and by ethnically...you mean...? Um...I guess I'm Chinese?

I: I mean ethnically like...Asian American, Chinese, American..

P: OH, Asian American.

I: Would you say you are closer to your Chinese roots or would you say you are more American?

P: I would say I'm definitely more American, but sometimes its weird. I can't explain it...I sometimes feel like I'm more Chinese. Maybe just parts of me are more Chinese?

I: Uh huh. So how many years have you lived in America? And what was your experience like? How has it been so far? Do you think the length of your stay has made you more 'American'?

P: 49.5 years now. I feel like American culture values hard workers. If you try hard to use your God given talents, then you will succeed.

I: Wow...that's a long time. Hmm...How has your experience been so far - living in America?

P: I've been pretty satisfied I would say...

I: Do you think the length of your stay has made you more 'American'?

P: Oh yes, 100%.

I: Did you find it difficult to assimilate into American culture?

P: At the beginning yes, definitely a super tough experience. I tried really really hard to assimilate though..but I would say I have adjusted pretty well primarily because I had an American host family which has been guiding and mentoring me.

I: After all these years, would you say that you've fully assimilated?

P: I mean...yeah I would like to say I have. I think yeah, you know what? I believe so, culturally and socially with my colleagues and friends. It came naturally, because I worked while in colleague, as a waiter at pizza restaurant, an inventory clerk in a department store, as an orderly in Central Supply in two hospitals, and a teaching and research assistant in colleges.

I: Oh. So what about politically? Do you think you're pretty involved with the American political agenda?

00:05

P: Before coming to America, I admired John F. Kennedy. I felt Richard Nixon did a good job in the context of the Vietnam wars which almost all Americans opposed and opening diplomatic relationship with China. My land lady while I was in college loved Jimmy Carter and so do I, a decent Christian who tried extremely hard. Inflation and failed rescue of the American hostages in Tehran, Iran caused him to lose the election. My ex-spouse's family was Democrats and I felt good about being a Democrat after I became a US citizen. I felt that Bill Clinton did good for the country, despite the Monica Lewinsky scandal. These are conservative democrats who were concerned about national debt and spending like "pie in the sky". When Ronald Reagan was the president, I thought he was a bigot on not helping the poor, although he was strong on national defense which I liked, now I realized that his policy was to work to help the economy and strengthen the country which all would benefit. Yes, I am assimilated politically when I progressed from a youth in America to date. But I generally do not like to express my political view to anyone except my immediate family because it is private.

I: You seem to quite like it here in American huh? Can you tell me a little more?

P: I love this country as an American citizen.

I: Uh huh. So what made you come here in the first place? Did you always admire the US or what was the situation like?

P: I think I am adventurous. I had a chance to go to HKU, however, one of my uncles, Uncle #6, told me about the chance to be sent to US on a scholarship. I took the tests and was selected and went to a two-year college (Junior College), then I transferred to a four-year college, got my BA and MA, and then to another grad school, to complete MPH (public health). Then I got married, and became a PR, then a naturalized citizen.

I: Can you tell me a little more about your views on the political landscape of the nation?

P: The founding fathers had established this country a good foundation of representative government. The federal government respects state rights if the states run the States according to the US Constitution. The three branches in the federal government strike a balance to develop laws and regulations, and policy and national defense, international diplomacy to make the US the champion of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. We do not seek to dominate others, but we expect other countries to have values in terms of human right and governance to bring up their citizens to be free from oppression. Especially racism right now. This is a high goal if we are united as a nation.

I: You seem like someone who follows the news very closely? So how closely do you follow American politics? Ok no, actually that's just an assumption of mine. Do you though?

P: Oh yes, I do. I think I do follow it quite closely. I keep up with the news from sources like the Wall Street Journal and Fox News. I used to like media like CNN, CBS, NBC, PNR, but they had become spoken persons or mouthpieces for the Democrats. They scare me, like Communist Countries used the media to spread propogandas to influence people who would rather blame than working toward a solution for the unity of the country. The Roman Empire lasted 400 years despite being strong and highly skilled and educated. Corruption of the government caused the country to break down. I hope the US is not like another Roman Empire. If we lack vision to bring people together, we will be easily subject to external forces to destroy America.

I: So now, what channels do you use?

0:10

P: Fox News because the news is less biased and the show hosts were able to point out the hypocrisies of politicians, left or right, who act like the Pharisees in the days of Jesus Christ. They judged people but never take a moment to reflect and judge themselves. Pharisees do not see love of thy fellowmen only you follow the customs or laws and make the sacrifices which would then earn their place in eternity. Politicians who are dishonest and do not try to compromise and work together toward a common goal are hypocrites as they do not understand the foundation of democracy.

I: Uh huh. Do you think that news channels have affected your views on American politics?

P: No doubt about it. Say Google News, Facebook, Twitters which are owned by high technology company in California, through power sharing with the key Democrats, are prone or program or screen to put the Democratic view on front and center, their agenda. They promote what a new or ideal society should be like and removed/censored opposite views. This is unAmerican, as we all can agree to disagree without hatred of one another. The spreading of lies influenced by big tech companies and foreign disinformation are troublesome to me, both Democrats and Republicans, but outright lies and present them as facts under the pretend of free speech is truly unAmerican. It is like the novel "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley – dystopia and utopia, the means to force change based on ideals and not common sense or demonstrated, practical experience, to steadfastly make improvements, rather than diving to something unknown and dreams.

I: Hmm..So politically. Actually, can you tell me about your political ideals? You seem to be very passionate about that...and also very knowledgeable.

P: I am a sympathetic centrist who like the Republican agenda better than the Democrat's or the other minor political entities like the Libertarian or Independent. Perhaps I am just being a pragmatist. I believe in Constitution and amendments as they are written today, and not agree with changing them to fit a political agenda because the political "wind" changes from time to time, i.e., whichever occupying the White House, Congressional majority in the senate and the house of representatives), but the governing principles or fundamental rule of law should not change. That is what democracy stands for, i.e., for the people, by the people, and of the people. People meaning all political views, geography, agenda, race, religious beliefs. The country must be run with a common good in mind, not any group of people who happen to occupy the White House or the Congress, strengthen by the Constitution which guardians are the Judicial system from local to state systems, and the district and supreme court for business across interstate. An individual should be above all rules, same for the president of the US and any key politicians, and rules should not be applicable to one group and not other group of people. In other words, the political ideals are free to pursuit life, liberty, and happiness without constraints, except when such a pursuit or pursuits affect or impact other's right. This is called equality and equity under the treatment of laws. The US is not perfect and needs improvements, but we cannot break it apart and expects to rebuild it from the broken pieces yet become faultless as it is an impossible task. My thought on the current political scene since the defeat of the former president Donald Trump is "deeply concern" that the current administration led by Joseph Biden is undecided, blowing with the wind, and apologetic of the past and not emphasizing on the future. Yes, the country had done wrong in the past, like the Chinese Immigration Act of 1882, forced education of the American Indians. assimilation boarding school in the late 1800s, and taking of their land, and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and importing Africans and sold/used them as slaves. These are old wounds and should be remembered but must be healed by moving forward to not discriminate another person because they are different than the majority. Ripping the country apart by accusing the current generation, making them feel guilty, and treating them unfairly is equally wrong. The current political scene is one of intimidation, if you are not for us, you are against us...and there is no middle ground...and every action must be maintaining political advantage or power, and not for the common good for our entire country.

I: You brought up some really good points there.. I'm curious...Did you vote over the past 2020 president elections? If so, can you tell me who you voted for and why?

P: Oh yeah, I voted.

I: Haha somehow I'm not surprised you did. Can you tell me a little more about who you voted for and why?

P: I voted for the former president Donald Trump because he worked hard to earn it for four more years – boosting the economy best ever, allow legal migration and discouraging illegal entry to this county, making this country strong especially standing by small Asian countries against the hegemony of China, fair trade with all trading partners to protect against losing jobs in America, providing sustained funding to the Historical Black Colleges, and for our law enforcement system - police - and the military against enemies from domestic or foreign. He followed up his words with action.

I: And Biden on the other hand? What are you thoughts on him?

0:15

P: The Democratic nominee at that time Joe Biden was a light weight, showed no accomplishments in his 40 years in politics but to chase after the winds. His ideas were radical catering to the leftist (people who believe the country owes them a lot due to past sins, and he offered no fresh ideas to make the country better, just the race card (using race to encourage outrage for people to vote for him, hoping that he could rectify past wrongs. Biden is a corrupted politician who benefited from political power as Joe Biden was from a family of average income, and he gained multi-million wealth through deals that benefit him. He hid behind the COVID-19 pandemic and avoided public campaign to present fresh and innovative ideas to make the country running better. He just played the

race card and blamed former President Trump for the pandemic, giving no credit to Trump's "Operation Warp Speed" to use the national emergency power to bypass red tapes to manufacture test kits, ventilators and vaccines.

I: I see that you are feel pretty aggravated by this all. Is it because Asian Americans don't have a say in this all or what? Where is this coming from? Do you think that Asian Americans are underrepresented in American politics?

P: I mean yes, yeah, umm.. I think it used to be, but it is getting better if the metric is for the number of senator and representative in the house is compared the number of Asians in America. Asian Americans only have themselves to blame because they do not harvest the winning margin for a tight race and their voting turnout is less than the number of eligible voters, due voting apathy. Note that in general, Asian Americans are non-activist and mind their own business, perhaps the level of dissatisfaction among Asian Americans against politicians is less intense and thus less interest to run for political office to make changes. Additionally, they concentrate in big "blue" states like California and New York, and do not harvest "the margin to win" to show the political clout in other states where the number of Asian Americans are small.

I: Okay so, what do you think Asian Americans can do to get more involved? In American politics.

P: Honestly, like any other Americans...Black...and Latino, they must start participating in local elections, spend the time understanding the concept of representative government, and make arguments and decisions that benefit the common good.

I: So do you think that we should? That other minority groups should get more involved? Do you think it would benefit the country more if Asians and/or minority populations were more involved politically?

P: Of course. This country is a melting pot, it would not be beneficial to the society at large if Asian Americans seclude themselves and thus excluded because they bring nothing to the table in terms of winning margin and/or fresh innovative ideas for resolving issues.

I: And how can they do that?

P: Start out small such as school board members and local politic leaders, as member of county board of supervisors, and participating in the campaigns for the US Congress or Senate races, then working to convince others he or she has the political wisdom to represent the community's interest and then the county, and the entire state.

I: Yeah, that all makes sense. Hmm... Actually..Let's quickly revisit your thoughts on Biden. How do you feel about Biden being our president?

0:20

P: In the first 100 days, he managed to pass a modest...1.9 trillion.... COVID relief bill, which can be recognized as an accomplishment through the budget resolution process without a single vote of support from the Republicans in the Senate. Under the disguise of COVID, only 60% can be considered emergency relief and the 40% was wasteful spending for political paybacks for the presidential win last November. This is a disgrace as the younger generations of this nation are now responsible for paying back this national debt because we spend more than the government takes in from tax collection. Another case in point is the Transportation Bill currently being proposed. The bill, over 4 trillion is full of ornaments, called riders or an amendments, which are not transportation related for infrastructure repairs or reconstruction, but other pet projects or political paybacks to Congressmen or Congresswomen to support this expenditure. This practice was outlawed in the Trump administration that passed budget bills cost-effectively. As you see, President Biden is catering to lobbies and special interest groups and has no in-depth review of the impact of these expenditures on the national debt. His delegates to the China-US summit in Alaska is embarrassing to the nation; as China scold US for human right violations such as slavery in the past to counter the genocide of Uighur Muslims in the province of Xinjiang. China now looks down on the US because of this weak administration who appease and apologize rather than focusing on the issues on human rights. The Russia and Iran are testing us, so are the terrorist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihads on the west bank bordering the State of Israel because unlike previous president Trump, Biden did not show commitment to middle east peace. So, these terrorist groups are emboldened. The recent cyber attacked, likely from Russia, again our pipeline company Colonial Pipeline is another example of a weak administration inviting criminals who are jealous of the US and wanting to show that they could act without consequence of retaliation. I'm just going to be honest here...I think that **American politics is going down the drain...Biden is a joke.**

I: [laughs]

0:25

P: In terms of intellect, he is showing signs of dementia and cognitive degradation. He's just so so old...He must have Mrs. Biden with him every step of the way, and often, asking his aides for the next steps what he should do. In short, he behaves like a puppet on a string – which is sad. Other political leaders and their intelligence is seeing it and definitively trying to test us on our resolve to continue to be the leader of the free world. This is worrisome to ALL Americans who want this country to do well. President Biden is a figure head by name, and he signs what his aides told him to. He held extremely limited high-profile meetings with the opposition....Republican leaders...to move on with the Transportation Bill, but it was unsuccessful because he skills to convince others are diminished due to his health condition. You may call that he felt two times on a flight of stairs to Air Force One, and that showed that he is frail physically as well. I mean I'm old too but... just look at him. All of us Americans want him to do well to finish this term and perhaps the next term, but his conditions and signs unconvincing that he has the stamina to do his job. He cannot face the camera without a teleprompter and hand notes, and he refused to answer more than one or two impromptu questions from the media (because he was not prepared for them). This is extremely troublesome. Other countries who are our enemies are smiling because they know that they can take advantage of the US with impunity. As you see, he is defensive and blame the lack of economic rebounds on the pandemic and there is only so much to blame to go around. Eventually, he has to fact the fact that his policies and executive orders are incoherent, thinking that throwing money to the State and local government will be sufficient. It is entirely opposite to what the previous administration which emphasizes empowering the private sectors and industries to lead the recovery by hiring and employment. Biden's plan is to distribute funds to people, and this tax and spend strategy cannot be sustained. Why would people work when the unemployment checks keep coming? The unemployment benefit is not an incentive to work. This is not a way to run the country and definitively not a pathway to economic recovery. There is carrot but not sticks. Continuing the lockdown without opening the country for schools, recreation, and community centers, entertainment, etc. The vaccination effort to increase herd community is half empty half full because the Democrats were criticizing former president Trump and questioned the vaccines' effectiveness and spread the groom and doom scenario rather than the future to be back to normal. They have no credibility, so sad.

I: So essentially you think he's doing a horrible job.

P: Um..Yes. He has failed miserably and is an embarrassment to this country. Our allies are worried, and the world is feeling insecure and risks of irrational acts but Mr. Biden and backtracking supporting our allies. If D is a passing grade, he is below that for the most powerful position as a leader of the world. Truly a consensus opinion if you ask the world's diplomats. He has not accomplished anything significant so far or pointing to hope and recovery from the economic downturn from the pandemic. He let this country subjected to foreign disinformation and big tech and media to be the "yes" men. This self-assured posture does not resemble reality of this world that competitiveness and strength are the only qualification for leadership. Finally, he was influenced by the left Democrats under the disguise of "equity" to set policies without the backup of science, wasting resources and keeping this country wondering where the light at the end of the tunnel is. People are ready to be back, and he is not leading the effort. In order not to be embarrassed that his campaign jargons were all wrong and irresponsible. He does not call out hypocrisies like the Me-Too movements and police protection – when democrats like Andrew Cuomo was caught committing sexual harassment and police successes in countering crimes against minorities and thugs. Minority neighborhoods suffer because the demonize our police and the border guards, Immigration Officers enforcing illegal crossings, and the border crisis when migrants keep coming for a better life because he promised in his campaign that he was opposed to the border wall and restriction in immigration by merit consideration advocated for former president Trump.

0:30

I: And your thoughts on his political leading abilities? Is he a competent political candidate? Can you tell me a little more on that?

P: He has little or none, political leading abilities. A leader has these qualities, 1) Bring people together on a common goal, 2) speak with authority and no plagiarising, 3) Thoughtful, firm but kind, and take decisive action on terrorism including cyber attacks, 4) bring people together and avoid blaming without a solution....5)...umm...uplift people with hope and action to increase prosperity, and, avoid politicizing the judicial branch, 6) has a vision of what American would do and can do, and take steps to achieve goals....I lost count but, you get what I mean. Good leaders have an action plan, they should be strong believer of the US constitution and they should set policies based on careful consideration of priorities and their impacts.

I: Do you think that Biden's old age is the issue then?

P: President Biden is 79 years old and will be 82. Old age is not an issue as long as he is able, but as I mentioned in the above, he is frail and does not have the stamina, alertness and stamina to perform the most important job in our country. He is a target of testing by our enemies on his ability to govern. He met and welcome few dignitaries, which showed that he had to work hard to be prepared for such meetings. Currently, Vice President Harris and the Secretary of State are doing the work of diplomacy of call world leaders. So, it is highly question if he could run for the second term. This person also has a corrupted family members. His son Hunter and brother Jim. We need a president who is healthy and alert, use his mental capacity to weigh options in front of him and make informed decisions. It is highly questionable that he is doing that.

I: You really have a low opinion on Biden [laughing]. But... I mean you do live in the States...So in that case and don't really have a choice now that he is president. How much trust do have in him?

P: **From a scale of one to ten, I believe he is 4 at most. He has no credibility.**

The mass media do not fact check his comments, including Ms. Jen Psaki, who tightly choreographs the agenda, made by leftists in his administration and working every step to earn political point. He does not want to build bridges with the other parties, including the Republicans, so he is taking unilateral actions, plus silencing the opposition by proposing to do away with filibusters and packing the US Supreme Court, the arbitrator for all his policies and regulations, and executive orders. He pushes to change the election laws to doing away with assuring the voter has the right to vote, not based on false identity, under the disguise of “discrimination” and “encouraging convenience of voting”. The State legislators are the ones to make election law changes, not the federal government, and he is circumventing these constitutional requirements by falsehood and political maneuvers.

I: Okay, but do you think you’ll do what he promised at least? The stuff he promised before he became president?

0:35

P: Without saying he bent with the winds – accusing the police of brutality, the Black Life Matter a freedom fighting group rather than “thugs”, destroying properties, and the worsening of the pandemic because former President Trump should have done more. Based on his performance, he was nowhere at par with the former president. This is a raw deal for the American people of his election. He packed so many ornaments on bills on COVID relief and transportation that he was totally unrealistic and not thinking about working across the political division to rebuild America from the pandemic. He is controlled by the Teachers’ Union which opposed opening school and demanded hazard pay. He said he would have strong policy to do away with the pandemic, like mandatory mask wearing, and here, he is the president, he is not able to convince many who are not believers of wearing masks. He is not a leader then and certainly not now. Using the tactic of control, primarily in the democratic states, to back up his policy of resisting to opening the society and uses unbiased scientific findings, by an independent panel, free from CDC’s influence. He is taking the wrong path for America.

I: But in terms of plans in execution? Have you seen some sort of execution so far?

P: **He has no plan.** During the campaign and presidential debates, he spoke in general terms, with feel good feelings. He avoided specifics. The Transportation Bill is stuck in the congress due to so many riders and amendments. **It is pitiful.**

I: Uh huh...In that case are there any political leaders you have seen from other countries you feel are good leaders, and, or, politicians? Do you often compare American politics to leadership in other countries?

P: No because few of them have done notable job, definitely not Xi Jinping, Putin, and Hassan Rouhani of Iran. I do like Boris Johnson of the UK and the Macron of France, Scott Morrison of Australia, Leo Varadkar of Ireland, and Jair Bolsonaro Brazil. They are working hard to make the country better, avoid being dominated by Russia and China, and alleviate the burden of having jobs taken away from other countries.

I: What about your home country?

P: Hong Kong is a self-administration region, SAR, of China, the politicians are subject to approval by China now. They carry out the policies of China and those who voice their opposition are not without repercussion. The former president Trump and the Secretary of State Mike Prompe supported freedom of opposition in Hong Kong. Biden has yet to show such a commitment. China is working methodically to assimilate Hong Kong to China while also developing other economic zones. One day, Hong Kong would no longer be an economic powerhouse like the past. I do not keep track of politics in Hong Kong because there is so much disinformation against the US and allies of the US. China's ambition to dominate Asia is evident and the US, last bastion to democracy in the SE Asian is at risk. Pakistan is already, and China is working on India and the Philippians and Indonesia, Sri Lankas and others. I'm now here in America you know. I've got to try and support my country.

I: I'm super curious. I know you pointed out many issues Biden has but like what are the major major issues which has made you feel iffy about him as a president?

P: Lack of integrity, afraid of standing up for the truth, blowing in the wind and controlled by those he appointed in the White House, and his lack of stamina to do this job to protect this country and ensure that our leadership on democracy is not diminished. With the COVID-19, lots of countries are suffering and these countries need the US to recover, and start importing goods, traveling to spend US currencies, and helping them to conquer the pandemic. Finally, by throwing money to the pandemic and incurring national debt, we are weaker as a nation, and the rest of the world is nervous about being dominated by China which heavy hands backed by their immense military and economic power.

0:40

I: Is there something he can do to improve or even prove himself?

P: [laughs] Resign. He needs to be gone. But no. Okay...In all seriousness maybe exert his president power to instruct his cronies to work across the aisle, political parties, to get things done like opening up the economy and investing in America and take a strong position against all threats...domestic and foreign.

I: Even though he seems to be doing a bad job so far. At least in your opinion he is. Do you see America progressing during Biden's term?

P: It would be a blessing if we do not fall behind as many experts on foreign affairs predict that China would be the world's number 1 power in 10 years or even shorter.. With open border, this country can easily be infiltrated by terrorists and watch out for terrorist acts which make September 11 meniscuses.

I: Can you tell me a little more about what you think can be used as measures to measure the success of American politics and to measure the success of Biden?

P: Have the respect of the world, not a laughingstock, that the Americans are divided, incoherent, and moving backward economically and militarily. US is subjecting to foreign mis-information attacks, big tech companies and mass media which have left wing bias to control America under the disguise of "systemic discrimination" and "equity" to eliminate opposition and the wisdoms of doing better with less and assuming less burdensome national debt, which takes away the needed cash to be borrowed by businesses to expand. Inflation is coming because the money from adding to the national debt is being distributed across the country and so much money is chasing the same amount of good and services. This is a scary realization and the financial market, stock market, will drop precipitously, causing people to sense less wealthy and spending less, causing a severe economic downturn.

I: Do you think most of the American population made the right decision for voting Biden as president?

P: People who voted for Mr. Biden who accomplished nothing in his 40 years of political life, a person of degraded cognitive ability, are for an awakening. I hope I am wrong and wished that they made the right decision. Overall, since this President took his oath, he has not shown that he is worthy of being elected. This would be a nightmare for the American people as we deserve better. There is no reason why we could not continue to grow economically, militarily to ensure contribution to world peace, and be the leader of innovation in science, engineering, pharmaceuticals, computer-automation and top in educating our citizens. Only a successful president can lead the business, congress, private non-profits, churches to deliver the best of us. So, in conclusion, even it is a bit early to judge, I believe we made the wrong decision based on today's data.

I:Uh huh....

0:45

P: Biden is a sad case. He's played politics to the extreme, boring, intellectually inadequate, a plagiarizer, a womanizer, corrupted by using his former position as a vice president to Obama to line wealth of his son and brother, has never run a business and therefore hostile to growth of business to create jobs, giving money to local and state government is a better way to create jobs, spending like pie in the sky/making future generations to pay for the high national debt, a puppet and unable to reach across the aisles to unit the country, plays the race card and condemns Caucasian Americans for past privileges, give no credit to the former administration, open up the border with control migration to our southern border, weak politically and internationally, indecision and lack of character to face the truth, play the blame game and has little plan for the future on re-opening country and a pathway for prosperity and security for all Americans....**Can I just say, compared to Trump...he's really nowhere near.**

Trump is charismatic, intellectually superior, listens well and make decision, call out as it is/honest, subject to frivolous attacked from the left since Day 1 of his presidency including being impeached and exonerated twice, fiscally conservative but has a business mind to take risk to invest on borrowed money...increase in national debt..., executed operation Warp Speed to successful create vaccines, manufacture ventilators, and supplies, support our police and military, border patrols, migration enforcement, worked hard to nominate judges who believe the constitution, a naturally smooth communicator, run the government efficiently, eliminate wastes, addressed veterans medical care issue, added the Space Force for defense against the country from attacks of our satellites and spying equipment in space, withdrawal from non-ending war in Afghanistan and elsewhere to bring our troops home from long deployments, bring the highest employment and wealth to African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian American, understand the cost of healthcare and worked to reduce it like allowing States to buy drugs from Canada, for a secured border and enforcement of immigration laws.

I: Do you think that being Chinese has affected your views on the American political scene and/or Biden as our president?

P: The distinction between the former and current president is an astounding contrast. This is the fact – I am not biased against him and do wish him well, but I have little confidence that he could deliver a strong and prosperous America, but petty politics against one another. This is not in according to his Catholic faith of sharing God's love and be faith to the truth (avoiding false accusation of other, and self-examination of his own behavior against what God wants us to do – share the good news and forgive your enemies.

I: Since you seem to have quite a lot to say about Biden or just the American political scene in general, I want to know...Do you often talk to your friends about political matters? Especially your political ideologies, who you support, etc.?

P: It is a private matter except for a couple of trusted friend and close family members...even so, not all family members. It is a source of conflict because Americans are so divided primarily caused by the Democrats and the mass media.

I: And so do you know how your friends or social circles or family members feel about Biden?

P: I do not have a social circle of friends except few but even so, except one couple, we avoid political discussion. By the way, the canceled culture is impacting an open dialog of policies and laws, and the country's direction for the future. The cancel culture enforces the reluctance to discuss politics because if you are not for us, you are against and must be defeated. **I reckon a lot of my friends hate Biden but are all too afraid to say so in public.... But those two, We have a group chat just for sh*tting on him, and I think that definitely feeds into my perception of him. I like to feel positive about him, but he won the election by deception, falsely accusing the former president Trump with falsehood and lies. Frankly, I would like to have respect on him, only because of his occupancy in the White House, our institution representing the administration but not personally. I regret to say that.**

0:50

I: Hmm..Do you see stark differences between how a Caucasian American perceives American politics and/or Biden, as compared to Asian Americans/ other minority groups?

P: I am weighing on the fact that most Asian American are located in large cities and those in the southern states run by the Republicans, such as Texas and Florida are more inclined to be politically active, but they are a much smaller number compared to those in New York and California, and Hawaii. If I have to give an opinion, Southern and Midwest Caucasians perceive Biden negatively. The Asians are more a silent minority and may be involved in local politics and lesser than national politics like president. I must point out that Indian Americans are gradually getting to be a force in politics. Asian Indians love America, good business and many professionals. Their voice would be heard in the future.

I: Ahhh..we're kind of running over time, but I think you've made so really good points so far and I understand what you mean. Is there anything I've missed that you wanted to add to?

P: I don't think so. I think I've made my points pretty clear.

I: Thank you for your participation in my research study. Now that your participation is completed, I can answer to any of the questions you might have on this study, and provide you yet another opportunity to make a decision on whether you would like to have your data included in this study. What i'm saying is, I want to reiterate your rights to withdraw from the study. If you feel uncomfortable after having completed the study or find that some questions or aspects of the study were distressing, you should talk with a qualified clinician or counsellor. Please contact me if there are any issues. And, If you would like to receive a copy of the final report of this study when it is completed, please feel free to let me know. Once again, thank you very much.

P: No. Thank you. I rarely get to talk about these things to anyone but its was a new experience being interviewed on this. I really had to give certain questions some thoughts but I hope what I said will help wit your study. Thanks for allowing me to participate.

