

Event #1:

The miserable fire of Napa brought foul taste to the air of Berkeley, which hindered the outdoor activities of those who fight for justice and fairness. However, missionaries never took their day off even in such a formidable situation. Fortunately, We were able to participate in a conversation between a group of missionaries on campus.

It all started with a Pastor preaching on top of the stairs of Sproul Plaza while holding a Bible in hand. One of the listeners was a middle-aged man who happens to be a missionary as well. After a long speech about the God and afterlife, the Pastor started to sit and play guitar, with a college student sitting next to him chatting. We got the chance to interview both the listener missionary and the college student.

Interviewee 1 (Missionary):

- Context:
Dan was listening very carefully throughout the speech. The amount of attention he pays intrigued me. So, I decided to interview him. He is a middle-aged man and I found him well-educated while talking with him.
- Interview:
Since I found him paying very close attention to the speech, I asked him about what draws him to this event. He quickly admitted that he himself is a missionary too, and usually does things quite similar to the speaker. He went here to preach on campus but the speaker has taken his spot. So he decided to stand here and listen, while praying for him that his voice is being heard. He also didn't forget to give positive comments on the current speaker, but stating that his usual approach is rather different.

I followed up with the question asking what he would do differently if he is the speaker up on the stairs. He again maintained that there is nothing wrong with the current approach the speaker is taking, but he would add more hooks that draw attention from the public in an interesting way. He then proceeded to show me a picture of him preaching in San Francisco with colorful illustrations.



“That way I won’t have to almost yell, and people will have a reason to stay and read what’s on there.” He then spoke.

Speaking of drawing attention, I then asked if there has been any sort of a debate or even a quarrel happening during his speech. He smiled and confirmed, “Of course. And I would really love to have that happen, because then my approach could be tailored to whatever they’re thinking. And sometimes you will get some radical atheists come to your face and argue with you. And that’s not bad at all because then many many people would come and watch - because people love fights!”

Before I left, he handed me one million dollars.



Interviewee 2 (College Student):

- Context:

James joined when the speech was about to end. James then proceeded to sit near the speaker to talk when he stopped to play guitar after the speech. I interviewed him thinking that he might be inherently interested in the speech as a student.

- Interview:

It's always fun to interview a peer. Since I don't have any religious background, I felt like I could always learn something interesting from a college student on that matter. I firstly confirmed that he is a college student too. Then I asked him the reason that he actually stopped by and joined the speaker in a conversation afterwards. He started off by identifying himself as a diligent Christian. Then he mentioned that he knows the speaker in person, that the speaker actually was the leader of the Christian group on campus he is currently in.

I asked if the speaker sent any notice to him or the group prior to his arrival on campus. He said that he didn't really know the Pastor was coming at this specific time but he knows that he comes to campus often. He just happened to see him when he was passing by Sproul Plaza. So he decided to stay for a while and hang out.

Then I wondered if he does the same thing as the speaker like Dan (the other missionary). He mentioned that he doesn't usually do it in this way since he is less experienced and not as eloquent and well-versed. However, he prefers a more personal approach - during lunch hours, he and his friends would find random people eating lunch at random corners on campus, and talk about religious matters with them. Or he might just find some cold contacts and invite them to a lunch to talk about it. Because he believes that in order to transmit this message on Christianity with another person, you have to at least have a relationship with him or her. When asked about which way seems more efficient to him, he stated that it is only a matter of taste, that as long as everybody is doing their best, it would be just as efficient.

He then gave me his number - "Text me maybe?"

POV:

During the preaching event, we met Dan and James, a missionary, and a college student in a Christian group.

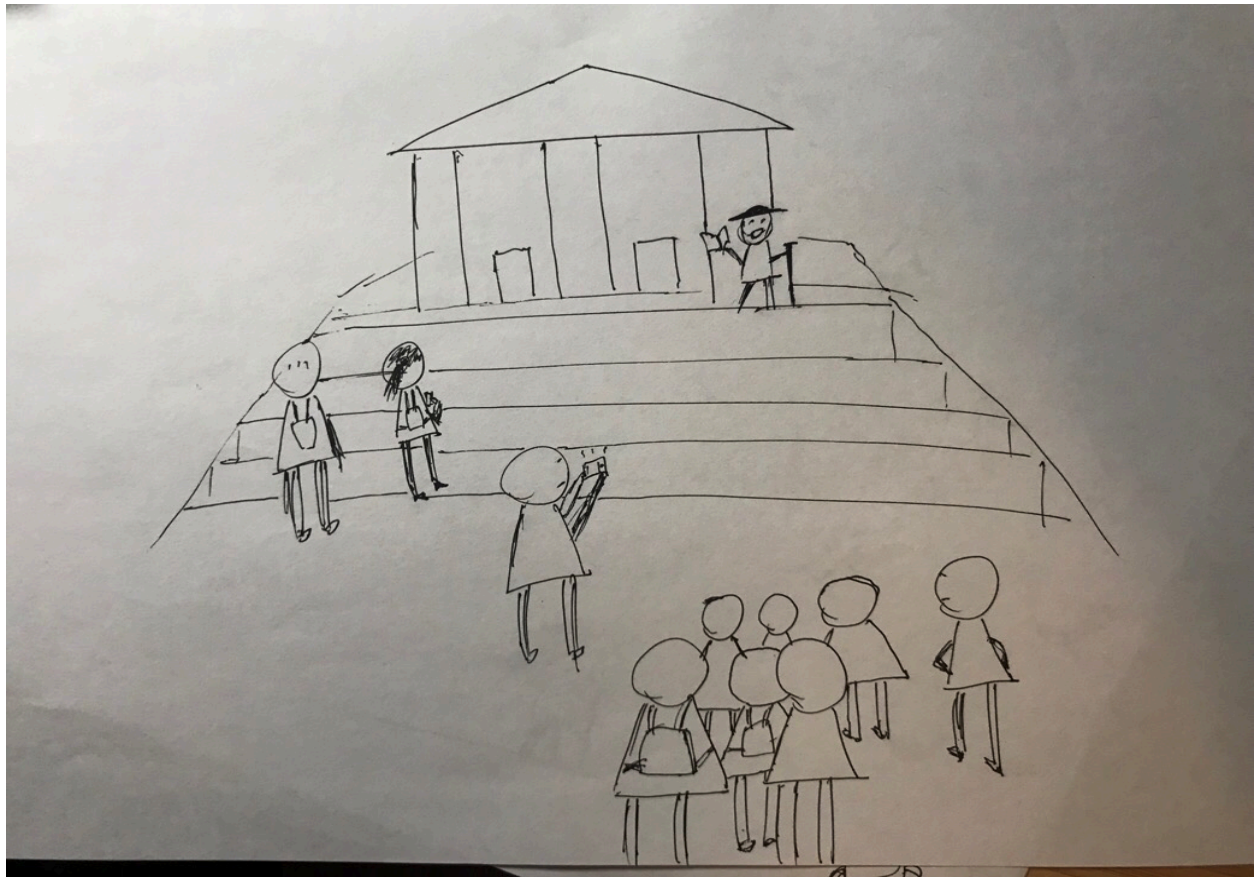
For Dan, he initially planned to come to the UC Berkeley campus to preach, but ran into a fellow missionary doing the work so he decided to stay and pray for him. Although for him, the time was well spent. However, from the perspective of the spreading of Christianity, it's simply a loss of efficiency as only one of two preachers was actually preaching. It would be game changing for missionaries to be able to check if an area is already covered by another missionary so he or she could go to a different place.

For James, while he knows the speaker as the previous leader of his Christian group in person and that the speaker is a old friend of his, he didn't know that the speaker was preaching on campus at that specific time. Even though James would love to talk with the speaker and delve into the religious study in the meantime, he wouldn't have this opportunity if he wasn't coincidentally passing by Sproul Plaza and recognized the speaker. Therefore, it would be game changing for Christian fellows to get noticed when a well-known figure in the realm is coming to the area, so that they could have many more social opportunities.

HMW:

1. How might we set up a notification network inside Christian community (so they know what others are up to)?
2. How might we mimic the presence of a missionary without him or her being present?

Sketch:



Event #2:

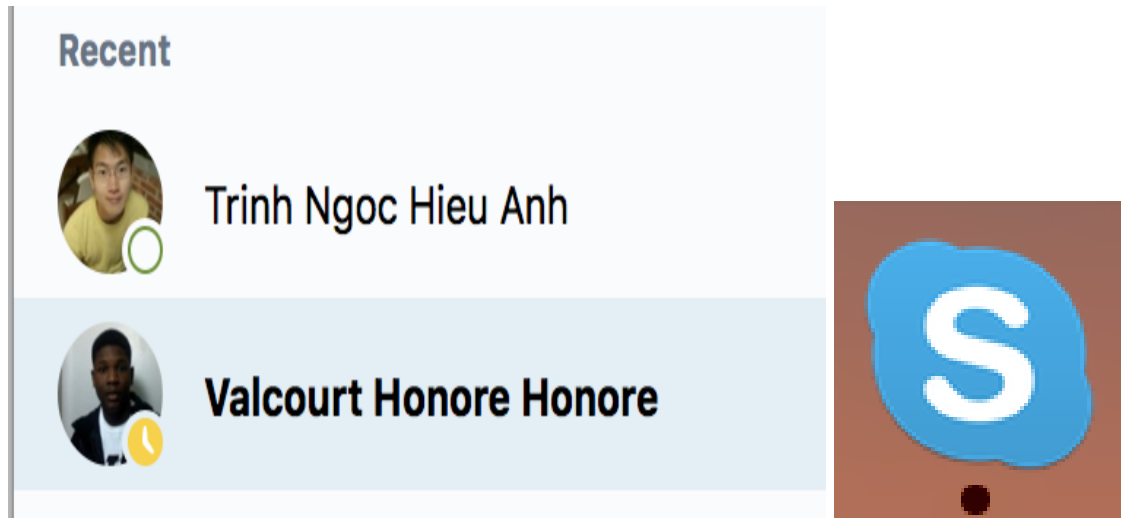
It's been over three weeks since Hurricane Marine, and most Puerto Rico is still dark, thirsty and frustrated. President of the United State Donald Trump, although initially showed full support and sympathy to the people of Puerto Rico, slammed the mayor of San Juan by saying she "wants everything done for them" after she appealed to Trump and demanded him to do more. It is frustrating to see President behave in such manner, we would like to see how different people react to this.

An idea started with the fact that I have a friend who's from Haiti, a country which is geographically close to to Puerto Rico and also experience similar natural catastrophe such as the earthquake in 2010. It would be interesting to see how he, along with some other friends from the same region, react to Trump's behavior.

Therefore, we set up the activity, an online Skype session, in which two of my friends, Anh Trinh from Vietnam and Valcourt Honore from Haiti gladly accepted my invitation and participated. I started the session by first showing a YouTube video regarding the Trump attacking the mayor of Puerto Rico and his change of attitude toward US aid. (The video link is [here](#))



Trump slams mayors of Puerto Rico for wanting 'everything done for them'



(my two friends participating in the Skype session)

Then, I started a group discussion by asking the following two major questions:

1. What was your initial thoughts on that?
2. Based on your background, do you think your people will react differently to this particular issue?

Interviewee 1: Valcourt Honore (my friend from Haiti)

- Context:

When watching the video, Valcourt showed his dissatisfaction and shook his head couple of times. I was friend with Valcourt for many years, and he used to share with me about his family suffering the terrible 2010 Haiti earthquake - he lost his house and saw many people die. During the discussion, I let Valcourt speak first.

- Interview:

It is always interesting to talk to Valcourt, growing up from Port of Prince, Haiti, because he has a sense of humor and attractive personality. Before the conversation, I confirmed that he was comfortable sharing his thoughts. He talked about his initial reaction by saying the following: "I think Trump is being childish going after the mayor. He doesn't care about Puerto Rico because it won't affect his reelection. Compare that to Texas or Florida where he can get a lot of votes."

He believed that Trump handled Puerto Rico situation terribly because "Puerto Rico is receiving more aid from actors, artists, and other organizations than the US government."

When asked about the second question, a little bit to my surprise, he hopes people from Haiti don't react differently but "if they do, they are probably Republic

or Trump supporters. They would probably hold the same arguments Trump has for not helping PR.”

Interviewee 2: Anh Trinh (my friend from Vietnam)

- Context: Anh is also a good friend of mine from Vietnam who's currently studying at Duke University. The reason why I invited him to join the conversation is because people coming from an Asian background would have their unique opinion about government and constitutions.
- Interview:
For the most part, Anh controlled his emotions but still laughed a little bit and shook his head at the end.
Similarly his initial reaction was similar to Valcourt's. His initial reaction was that “Trump is a baby. He does not have an opinion.” I didn't necessarily agree with him when I first heard that, but I understood where he came from emotionally. I think what he's trying to say is that Trump doesn't have a point of view or plan which he can stick to.
Then I followed up asking if people from Vietnam or Asian countries would react differently based on his cultural background, and his answer didn't let me down. “Depends on the country. If South Korea or Japan, probably he will get kicked out by the people.” Then I followed up again asking him if he believed that Trump is going to be voted out. And his answer is “probably not” because “even though impeachment, it is hard as the Republicans are the majority.”

Interactions between the two:

During the session, Valcourt and Anh exchanged their feeling from time to time. Both of them make the other person feel their dissatisfaction and frustration on this particular issue. However, Valcourt was particularly more frustrated by the fact that US government was inefficient providing aid while Anh didn't think it's necessarily a huge issue. Although both of them didn't show affection to Trump, Valcourt was a little upset when he heard Anh bring up the idea of overthrowing him. Valcourt argued that it is hard to kick him out by impeachment because of the US law, and it will be even more chaotic for the country. Anh, meanwhile, respectfully disagreed with Valcourt but didn't argue much regarding this issue.

POV:

During the Skype group session, we were honored to successfully invite two good friends of mine with very different backgrounds — one from Haiti and the other from Vietnam. It was a bit surprising but not really surprising that both people showed disappointment towards Trump's childish and unpresidential behavior.

Thing got really interesting and we learned a lot from how differently they answered the second question based on their backgrounds. For Valcourt, who suffered from the terrible 2010 Haitian earthquake, was majorly disappointed by Trump administration's inefficiency and really appreciated the help from various groups in the society. On the other hand, Anh provided us with a different point of view that Trump might be into even more serious trouble, even get voted out, if he's the president in Asian countries. I believe Anh's comment is very interesting because he showed his dissatisfaction towards Trump in a more indirect way, combined with his Asian culture and ways of thinking.

HMW:

1. How might we construct a heated but friendly conversation between people coming from different background?
2. How might we respectfully disagree with others when we don't agree with their point of view?

Event #3:

A typical Wednesday morning in which many diverse groups of people who enjoy and/or are part of different organizations or groups are Tabling in front of Sproul Plaza. I walked around on the side to observe the different conversations that were happening, some short and to the point, while others miraculously were quite productive and qualitative.

I noticed one conversation went on for over five minutes, between someone who is passing out flyers and a passerby. I waited until the conversation was over and saw quite a smile on the passerby who walked away after she finished the conversation, I approached her quickly in order to carry out my interview on the process.

Interviewee 1 (Female College Student):

- Context:

Andrea is an undeclared freshman currently thinking about pursuing a career in medicine. I noticed that she was very engaged throughout her conversation with the person who was passing out flyers. Rather than throwing away the flyer after walking away from the conversation like most other whom I observed, I noticed she stored the flyer into her backpack as soon as she walked away.

- Interview Question(s) /

I asked Andrea whether she enjoyed the conversation she had with the woman and what was able to get her so engaged. I learned that she actually went to the same high school as the person who passed out the flyer, and there were also similarities between them such as they are both Korean and attended the same Church.

Then I asked her she felt about how great it was for her to be able to meet a random person on campus and was able to carry out an interesting conversation as well as learning about the organization that that was a part of. Along with appreciating the conversation and acknowledging the goodness of that event, I learned that Andrea is quite shy and would not have been able to talk as long if the person weren't as similar to her.

Interviewee 2 (Female College Student):

- Context:

After I finished talking to Andrea, I stayed around to observe the person who handed her the flyer, and approached her for an interview after I noticed she was done with her

shift. Anna is a fourth-year student studying English. She is part of a Christian group on campus named Klesis, and she was there to pass out flyers to invite people to check out the organization and their upcoming events. I wanted to learn more about her experience in interacting with different people and maybe about how some are more engaged than others.

- Interview Question(s) / Observation

I asked Anna how good it must have felt to interact with different people helping to spread words about her own organization. I learned that even though some time, she's able to have productive conversation with others, there are also many occasions where it was hard to communicate with some people. It is much easier for her to talk to people who she could find a connection to, through similar aspects such as interests and background.

I also asked her whether she believes a person being religious might be a factor in whether they are willing to take the flyers. I was surprised to learn that there are many occasions where she was able to have engaging conversation even with the people who are not religious simply because they were able to find other personal connections.

POV:

We met Anna and Andrea after a Tabling/flyering session in front of Sproul Hall. We were surprised to learn that despite both people were capable of carrying out an engaging and productive conversation despite being strangers, it is simply not because they are good at talking and interacting with others, similar interests and backgrounds have a great role to play in assisting the positive outcome of the conversation. It would be game changing if we can help people like them to better find peers with similar interests in order to have more productive and quality conversation more often to help them achieve their goals, which is to learn and teach respectively.

HMW:

1. How might we able to connect people with similar interests and backgrounds even for those who are complete strangers?
2. How might provide the passersby with the ability to locate where the groups that might be of interests to them in order to help facilitate their conversations so that they are more engaging and productive?