

Action Research Project with Ravin (Meeting 1)- 20241129_101225-Meeting Recording

November 29, 2024, 10:12AM

1h 49m 58s

● **Ravin Raori** started transcription



Ravin Raori 0:03

Basically what I've done is because I also like don't want to, you know, feel I don't want any of you to feel any pressure to have to, like, contribute to this conversation in any particular way. So what I've done is I've kind of organised this morning's activities as a series of questions because I want to kind of run this a little bit as a focus group.

So we can have some time to individually reflect on perhaps what these experiences have been like for us.

In the first few months, of course, you know, there was that one, that question that I posed to you all at the beginning of the session.

On Wednesday, some of you may have been there. Some of you may not have been there, but it's sort of an extension of that to get the ball rolling this morning in terms of thinking about perhaps just the idea of friendships, what that's been like.

Perhaps, maybe looking at some of the challenges we faced and things like that, but I don't want to give away too much.

We'll be doing this activity on Miro.

Have any of you used Miro before ever?

OK, it's actually Miro's actually a really useful tool for collaborating online.

It's really simple to use. Basically it's just like a virtual canvas.

Where you can like put sticky notes up on things and write and you know record responses and make connections and things like that.

I'll share my screen and then take you through how to use the mirror and then basically across the next hour, hour and a half. I've got six questions.

To go through.

We'll go through the questions one by one, maybe I'll give you all like 5 or 10 minutes to perhaps just and again all of the answers to the questions will be anonymous to a certain extent. I might pull out a few things and if people are comfortable sharing why they've said something, maybe that can somehow guide

the conversation. But when it comes to actually using what the responses are in the sort of published version of the project.

And it's all gonna be anonymous. But I of course will list your names as contributors to this research, because you know I want to acknowledge the role that you would have also played in this process. So I'll just share my screen.

Give me a second. Let me actually see if Miro is up. Yeah, it's up. OK.

I'm actually glad that I'm getting to show you all, Miro, because you might find it useful actually, for your own projects and just planning and stuff. It's really good to do mood boards as well.

All right, so this is basically what Miro looks like. OK? It's like an online collaborative workspace.

I'll send you the link to this board in a second so you'll all be able to join this space as well, but really what it is is you have this big space, you know you can post sticky notes like hello, my name is Robin.

You can sketch, you can add images and things you know, not that we'll be doing any of that today, but it's just to say that you know, you can then start to like.

Make connections between things and things like that, so it's just like one of those kind of online.

Virtual learning spaces.

Let me share the link so that everyone can firstly come on to the Mirror board.

Anyone with this link copy board link there will be a password.

Poo poo. No, I don't want to change the password. OK, let's just make a new password. Let's call it GMD LCC. OK.

2024 set password OK so the password is GMD LCC 2024. OK, so I'm gonna set put the link in the teams chat.

Where's it con? Here we go.

So if you all wanna click this link.

It should bring you all into the mirror board, OK.

And it will ask you for your password. The password I'll put the password in the chat as well. GMD LCC2024.

In case anyone has any trouble joining the Mirror board.

Ki can see there's one person in here.

Cool. Couple of people.

You can also zoom in and out if you're using a mouse, you can zoom in and out by scrolling on your mouse, or you can also zoom in and out by just pinching on your

trackpad.

And if you click the spacebar, you get the hand tool and you can kind of move around that way as well.

It's fairly simple, but if anyone has any issues trying to access trying to move around let me know as well.

Did people manage to join?

Yeah. Is everybody in OK, cool so.

The first question will be starting with and in order to edit the sticky note, all you need to do is just double click and you can start typing in like blah blah blah blah.

So the first question, hopefully you cannot see it is.

What were your expectations about making friends right? Simple one.

And how has it been so far? So you can start to double click and edit these. We'll take let's take let's take 10 minutes for this first one.

I might try and add some chill music in the background.

But let's take some let's take 10 minutes for the first one, and then we can have a bit of a discussion. OK, so if anyone has any trouble editing the sticky notes, just let me know. If you need more sticky notes. Also, feel free to add them in there, OK.

You double click, you can start editing it.

There's a.

Let's go for smooth groove.

I put 9 minutes on.



YiFan Jiang 11:28

Can I ask a question?



Ravin Raori 11:30

Yes, sorry. You found out. You saw you had to find out, yeah.



YiFan Jiang 11:31

Oh 'cause I 'cause. I saw other people changing into their real names and I was just wondering, like, how did they do it? Because, like, I can't find a place to change my name.



Ravin Raori 11:43

Give me a second.

Let me see.

Good question.

I think I think if you're oh, sorry, go ahead.

 **arushi** 11:59

And I think for like a guest at the top of the screen, it says if you sign up, you can like add your name is what it says. I think that's what it says for me.

 **YiFan Jiang** 12:10

Oh, OK. OK. Thank you. I'll go check it.

 **Ravin Raori** 12:12

I was gonna say as well. I think if you I think if you if you sign up then you can probably change your name otherwise you come as this. Like unverified. Yeah, but it's OK. It's up to you. Like you don't have to have your name on the cursor thingy because I know because it's again gonna be our like collective insights of the group. I'm not gonna be like dangling out anyone to be like oh this person said this or this person said this so it doesn't matter.

OK, cool. Thanks everyone.

For kicking us off with.

Putting in some of these responses.

Would perhaps anyone like to share something about what they wrote?

Yes. No.

Any like volunteers?

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 18:07

I don't mind. Yeah, I was the one who had talked way too much on the something.

 **Ravin Raori** 18:09

OK, cool.

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 18:14

So I essentially spoke about, sorry I live right next to the train station, so I'm like here, but Nice.



Ravin Raori 18:22

No, I can hear you. It's fine.



Devananda Sudheesh 18:24

OK, so I just spoke about like how on the first day like I expected people to be like, really inviting, but surprisingly, like everyone had sort of like formed into groups like sort of immediately maybe like they were from the same country or they knew each other before something like that. So that made me feel quite anxious. But then I guess like.

Later on, it was sort of realising like that isn't necessarily the case and like we're all in the same boat and like everyone's pretty nice once you start talking to them. So I guess like don't really judge so quickly and just be like, really open minded in your friendships and maybe like go say hello first like.



Ravin Raori 19:10

Yeah. No, thank. Thank you so much for sharing that and I totally understand what you mean. And I I would be willing to bet that a lot of the other folks in this room might have felt similarly to you as well. I think that feeling of because you know, you're in this, everyone's in a new space, right.



Devananda Sudheesh 19:10

Yeah, right. Yeah.

Mm hmm.



Ravin Raori 19:31

And you kind of have several layers of.

What are they going to think of me? What do they think? That I might think of them? Right.

And I think and I think and this is something I realised across my years in university as well, where I spent a lot of time and and you know it's not something that like I wouldn't necessarily change because it's always easier to look back and say oh, I could have done this differently but but I do get that sense of oh, like, you know, I was always like.

That anxiety is always so high of feeling judged. Or perhaps you know, trying to

break into a social group that I was like, actually, you know what, maybe they maybe it's. I'm just better off not doing that. But actually I realised, like you said yourself as well, that a lot of times like the sort of friendliness and warmth that just comes out of.

Saying hello to someone, right?

Or just having a situation where you kind of find a way somehow to break that initial barrier because there's always this invisible barrier between us and another group or us and another individual.

9 out of 10 times it ends up being really nice, right?

But but at the same time, I think it's important to acknowledge that barrier because it's not, you know, and people have different personalities, some people are more social, some people are less social. And sometimes I think the environment also dictates.

How how easy or difficult it can be right to kind of.

Enable you in a way to be able to do that.

I think this group thing, you know, this idea of groups is is really scary as well because it tends you tend to find like safety and comfort in the confines of a group. But then you kind of fall into the trap of actually, am I not opening this up in a way to other people? And then other people might be thinking similarly as well. This is why when we're in.

The studio setting we're constantly trying to break you guys up and put you guys with different people.

'Cause we can always see that happening in a lot of ways.

At the at the.

When we're doing like workshop activities and things but but yeah. Does anyone else relate to that idea of like, not being able to break into a social group?

Would be fun. Do you wanna do you wanna share something about that? I can see your thumbs upping.

Again, like this is all just. This is meant to be super casual. Just think of me as another one of you. I know it's not easy to do that because I'm your tutor, but try.

YJ **YiFan Jiang** 22:38

I think so. I'm the one who wrote the pink, pink one. So I was just thinking that, like, 'cause, I really I relate to that idea in a way because I think that, like, at the beginning of the year, I wasn't actually looking for friends because I didn't think that I would

find find some, like, friends here. But then I was just looking for people who I can work with or like, having a polite relationship with my classmates. So then if we get into projects or we.

End up sitting together. It's easier to like, talk to each other, but like, I wasn't like looking for friends because I thought it would be really hard. But then, and it's also like relating to like what?

I got OK like it relates to like what she said because I feel like everyone came with groups and then like, they're already in their own friend group. So I just felt like it was really hard to really become like one of their friend, like, one of their friend groups. But then it turns out like, it was really easy to make friends because everyone was actually having the same idea, like, everyone was thinking that everyone else is in groups and then turns out when you talk to someone like, they're also like, oh, that's what I thought they were like. Oh, I was also worried that I wouldn't be able to. And so I feel like everyone was thinking the same way, which actually made it easier for me to make friends and turns out like, I think university wasn't that different to college because college or is it like I had a level. Well anyways, so I think it was similar because everyone was just hoping to bond with someone else or like feeling that they belong to something. So then it was actually easy to make friends.



Ravin Raori 24:17

Awesome. Thank you so much Yifan for sharing that well. One of the things that I wanted to touch on that you just mentioned as well that I thought is really interesting and I guess devananda you were also talking about that as well as this idea of this collective experience, right? It's like something that we are all going through, but perhaps in our own minds.

We we don't quite necessarily always have the ability to see that.

And I think being able to actually have those moments.

Where you're where you're able to be, where where you're able to see that someone else perhaps is going through something similar.

Makes it a little easier and we'll talk about this a little bit more in our next question as well. Is like, what are those kind of situations or spaces in which that that becomes a possibility, but it's good to hear that you know, at least for a few of you that.

There has been some nice moments as well as just being like, OK, people came with their groups. But as things have progressed, maybe some of those group dynamics are starting to break down and we're starting to create more of a community or a

cohort. I know it's also a little bit difficult because GMD is like such a big course. It's like the biggest one, I think in LCC, you know, so there's.

Well, obviously you've got. Are you guys all in the same studio?

For some of you are in key. Some of you in yellow, some of you in cyan, magenta.

OK, 'cause, you know you stay in these studios for the whole year, so you're actually kind of in some ways only interacting with 1/4 of your cohort, but but actually there's this whole other, you know, 3/4 that there will be more opportunities, you know in second year and 3rd you'll get mixed up, you'll have the show and things like that.

But I want to do, I want to try and do more stuff that we can.

Mix you up a little bit more because I think there's, you know, there's some really wonderful people and it would just be great to see you all in that space.

I'm gonna see maybe this one as well.

Expected it to be a lot harder and a lot more miserable to make friends.

Thankfully, it's easier than expected to click with people love that love, who who wrote this.

 **arushi** 26:49

It.

 **Ravin Raori** 26:50

Yeah. Do you wanna maybe share a little bit about what you were, what that has been like for you?

 **arushi** 26:56

So before I came to the UK 'cause, it was the first time I was like leaving my company. A lot of people had told me to give it like a six month period before I actually made friends because that's how long it takes to uniform meaningful connections or whatnot. But like the idea of like, spending six months in a new country without knowing anyone.

Is quite like alarming and.

Almost horrifying to a point, but.

I came in expecting that, you know, thinking, OK, I'll like, you know, talk to people, have on the surface connections. But beyond that, it's not worth expecting anything as of right now.



Ravin Raori 27:43

Mm hmm.



arushi 27:43

But I think I got lucky in the sense that people were willing to, you know, like reach out, like, talk to me and, you know, include me in their already formed groups. And it wasn't like I was including and more like they were willing the like, including me. And I got lucky in that sense that I met people who are willing to do that.



Ravin Raori 28:02

Mm hmm.



arushi 28:07

And in so it's been. So I'm grateful that it's been easier in that way to, you know, connect with people and make sense.



Ravin Raori 28:16

Lovely. I can see that Yifan is sharing a a emoji heart reaction as well. I think that's that's so great to hear. And again, going back to this idea of, like, it's really daunting moving into a new space, a new reality in a way, right. Everything you've known before, this has been so different. Right. And again, it kind of doesn't matter if your international student, local, nonlocal, you're put into this like.

Academic space. It's very stimulating. There's so much going on and yeah, you come with these preconceptions of friendship as well, right? Like, will I make any friends? Will I make the bonds? But it's really nice to hear.

That people have been inviting in that space and I think from a value standpoint, I think that's really good to hear in terms of like not just in terms of like a personal value but also professional value, you know, because we talk, I had this other project that I was doing where I was working at this design festival called as Electronica and we were writing a manifesto about creative producing.

Because I do some work as a creative producer.

In my outside job.

And we were talking about this idea of empathy and how empathy is kind of a really important thing in as a, as a professional value because, you know, we're constantly

also in this world. Like, I want something out of you or you want something out of me. But actually we're just human beings. At the end of the day that are looking to be, that are looking to love and be loved in a sort of empathetic sense.

And I think it kind of leads nicely into this final one, which is about which really feels like it's about values.

I'm guessing Shin, this was what you wrote, right?

About being friendly, respecting each other and interacting while while making friends. Did you want to share anything about that or?

You know, has it? Has it been? Has it been something that you've been trying to do or has it been something that you know, you really see in other people?



Xin 30:30

And I don't share at the moment.



Ravin Raori 30:33

I don't know. That's totally fine. That's totally fine. Again, this is meant to be a very safe space. So if people want to speak verbally, that's fine. If you just want to type your answers out, that's also fine. Shin, I think what you've written here, by the way, is really interesting because that's something that I was hoping we would arrive at in our second conversation where we start to maybe articulate what some of these values are.

In terms of how we treat each other and how we interact with each other.

But it's great to see that, you know, this is something that you care about as well.

OK, sorry we spent a lot of time on the 1st question, but in a way it kind of doesn't really matter if we get through all six, we'll see how far we get.

On mostly just interested in trying to, you know, create this conversation and it's coming together really nicely. I will factor in a little bit of a break in the middle as well, so don't worry.

We'll have some time to go to the bathroom or get a snack or something, but I'll reveal the second question.

The second question is more is more thinking about unpacking this idea of friendship. Right? So I want to put you all in the headspace of actually a friendship is a relationship, right? It's a relationship you share with another person.

It's a relationship you share with a group of friends. It's an exchange of, you know, every time you make a friend or you interact a friend, you give them a part of

yourself and they give you.

A part of themselves, right, and in such you create a kind of like a kind of collective consciousness in in some ways as well, a collective being.

Right. You start to kind of in articulate your similarities, your differences.

You know, that's like more that becomes more from like the sort of like intellectual professional standpoint. But then also on a personal level, you start to care for each other, you start to grow around each other, you hang out, you go to parties, maybe go to the pub together, whatever, you know, whatever that is. I'm just throwing out all the things. Perhaps that friendship mean to me.

So maybe you don't all need to write out like a whole sentence for this question.

Maybe it's better to just articulate it as a few keywords, right? So what does friendship mean to you? Like trust?

Like love, like companionship. You know, those kind of things. So I'll add some more sticky notes in here as well. So maybe you can just key in some keywords. How does that does that sound OK?

OK, cool. Brilliant. I will set another timer. Let's go for. Let's go for seven minutes this time, I think 10 minutes was be and I'll put on some chill beats again.

Cool.

Babe, thanks everyone. Sorry, I know this Miro music is a bit ****, but it's OK.

Next time we can have some better music.

Cool. Loving what I'm seeing here.

We don't need to go through all of them, but I think maybe perhaps to steer the conversation.

We can start to pick out a few.

But before I do that, I don't wanna be the only one kind of doing that. Is there anyone in the room that perhaps either wrote something or saw something that someone else wrote and it really resonated with them?

DS

Devananda Sudheesh 41:14

Yeah, I think we just sharing knowledge one because like especially in a creative setting, I feel like there's so much you can learn from other people. So just like when you're talking about your projects and like very casual way like friends will just like come up to me like, oh, there's like this resource or like you can try doing that. So there's like, you can really learn a lot.



Ravin Raori 41:21

Mm hmm.



Devananda Sudheesh 41:39

Just by like talking to your friend.



Ravin Raori 41:42

Absolutely, yeah. No, thank you. Thank you. So, did you write that or did someone else write that?



Devananda Sudheesh 41:48

I didn't like that someone else? Yeah.



Ravin Raori 41:50

OK. Yifan, do you, would you like to kind of come in and explain, I mean kind of maybe respond to either devananda or?



YiFan Jiang 41:59

I think it's exactly what Devonnda said, like like, that's what I meant when I wrote it down, because I felt like university is a place where I was like, looking for people who's very different to me and then who would have, like, different cultural references and have, like, a lot of things to share. And I think I found a lot of people who would provide me with that. And like, I've again, I like, I feel really lucky to meet these people. So that's why, like I wrote sharing knowledge.



Ravin Raori 42:15

Mm hmm.

Hey, I love this idea. Sorry I'm just putting in a comment here as well. I love this idea of.

Different cultural references that you mentioned as well, because on a teaching and learning level, we talk a lot about decolonization.

Which is this idea that, you know, knowledge and academia in general is very colonised. A lot of it is a lot of the references we use are by from white men.

That were in the 17 and 1800s is basically most of our knowledge is colonised right?

And there's lots of, like, local ancestral knowledge, lots of indigenous knowledge, lots of knowledge by women and people of colour.

That is often either overlooked or not mentioned as much, but actually you know. So that's one side of things. But then actually a great way to get into it is actually sharing that knowledge with peers, which is something that you both have touched on over here as well. And I think friendship. What role does friendship play in all of that? I think you need to have a certain level of trust.

Right, in order to be able to have that exchange as well, 'cause, there's trust and vulnerability perhaps as well. So I might add those in actually.

In terms of being able to kind of articulate those you know in order to be able to have that exchange.

What about?

I like this one. This idea of loyalty. Who wrote this?

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 44:06

I had it.

 **Ravin Raori** 44:08

OK. Do you wanna create do you wanna talk about that one as well?
If that's OK.

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 44:12

Yeah. Just say, yeah, when you become friends, like knowing like someone has your back, I think.

 **Ravin Raori** 44:19

Absolutely.

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 44:20

That yeah, you can like when you trust them and just knowing that loyalty, I feel like it can make the friendship strong and like not kind of like second guess yourself and like, make the relationship stronger. Yeah, go ahead with trust. Yeah.

 **Ravin Raori** 44:32

Yeah.

Great.

Great. So that's why I've created this link here. So I mean I'm at this point I'm just free styling a bit because I'm starting to really enjoy these conversations that we're having. Why don't we take a couple minutes as a group to make some connections? You know, you can just draw a line from, like, one thing to the other, one thing to the other. So why don't we take a couple minutes as a group to just make a few connections in terms of if there's something that you feel is connected to another thing that you wrote?

Or if you really like.

I liked what someone else has written. Maybe just put an emoji next to it like I put a check one.

Next I put a check next to sharing knowledge because I think it was something that Yifan and Devananda both of you in a way kind of talked about.

So maybe if people want, you can make some draw some lines, you can make this a bit messy if you like.

I'll give you a couple minutes to do that and perhaps that's a good way to then move into the next question after that.

So I'll just add a couple minutes, but yeah, feel free to to to make this a messy space. I don't mind.

Cool. Great to see that this space is getting a little messy. Lots of viewer forming, different connections and things are people enjoying using Miro, by the way.

It's good, right?

Try using it for design work as well because you can bring in images and videos and do like a little like think mind maps and mood boards and things. It's it's it's really nice and.

I think you can get the education version for free so you can get the premium account as well through through UAL. Anyway, I digress.

OK, we've done a lot of chatting. I think maybe it's a good time to just have a 5-10 minute break. Do people need a break? I think you probably need a break, right?

Cool.

So if you want to go to the bathroom or get another cup of coffee or a tea or something.

Let's let's let's join back. I mean, you can just leave yourselves in the call. You don't need to, like, leave the call. I'll be here anyway, but let's come back for, like, 11:10, if that's OK.

Cool. OK. Thanks everybody.

Unistack.

Hello.

Folks.

Hashim Hayaishi and Devin and Dan Yifan. OK, great. Everybody's back.

Before we get into the next thing, maybe we can.

Have a little bit of an ice breaker again, just to get ourselves warmed up. So I was just wondering.

Is there any like film that you all have seen recently, or are perhaps hoping to see in the coming weeks? I'm someone that loves film. Obviously a lot of the work I do also involves film.

The couple of films that I'm really excited to see actually are wicked. I don't. If anyone's seen the new wicked yet.

And also the new gladiator, which I'm actually going to see tomorrow with Ian, do you guys know Ian, the course leader?

Yeah. So we have a little bit of a Saturday afternoon.

Date in the in at the cinema. Tomorrow we're going to go see the 2nd Gladiator.

And so yeah, if anyone wants to share there any films that anyone has either seen recently or hoping to see.

With the group.

And again, doesn't have to be English films. You know, in the interest of decolonization, feel free to also share from other branches of cinema.

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 1:00:36

Well, I was just thinking 'cause, we were talking about country.

There's actually there's Malayalam movie, it's called manual boys.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:00:46

OK.

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 1:00:47

It's the story about how these group of boys, not boys. I guess. Men, they're like in their 20s, late 20s, early 20s, a mix of people. They go to the scale as a trip, right?

And there's like this unauthorised area. And they all because they're all like rowdy

and they're like, oh, let's, you know, not like all the rules. They go down there and one of them falls down.



Ravin Raori 1:00:57

Yeah.



Devananda Sudheesh 1:01:14

Into the cage.

And he is, like, stuck there for hours. So they call, like, the authorities that won't help them. And they essentially come together to, like, save his life. So it's like a great story about brotherhood and like.



Ravin Raori 1:01:26

Oh wow.



Devananda Sudheesh 1:01:30

How these friends were, like, literally ready to like die for him like they were like they all came together to like, let's get him. So it's just thinking of that. Yeah. It's a great movie if you.



Ravin Raori 1:01:38

That sounds lovely. I'm gonna have. Would you mind sharing maybe the link of the film or the films they or the film's name? That sounds lovely. Sounds epic. I think Aarishi was smiling as well. Maybe you've heard of this film or you've seen it or.



Devananda Sudheesh 1:01:44

Sorry, I'll just type it on the chat. Yeah.



Ravin Raori 1:01:55

Come across it. It seemed like you just had a a react.



arushi 1:01:59

I've yeah, I've watched it.



Ravin Raori 1:02:02

OK, great. Yeah, but yeah, I think that's.



arushi 1:02:04

The good movie?



Ravin Raori 1:02:08

I don't speak Malayalam, but I'll have to watch it with subtitles. I don't if either of you do speak it.

No.



arushi 1:02:17

Don't get either.



Ravin Raori 1:02:19

OK.



Devananda Sudheesh 1:02:19

I doing so, yeah.



Ravin Raori 1:02:21

OK, great. But honestly, I I speak Hindi, which is for Yifan and shin, the other like one of the other languages that's spoken in India, we have like a billion languages.

But.

My Hindi is also like having lived abroad now for 12 years. My Hindi is still pretty good.

But I think it's getting rusty. I have noticed myself leaning more on subtitles even when I watch like really crappy Bollywood films.

Just because? Yeah, but I mean, I can still speak Hindi, but it's, you know it it's different when you're kind of not in that context all the time. What about you, Yifan and shin? Do you both speak any other languages other than English?



YiFan Jiang 1:03:12

I just speak Mandarin, but 'cause we also have like loads of different.

Language there, I don't know, but like most of us, I mean, all of us really just speak in Mandarin, but then some people have like Cantonese. Some people have like their own place, like.



Ravin Raori 1:03:21

Yeah, yeah.

Again.



YiFan Jiang 1:03:31

Like I know a little bit of Shanghai like and like Shanghai. Nice. I don't like if people say that.



Ravin Raori 1:03:34

Shanghai knees.



Xin 1:03:35

Yeah, Shanghai Hua.



YiFan Jiang 1:03:38

Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. Well, so we're I guess we're both from Shanghai then. But like, if people come from, like, different places, they also have, like, their own language in their, like hometown. So but, like, but all Chinese people speak.



Xin 1:03:43

Yeah.



YiFan Jiang 1:03:52

Mandarin so I think.



Ravin Raori 1:03:54

OK. Yeah, yeah.

I I lived in Shanghai for a while, so I'm aware of the Shanghai knees dialect. I don't know if I mentioned this before. She and and Yifan, but I lived there for six months and with what? This was during when I lived in Hong Kong for seven years.

So I'd learned a little bit of Mandarin because as an international student in Hong

Kong, you get the choice to either learn Mandarin or Cantonese for one semester. As like a foreigner and I chose Mandarin just because everybody said it's easier to learn than companies.

And I quite enjoyed it. I mean, I can introduce myself and Mandarin. Probably you will laugh at my pronunciation of the words. So you know, that's.

Something that we can do after a few pints or something like that. Maybe not right now.

But yeah, I just think language is in general are interesting and also such a huge part of our culture, right. Something to share. I had this idea when I was when I was teaching at LCF, which is one of the other colleges at UAL of starting like.

Language club, where for the students where maybe students can come and share more about their unique languages and cultures and things.

It never ended up happening because it kind of like moved to LCC and then the idea kind of just died, but it's something I still have, like something I still want to do.

Eventually. We'll see anyway.

Thank you so much everybody for sharing in that space and just, you know, telling me a bit more about yourselves.

So getting back into the mirror board, I think in the interest of time I might skip Question 3.

Or maybe we can come back to it if we have time later on. But I'll move us on to question 4.

Which is basically this idea of challenges, right? And we've started talking about challenges a little bit. I know that in the first series of questions, some folks, you know had mentioned issues around anxiety.

And preconceptions and.

And and clicks or groups of students that perhaps it's hard to break into the group or you know what does the other person think of me, that kind of thing?

But I I I guess I'm interested. I'm I'm interested in perhaps if we can start to think about actually write down what some of those challenges are for that that we have faced or maybe it could also be challenges that we are overcoming that we're actively working on, right.

Again, don't feel the need or pressure to have to write big paragraphs. You can if you want to. You can use it however you want, but it can also just be words or small sentences or phrases that you know you might that that we can then pull out and start to chat about and unpack further. Does that sound OK?

Cool. So we can do another 7 minutes. I think I'll try to. I'll try to change it to cosmic vibe this time, which is the next.

Set of ***** music in Miro.

But, but we'll see. OK, cool.

I like this already. It cost me bike is nice, feels like we're going into space or something.

Oh, cool. Thanks everybody.

I think this cosmic vibe is kind of is kind of a bit nicer, right?

But maybe you would perhaps have been better to have it at the beginning or something, but I was kind of feeling something.

OK, cool. There's lots of lovely stuff in here.

Hopefully we can start to and back some of it.

I want to ask about this one.

Who wrote this?

Can can you see my screen?

You know the one about humour? Who's that?

 **arushi** 1:14:58

Oh, I don't that I could. I think your screen is paused for me those so I could see.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:15:03

Alright, OK, let me reshare my screen, give me a second.

Is it better now?

Can you see it?

 **arushi** 1:15:18

Not yet, but that's that's.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:15:21

OK. Well either way, let's have a chat about this because I think it's really interesting that humour is the easiest way to connect with people without previously shared contacts.

You're always waiting to see if the joke lands or if you're going to sit there embarrassed.

I think this is such a great piece of insight because I think.

People often overlook the power of humour.

Not just as a social tool, but also as a design tool, right? And it's not to say that everybody needs to be funny because I think it's kind of hard. That's kind of a difficult expectation to place on human beings. But I think at the same time, it's that sort of ability to be able to laugh together and laugh at yourself and laugh at each other and kind of.

The positivity of that feeling in a way, I also like this thing about oh, you're waiting to see if a joke lands and then sitting there embarrassed. If it doesn't do you. I'm did you have some experience with this?



arushi 1:16:21

Did I have some experience?

I have. Yeah, I mean like.

I've had lots of experience with that, but I guess the reason I wrote it is because I feel like there's, you know, when when you're able to make a joke that teaches people.

It's like it almost acts as an icebreaker. It gives you a way to talk to them. You know, they laugh at you. You'll be like, oh, ha, nice. What's your name? So.

I the fact that you know once if I like, if I make a joke sometimes it's like, so being embarrassed is fine because then they laugh at you and that also is an icebreaker.

But when you know they don't understand what you're saying at all and they'll ask you to repeat it multiple times and look at you quizzically, that that is when it becomes like oh.

Like it it that makes it like hard to even approach that person again 'cause that kind of embarrassment is hard to get to sometimes.



Ravin Raori 1:17:16

Yeah.

Oh, no. Yeah, no, I can I I can totally relate to the situation that you're talking about.

And it's so true like I think, you know, and I I think it kind of also goes back to this idea of like commonality and cultural references and things like that. Right, because.



arushi 1:17:30

Yeah.

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 1:17:40

So much of how we make jokes or humorize is also based on our world view and our reference points and the the other person might not have the same reference points, right? And it's one of those things of like, yeah. And, you know, it's easy for someone to sit here and say, oh, you know, but.



arushi 1:17:52

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 1:17:58

You can kind of like sit with that embarrassment and get used to it and get better at it, but at the same time it kind of demotivates you sometimes, right? If someone doesn't laugh at your joke.

And I think again it goes back also to this idea of vulnerability, right. Because it's like if you are trying to reach out to someone and give them a piece of you or your end or pass some level of energy along to them, it's a vulnerable act, right? And I think not having that reciprocated touches on some of that vulnerability in a way. Right. It's really interesting. I want to move it over as well to talk about this idea of introversion.

Who wrote this introverted?

Great. I think it's. I mean obviously it's like a huge word with lots of like meanings and we're stand back it. But I don't know, maybe if you wanted to share why that was an important thing to you.

OK.



YiFan Jiang 1:19:00

I felt like it this was has like two sides to it. Like some people, they're introverted, but they just enjoy being alone. But then there are some people who doesn't enjoy being alone, but they're just too shy to come up and say hi. And I feel like I'm like in between, like, I'm fine with being alone, but at the same time, when I'm in a new place, like, I'm a bit shy to say hi. But then.

But I feel like I just got lucky because the people around me are all like friendly and they have. They usually look back at you with a smile, so it made it so much easier for me to just say hi and begin a friendship with them. So I feel like I just wrote this word

down because I feel like I used to feel very introverted to talk to people in the past, like in different places. I feel different because it depends on like, how do people react and.



Ravin Raori 1:19:50

Interesting. Yeah. Great. Thank you so much for sharing that. I I I think for me personally.



YiFan Jiang 1:19:50

Kind of.



Ravin Raori 1:19:59

I've sort of, I don't if this is like a psychological like reality or like an academic term, but my partner and I, we often talk about.

Because she's like.

She's a very social person, but is quite introverted in the sense that, like, you know, if we go out to a party or if we go to make new friends or hang out somewhere, I think at the end of the night she will feel like her social battery is quite drained and she doesn't want to see more people.

I'm the sort of opposite where I maybe I'm a little bit more like you in the sense that I really like being around other people and it kind of energises me in a way.

But I'm not as good as socialising as she is and reaching out to people and being charming. And you know that kind of some people just have that kind of energy in the social context as well. And so I started kind of seeing myself as.

A introverted extrovert.

Where I'm kind of an extrovert, but I'm very introverted about how I go about it because I'm too shy to kind of approach it, whereas I see my partner maybe as an extroverted introvert where she's very like social and kind of good at making new friends and like, interacting with people, but is actually not maybe not what necessarily she wants to do, but might feel the pressure to do.

And I think it's interesting.

It's a sort of interesting way of how we perceive ourselves and how we project ourselves.

Into the world as well.

And yeah, I think it's it's nice that it's nice to kind of acknowledge as well, like, you

know, maybe there's maybe doesn't necessarily help you to break that barrier, but it is helpful. It's really helpful to acknowledge that this is who I am, right. And then maybe it can inform the contexts or scenarios that you would make friends in, right? Like perhaps it's easier for you to make friends, for example.

In a certain setting.

And actually this is a really good segue into the next question, but we're not, we're not going to the next question yet. But the next question will be talking more about the context and scenarios that might be more conducive because at you know, a lot of the opportunities that you have to make friends at university is either in studio or at in like A at like a social event like a party or at the pub or something like that maybe in your dormitory or maybe if you join some society or some club, right.

These are the sort of like.

Scenarios where you would make friends and those scenarios all involve A level of putting yourself out there in a way I guess right into the community to create a sense of community, to create a sense of belonging. But maybe it's not conducive to every single kind of person or personality type to be able to put themselves in that situation, if that makes sense.

You know, again, looking at some of these, you know, like hearing bad comments and thinking, they're always talking about you.

Overthinking. You know, there's some real overlaps there. I I I'm. I've. I can imagine that must not be an easy situation to be in. I also just want to acknowledge Shin if you know. I know that you know you've been sort of here and contributing great stuff in the mirror but like if there's anything that you want to share you know again no pressure at all but if there's anything you want to share in terms of maybe some challenges you faced or anything like that feel free.

But again, no pressure, OK?

Cool.

Maybe this is actually before we move on to the last question, maybe this is a good point to just check.

How people are feeling, if there's any thoughts, concerns, anything you want to just bring up as so far that we've had.

Maybe it's a good time to bring those up.

No, all good. OK, cool. So when nearing into the to the end here and again just want to shout out that I'm really enjoying this. And I hope that you are finding some value in it as well.

But it's more than anything. It's just been really nice having a Friday morning to just chat to you all and get to know you all a bit better and and you know, kind of put myself in your shoes a little bit. You know, I it's not always possible to do that, but at least in a little small sense, I hope.

So I'll leave all of the questions up because I think it's it would be, it would be nice if maybe again like no pressure at all after this call, if you have some time to go and populate the other questions, that's fine. If it ends up being just these four questions, that's also fine. I'm also doing a a version of this focus group with the third years. So it'll be really interesting to kind of see the beginning and the end in a way. Obviously they are going to be different people. You are going to be different people, but. Some kind of like. It'll be nice to see what happens, you know, at the beginning and the end. And I will have one more opportunity to chat with you all as well, which would be nice. So.

Moving on to sort of, you know from some of these conversations that we had here, you know, looking at things like language barriers and cultural differences, you know where it's easy, where it's not easy, you know, having issues like overthinking, limited opportunities. I think this is a really good one as well, perception of yourself.

Maybe this is a good way to this is a good segue into actually. What are the situations, context or scenarios that you've made new friends? Or perhaps that you might find it easy to make new friends, right? And I think again, feel free to populate these as like single word sentences, phrases, whatever you want, you know, and try to like be try to think about, like almost like, the more the most like detailed or like small scale thing like you know if it's like.

A workshop activity, or if it's a drink at the pub or if it's.

Like society or something where you met someone, or maybe you had a coffee with someone at the Bible Cafe.

Or, you know, maybe it's a grouped activity that we did as part of a brief or a field trip that we went on.

You know, so try to think of those kind of contexts and settings, but also equally you can also think of perhaps more of the headspace that you want to be in so you know. When, for example, a good way to think about it is if I'm teaching in a classroom, there is a bit of a power dynamic between me and the students, right? As much as we try not to have that power dynamic, that power dynamic will always exist, right? Students may feel a certain way in front of their teachers, students, teachers might feel a certain way in front of their students, and there's, you know that gap. So

maybe in a situation like that.

People might not find it as easy to make friends, or people might. Or maybe.

Some people don't care, it doesn't bother them. But thinking about also like what?

What is the sort of environment perhaps that you need?

So let's take. Yeah, I think 7 minutes should be good.

This time we'll go for Sunshine Jam in Miro and let's see how that goes, and then 7 minutes and then we come back and have a bit of a discussion.

I'm just gonna pause the timer for a second because as I'm filling this out, I actually do want to also know about the next question, which is. Where do you see these relationships going and the sort of future? Again, it can just be like aspirations, single words. So I'm going to increase the timer to like 10 minutes and we can just take 10 minutes to do both of these questions and then have a discussion as a group. Is that OK?

Thanks everybody.

I'll just increase the timer. Was there like a preference of any of these, like stock music that exists in mirror? Or does do people not care?

Are you fun? Were you saying something?

Daniel yeah.

 **YiFan Jiang** 1:29:01

Oh, I I didn't say anything. I just opened my mouth and then I was thinking about what to say. But like, I don't if it's because I didn't sign in, but like, I didn't hear any music, so.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:29:11

OK. Can the others hear the music?

 **YiFan Jiang** 1:29:12

Yeah.

No.

 **arushi** 1:29:15

I can hear it, yeah.



Ravin Raori 1:29:17

OK.



Devananda Sudheesh 1:29:17

Yeah, I can hear it over.



YiFan Jiang 1:29:19

Oh, my God. Oh, no, no. I have to go check.



Xin 1:29:20

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 1:29:25

OK. Was there a preference?



Devananda Sudheesh 1:29:26

You're missing out on some great music.



YiFan Jiang 1:29:31

Oh no.



Ravin Raori 1:29:33

No, don't worry that there's a lot of sarcasm in there. It's just some stock beat. So if you have your Spotify or something on, that's probably better. But yeah, OK, cool. I'll just put it back on on comflow.

Thanks everyone.

And thanks for again contributing to this last couple of questions as well. I can see some really lovely stuff. I was actually quite lost in just reading some of your responses.

I know we've only got a few minutes here.

And I just want to shout out a couple of things actually. These are all lovely.

I want to shout out, you know, the sort of in a, you know, it's a bit, it's a bit cheesy, but in some ways it's really nice. Actually, this idea of like.

Body language, right and how we perceive each other without even seeing any

saying any words. This is really nice to hear as well about, you know, because I've been experimenting a lot. We've been experimenting a lot with seating arrangements and.

Group projects and things like that. So and being mixing you guys up, that's really good to hear. I loved this one, made me laugh.

Who wrote this?

 **arushi** 1:40:56

Oh, wait, what? I'm sorry, I can't see your screen again.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:40:59

If they're sitting sitting next to someone, you're both confused about what the teacher has just said.

 **arushi** 1:41:05

Why idle time?

 **Ravin Raori** 1:41:07

Because I think this is, I think everybody probably faced this on on some level, right. And again, I actually really love stuff like this because it's not all like, yeah, you know, teachers are just doing such a great job. You know, we're making all these friends, actually, this is really nice because I have been in this situation before where the teacher, sometimes we go off on these like insane tangents and you're just like, I have no clue.

What this person has been talking about, but I know that you also have no clue, so at least.

We can be in this together and I think there's something is really, really nice about that.

Again, you know, going back to this, this idea of like that sort of shared experience and the sort of collective experience of the studio settings, like really, really nice.

Losing your phone? Who lost their phone?

What happened to your phone?

 **arushi** 1:42:01

Oh me, I lost. I got it back, but yeah.



Ravin Raori 1:42:08

Oh no, but you. But you were able to make new friends in the process of at least something good cameo.



arushi 1:42:09

Yeah.

Yeah, exactly. That's what I think something good came.



Ravin Raori 1:42:20

Great. Take talking about frustrations about our work shared experiences. Again, I think these this is really what it is about being in studio. I think that's really lovely to hear as well. I mean I hope the frustrations aren't too bad, but you know it's nice that you have that someone to share them with.

Moving into sort of progress through the course, going on different parts, but still sharing.

Experiences in different areas of study. I think this is what GMD is really all about, because once you finish the first year.

The first year is a bit crazy in the sense that we introduce you to all of these different things. You know you have a couple of type projects. You have a couple of media projects, you know, like, ah, I don't know why. Why is it so much?

In the second year, you actually start to define your specialisms.

So, you know, I don't want to give you too many spoilers, but you can find this information in the handbook as well, which I know none of you have read because no one ever eats the handbook.

Has anyone read the handbook?

Like the GMD handbook?



arushi 1:43:26

Is the handbook like the PDF that you can go to from the website?



Ravin Raori 1:43:31

It's on Moodle, yeah.



arushi 1:43:32

But no. Then I sorry.



Ravin Raori 1:43:35

Yeah, well, you know, read the handbook. It's useful. But I also never read my course handbook when I was a student. Don't tell anyone. I have said that, but you should read the handbook. It's really good. But yeah, one of the first units in the second year is called specialist ways of working, which is about.

Four different kinds of specialisms, or three different kinds of specialisms, and then you start to really define you, start to branch out in these different parts but then coming back in the third year you have this opportunity again.

To kind of share those experiences in a way which is really nice and you get mixed up so you won't have the same studios.

Deeper and stronger connections. You know, I think this is we could talk about this for hours, right? What does it mean to have a deep friendship right.

Perhaps we we don't have the time to talk about it today, but I love these. I love these certified ideas and it gives us a lot of things. You know, friendships extending beyond college impact. Collaboration gives us a lot of things to start to unpack in our next session, which is next Friday.

I actually don't, you know, again to be completely transparent, I intentionally don't want to create too much of an outcome for what happens in that session. My hope is that we end up on some kind of articulation of.

Values and meanings, right? What that what that shapes and forms eventually? I don't know yet. And I think that's kind of also the point of action research in a way.

But this is an action research project where.

You're you're not like tying yourself to any particular outcome, but really allowing the participants, in this case, all of you help dictate and define where the project goes in a way. So I'll have a couple of, like, again, conversational prompts activities for us to do and perhaps we'll do a little bit more writing in the next session.

But I'm hoping that it ends up in some kind of like mission statement or manifesto Y kind of thing where we kind of can put this out into the world and say this is what we think.

Right. But we'll see. We'll see how far we get. This is just been a really enjoyable first conversation. I've had a great time.

And yeah, we've got a couple minutes if anybody wanted to share any thoughts or anything.

Has everyone? Oh, sorry, Tim. On it? Yeah.

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 1:46:07

Oh, I had a question.

So the last studio's been mixing for like second year.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:46:15

Yes, as far as I'm aware you get mixed up 'cause. We don't wanna keep you in the same groups, right? Like you'll kind of. It'll be nice to mix you up into new groups. And I think it keeps changing as well because last year in the second year, there was 4 studios, but this year in the second year, there's three studios, right. So you might also have a little bit of a bigger group. It just depends I think with you lot it'll probably be 4 because you have quite this your, your, your group is quite big.

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 1:46:18

OK, OK.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:46:47

But yeah, I'm fairly certain that you'll get mixed up again.

And 2nd year is a bit is also insane because you have like a lot of projects. So there's just a lot of stuff that's gonna be coming your way. So make sure you rest up during summer. But you know also do some internship or whatever if you can, but make sure you get enough enough rest during the summer.

But yeah, again. Did anyone else have any other questions or anything?

No. OK. Yeah. So yeah, I'm pretty sure you get mixed up in the second year.

There's a small chance I could be wrong about it, but I'm pretty sure that you do.

It's the only year that I don't teach on. I've taught in the second year in the past, but I'm now mostly on 1st year and 3rd year, so it's quite nice actually. I'll see you all like I'll I'll see you all this whole year and then I'll see you again in the final year, which will be nice.

Because I do, I run a final year studio as well.

Cool. Thank you so, so much. I've just had a great time chatting to you all. It's just been so nice to have the space on a Friday morning. Thank you for putting up with

my ***** music. I know, yifan. You couldn't really hear it, which is probably a good thing.

But yeah, if you this mirror board is open, you all have the password. If you want to come back, edit stuff, put thing other things in, there's no pressure at all. But if you do, if you feel like, oh, I really want to add that into this research, that's fine. As I mentioned again.

I'll try as best as possible to not link people's names to the actual data.

Some your faces will probably show up in like meeting recordings and keynote presentations. Anything that I publish, but I will I will make sure that none of the responses themselves are linked back to any individual person, so that in that sense your privacy is protected. But again, if you have any more questions or if you want to be involved in that further, just let me know.

But other than that, thank you so, so much for bearing with me this morning and I will see you all on the 6th at 12 O clock.

And yeah, let me know if anyone else wants to join in that conversation as well. I can forward them the invite if you know, because some of you are mentioning that there was a few people that signed up late, so I'm happy to do that. OK.

Thanks everyone. If you have any questions just e-mail me and I think at some point I should probably owe you all a pizza as well for helping with the project.

So we'll let. Let's definitely try and make that happen in the next block or something.

Maybe we can get a pizza at Theo's or something. I don't. If you've all been to Theo's. But it's a pizza bar next to LCC. It's really good.

But yeah, OK, cool. Thanks, everybody. See you next week. Let's see. Bye. Thank you.

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 1:49:43

Great. Thank you.

 **YiFan Jiang** 1:49:47

Bye. Have a nice weekend.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:49:49

You too have a nice weekend, everybody. Thanks. Bye.

 **arushi** 1:49:54

Thank you.

● **Ravin Raori** stopped transcription