

Y1 - Teams Session 2-20241206_120919-Meeting Recording

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1h 35m 7s

● **Ravin Raori** started transcription



Ravin Raori 0:03

Oh, thanks. Thank you.

So I'll share back my screen.

So we then moved into describing what community means right. And it was interesting to kind of see the range of responses of like, you know what, not just what community it means, but then also moving into perhaps the challenges that people have faced. You know, whether those are like personal challenges of, like, you know, judgement or being introverted that or perhaps more like social challenges as well, like looking at cultural differences and.

That sort of thing and perception, I think was a big one.

We then spent some time talking about the context and scenarios in which people have made new friends, specifically thinking about like the sort of studio setting of like, you know, group based work clubs and societies. But then also we got into some really nice like more interpersonal connections about, you know, sort of body language when you kind of lock eyes with someone and perhaps share a smile, right. Thinking about, you know, perhaps this idea of, like, mutual confusion, like I have no clue what my tutor just said.

Uh, it's kind of, you know, it's kind of nice in a way that you kind of have this shared experience.

And then finally moving into like what the future of those relationships could be, right, so how do you imagine?

These relationships evolving as you progress through the course. So what are your hopes in terms of you know, not just how you make friends, but like what happens to these relationships? And there was a lot of nice things about deeper and stronger connections about impact, right about diverging parts, but still having a way to come together perhaps.

Babe, obviously getting closer.

So what I've done next is.

Let me just make 3 copies of these.

Give me a second.

Cool. So I'll call one.

And then one can be.

OK.

So.

Because, you know, whatever this ends up in, you know this is the first round and whatever this second round of thing ends up in, I want it to somehow be Co developed or Co participated or Co researched by all of us as a group because I don't want to be the one that, you know, as a researcher. I can obviously help by starting to pick out some of these themes and then work with what we generate as a group.

But I'm actually much more interested in ending up somewhere that we define together as a group of individuals. You know, whether that ends up in some kind of mission statement or manifesto or something about friendship. PBD and I think that's kind of the point of it as well is like, I'm not particularly attached to like an outcome, but it's just to let you know that that's likely One Direction that this research could take. And I'm going to be undertaking this focus group. So I'm basically going to be doing the same thing.

Third years as well. So it'll be like your reflections as first year starting out in this journey and their reflections is third years at the end of this journey and kind of. Hoping that the mission statement comes out of the juxtaposition of both of those things. So that's a little bit about the project and feel free to interrupt me or ask any questions. You know, if you, if you have any at all. But what I was hoping for the first part of today is we we all spend perhaps maybe 10 minutes or so, just reading through some of these responses.

Right. And maybe pick out five to six statements each. So I'll add myself actually into this as well. 'cause I would I'm I'm part of it with you, right.

OK, so maybe we can pick out five to six statements that maybe feel what that feel like they mean the most to you, right? Like I really resonate with this or I perhaps something you resonate with, maybe something you hadn't thought about before right, like oh that's interesting as well. I just never thought about that, but maybe it's something that I've experienced or could imagine myself experiencing.

It could be a value that you hope to take with you moving forward, or anything else you find meaningful. You know, I don't want to be too prescriptive about how we

approach this. So what I what you can do is just copy paste. Let me send you. Let me share the link of the mirror. Again. Denise, have you used mirror before?

 **Denise See** 4:46

Oh yeah, I have.

 **Ravin Raori** 4:48

OK, cool.

Does anyone remember the password that I had set up?

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 5:01

It was GMD something.

 **Ravin Raori** 5:01

That's fine.

Let me just let me just change the password. Let's make it.

G Let's make it GMD LCC2024 all caps, OK?

Now let me send you the link.

Where's my chat gone?

There we go.

OK.

So if you're all able to join back in the mirror board, what we can do as a group for 10 minutes is read through these statements and start to bring into our individual spaces the five or six that we like the most or not like the most. But like that have maybe moved us in a certain way and all you can do is just say, you know, click on a little sticky note, click command C and then command V you can just kind of copy paste it over. Sorry, you might have to select the whole sticky note.

Sorry.

Umm. In some cases people have written directly into the sicky note, in some cases people have created a text box over it, but either way you can just select.

Command C and then command V and then you can bring it over into your box OK.

Is that OK with everyone?

Yeah. And then we'll move into the next thing. Let me just hide this for now because it's we don't really need any of this.

Cool.

Let me also play the chill, annoying, chill music again.
10 minutes.



Xin 6:44

Sorry is it the pass the password TMDLCC?



Ravin Raori 6:51

2024 let me just let me. Apologies, I should just paste the password here.
There you go.



Xin 7:01

Thank you.



Ravin Raori 7:02

No worries.

Let's go for and apologies Denise Shin and Devananda have already been subjected to this terrible music.

But this is the sort of stock music that's available in Miro.

So yeah.

What did we like last time? Cosmic vibe was kind of OK.

A good dip in mirror is if you hold alt or option. I guess if you have a Mac you can create a copy of something. Just a tip as well.

Great. Thanks everyone. There's lots and lots of like nice stuff that I can see that's starting to get picked out.

And you know, everyone doesn't have to. But if you're comfortable, it would be nice if maybe a few it would be nice if all of us, but at least if.

A couple of us are able to maybe share what they picked out and why it why you know why they kind of picked it out like you know, it doesn't have to be particularly deep or anything. I think mostly I'm just interested in like why it was that important to you.

Maybe it's just easiest to start from the top devananda would you be? Would you be willing to share insights if that's OK?



Devananda Sudheesh 18:08

Yeah.

I really like the home away from home. I think that's really beautiful, like especially for international students. I feel like once you leave home, you can go back home. But I don't know. Things feel a bit different. Like it's still your home. But then there's like this other place that you live in. So.



Ravin Raori 18:30

Yeah.



Devananda Sudheesh 18:33

It's a very weird feeling, so I think that.

Creating those friendships and at the place you're staying at and making a home for yourself is a really beautiful concept.



Ravin Raori 18:46

Mm hmm.



Devananda Sudheesh 18:47

That's why I just that.



Ravin Raori 18:49

Brilliant. Thank you so much for sharing.

I resonate with that a lot as well 'cause, I think.

You know, I've been.

Oh, I'm. I grew up in India as well in New Delhi.

That I was about 18 and so similar to you all. I moved away for university to Hong Kong when I was 18.

And then I lived in Hong Kong for seven years, including half a year in Shanghai as well at the time. And then I immediately moved to the UK.

And I still go home a lot, like at least a couple times a year. During Christmas and New Years, maybe during the summer as well, or Easter.

But you know, the more time that kind of passes as well, it kind of changes things.

And I I know exactly maybe not exactly, but I can completely understand that feeling of when you go back to what is your home as an international student and actually all four of us are international students in a way.

You always feel like this increasing level of dissonance as well with home.

'Cause, when I go back, I mean, I love my parents and I love all my friends that I grew up with and stuff, and that's super nice. But then your your life is kind of moving at a different pace in a different direction through different cultural references. But when you're back home, people's life is moving at a different pace at a different in a different direction and with different cultural references. And it always does make me also feel a little stressed and anxious and to like what those differences are.

But you know when you say a home away from home is, there's also like a positive thing attached to it, right where it's like.

Which is the home away from home, because this is also your home now, that is also your home now. And of course, within the context of this project and friendship is like, how do we, you know, start to look at this as our home and what does that mean right. Like obviously it means the sort of love and empathy that you have from the people that you care about. In this case, your friends and family.

And in some ways, those relationships, perhaps maybe start to create some kind of invisible structure that gives you the feeling of home.

Gives one the feeling of home and it's not to say that that's there or it's not there, but it's definitely something that is true and exists, and it's about whether we're able to, you know, feel it or not. So do you, do you feel like the the the that being on the programme or like?

Not even the programme do you feel like do you feel a sense of home now in London or, you know, is it kind of mixed right?

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 21:33

Not really. I just feel like like London and India, like, just the way society works, I feel like India is very like community based like like you do everything together or like here. Society is more like individual based like everyone kind of does that one thing which is fine. But I guess just like it's very contrasting. So I just think it's gonna take some time.

 **Ravin Raori** 21:35

Yeah.

Yeah.

And that's completely understandable, and I really appreciate you sharing that response as well.

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 22:03

Mm hmm. Mm hmm mm hmm.

 **Ravin Raori** 22:08

I also like this idea of creating memories because I think.

Perhaps a lot of the way we think about our relationships or the people in our lives is also based on the memories that we make with them. I was just wondering if you had any further thoughts on the on why you chose the memories thing or?

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 22:21

Mm hmm.

Feeling when all is said and done, you're not going to remember like all the laws and all like the frustrations they are going to remember the beautiful memories you created with the people that you love. And isn't that what life's is about? So.

 **Ravin Raori** 22:45

Yeah, absolutely. That's very that's a very poetic way of putting it as well. But it is true as well. Like I think I I just feel like memories is such an important subject area in general because it's, it's obviously something that we as human it's actively very part of the human experience like we all try to remember the good moments and the bad moments of our lives. And maybe this is getting a bit too philosophical. So I won't spend too much time here. But then.

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 22:47

Yeah.

 **Ravin Raori** 23:14

Memories are also fictional, sometimes because we are having to recreate them, retell ourselves a story each time we try to remember the memory.


And so it becomes, then also a little bit about.


Do we remember what we want to remember, right? Or do we like in a way, does the memory become a version of the thing that we're telling ourselves, which is not a bad thing, but it's just the interesting thing about memories and how they work as well, right? That's just like, so important to who we are.


No. Great. That's awesome. Thank you so much. Like there's lots of lovely themes in here that I think will be really nice to start to unpack in the next activity.


Shin did you? Would you? Would you like to share any? There's no pressure at all, honestly, but would if you would like, is there anyone in these that you like particularly felt drawn to?

Well, one of the ones that you had on here, if it makes it a bit, you know if it makes a discussion a little bit easier is this idea of seating arrangements right, because I've you know, I mean this is a safe space and I want us to be able to discuss these things, how we can. And it's also something that I was looking at within my project when I was doing little interventions. Is it really does affect who you meet?

 **Xin** 24:25
Yeah.

 **Ravin Raori** 24:46
And in what context you meet them? Because you know, I noticed a lot of times, like at the table at the back, for example.
There's people sitting and they might not interact with anyone else or maybe towards the front, and This is why we try to like mix you all up a little bit sometimes as well to try and put you in uncomfortable situations almost because I think one of the.

 **Xin** 24:53
Yeah.

 **Ravin Raori** 25:11
And if the key experiences of friendship?
Is being uncomfortable as well, and being able to be uncomfortable with another person, right? We're not just trying to make friends with people who just agree with us on everything, right? Actually, friendship is a great way.
To encourage difference as well. But obviously as young people, I'm also counting myself in young people we have this, I we we have affinity bias, which is basically we tend to gravitate people towards people that either look like us.
Or perhaps have like a similar world view right? And that's when like the sort of intentional discomfort perhaps opens up some opportunities for friendship. It's not

always easy.

I don't would that be? Would that be a fair assessment shin of like what you mean by seating arrangements?

 **Xin** 26:04

Like we have a chance to do a project together like.

 **Ravin Raori** 26:09

Mm hmm.

Yeah.

Yeah, absolutely. I think it's it's very much about that. I think the idea of you know, you know kind of goes back to that that first image that I was showing in, I don't know if were you were you all part of the little thing that I showed when we did the QR code, do you were you part of this? You were right.

 **Xin** 26:40

Yeah, I seen that.

 **Ravin Raori** 26:41

Yeah, it kind of because I think it kind of goes back to like for me at least this image. You might be working with a group of people on something, but actually the surrounding context. The something, whatever that something is, ends up being what bonds you sometimes.

And then the surrounding context of your friendship is like what you take away, for example.

No, but I really appreciate that. Shin, thank you for for putting that in there as well.

 **Xin** 27:12

Thank you.

 **Ravin Raori** 27:14

Denise, was there anything in this? I don't know if you're. Oh, yeah. There you are. Was there any one or two that you felt you know, obviously I'm. I'm aware that you weren't.

Done like you weren't part of the day that we.

Generated these, but I imagine that you know, there's obviously things that you find a connection with as well from the ones that you've chosen. Was there anything that you wanted to perhaps share? Maybe one or two of them?

 **Denise See** 27:44

I think Dev mentioned about the home away from home and I think that was a very important factor for me when, like choosing who I want to be friends with.

 **Ravin Raori** 27:58

Mm hmm.

 **Denise See** 27:59

Luckily for me, I found a group of friends from Singapore as well, and we bonded really well actually and like.

 **Ravin Raori** 28:08

Mm hmm.

 **Denise See** 28:10

I feel that it's also important to have this kind of support with.

People from the same or like similar background as you, so that at least.

You have something in common to talk to, and I also think that I did not really get, like, homesick. I thought I would, but I did not. In the end. And I really think it's because of, like, the friendship that I formed with them that helped me to.

Overcome the feeling of home sickness.

Yeah. And also about humour.

I also think that.

Humour, it's it's kind of a very, like, interesting concept about how like.

There are like different types of humour and some types of humour. You may find offensive, but some some you may like, you know, sort of like fight with so.

 **Ravin Raori** 29:15

And.

 **Denise See** 29:16

I also think that the people in class that I've become closer to, we have similar types of humour and that's how.

We understand each other, you know and form this kind of bond that that cannot be formed with like other people.

Yeah. So.



Ravin Raori 29:39

Great. Thank you so much for sharing that and I completely understand where you're coming from.

I'd like to share a story with you about, like my experience of that, because I and I'm and you know actually before I say anything.

I just want to say thanks for again being vulnerable and sharing those experiences, because I do know that feeling of like finding someone that's that sort of has the same frame of reference as you in a way same cultural background, belong it. It does create a sense of belonging, right, like you and I are in the exact same situation, but we also have a similar past. And so it creates this kind of natural sense of.

Of you're bonded.

In a way, right.

So I think that's, I think let's hold on to that thought for a second. 'cause, I think that thought is really important in terms of like who we make friends with, right?



Denise See 30:37

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 30:38

Quickly want to touch on the humour thing? So important. I picked that in mind as well because I think I also think this is just a lovely quote. I don't remember who wrote it, but it's the size of like do you get my joke right? Like I think I'm being funny, but you're not finding it funny or like, you know now. Now I'm embarrassed or now I'm stressed because you don't find it funny.



Denise See 30:55

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 31:00

But I think.

For me personally, one thing that helped me get over that a little bit, you know, and I'm not saying that that needs to be the solution was.

Actually.

Being able to laugh at myself in a way, or just be.

Are you OK with the find a way to get comfortable with the awkwardness of my jokes? Not landing because I think not everyone is gonna find us funny anyway. But you know. But. But. But that doesn't make it any easier still.



Denise See 31:29

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 31:34

But I would like to go back. But yeah, I love this idea of humour. I think it's so important and I I I generally do see humour as a value as well, you know, because some people are like, you know, naturally quite funny.

And some people are like, good at making jokes. And I could, you know, like kind of, you know, but ultimately.

It's not about whether you are naturally funny or good at making jokes, but it's about whether you appreciate or value humour as an important part of the interaction, right, which I think is the thing that I'm trying to get out as well.

So yeah, I I I, I love that you picked out that one, but going back to this idea of who we make friends with.

I was in this situation when I was in Hong Kong as well 'cause. I was in the architecture programme and I was the only perhaps the only S person of South Asian descent on my course. So there was a lot of local Hong Kong students. There was a lot of overseas students from China as well, so that I would say probably like half and half, let's say like 40% and 40%.

Then there was another 10% of students that were from countries like Singapore, Korea, Japan, Southeast Asia.

And then Malaysia as well. And then there's me.

So I was kind of, I didn't have that. Like I didn't have anyone that had the same experience or background.

But at the same time, my other friends that were studying things like economics or engineering or business or law, because in India these somehow a lot of students

end up studying these things. That's a whole other thing. We don't need to get into it. But we had a lot my Indian friends who came over from India with me.

That way, now these other courses had a lot of other Indians on them and they were able to have that sort of shared experience.

But for me, luckily or unluckily, or luckily, actually more. Luckily, I was kind of forced into having to find other friends because I didn't have that right, like I didn't have another Indian or Pakistani or someone to like, you know, be like, hey, we speak the same language. Can you help me feel at home? You don't know that that's something you actually have asked someone but you know that's part of it.

And I really struggled in the beginning, honestly, in the I kind of wanted to quit. I didn't really like not having that sense of friendship. I was very lonely. I wanted to go home. I was actually really homesick, to be honest.

And somehow somewhere I ended up making one friend actually the same friend, this guy.

His name's Godwin because we did a project together.

And it was the first time in my life that I actually realised, like, hold on, we don't have anything in common. But we have a lot of values in common and it's through having those values in common. We managed to actually find.

Different ways to establish commonality, if that makes sense. So you know, obviously the more direct way is through language and through culture. But then the more indirect way of finding that commonality for us was, oh, like you know.

Obviously we value the same things like trust and loyalty. We both, you know, being someone from Hong Kong, he was really fond of food. Being someone from India was really fond of food. So we bonded over that. But then we bonded over some cultural stuff as well because even though he grew up in a sort of East Asian context and I grew up in a South Asian context, we still had like, similar ways that perhaps our parents interacted.

Their conservatism right.

We had similar kind of like cultural barriers and things. So we found new overlaps in a way and I think that's kind of the thing where I'm like, I'm in the I was in the exact same position as you. And so I know that feeling.

But I would also be curious to see how that evolves for you guys, right? Not just for you, Denise, but for everyone to see. Like when you do.

Find those overlaps with people that will like, not from the same.

Necessarily, cultural frame of reference.

What that looks like, and I would encourage you to try and be open to that as well or encourage you all to try and be open to that as well. 'cause it's I truly believe that it's something quite beautiful. I don't, Denise, if that makes sense or if you agree again, you don't have to agree with me.

But just curious to hear.

 **Denise See** 36:25

Yeah, actually agree pretty much.

Like similar to you.

My group of friends now in class, they are all Europeans. They are not Asians, but we just born over the fact that we can have fun together and also like.

Us having the same ideas on things also helps a lot in forming this bond.

That we have.

Yeah.

 **Ravin Raori** 36:59

Yeah. And I think you know the hopefully the hope is that there'll be more of that moving forward, right.

 **Denise See** 37:04

Mm hmm.

 **Ravin Raori** 37:06

No, but thank you so much as well. Like really great to hear from you and from all of you actually.

I can share a little bit of the ones that I picked out. Oh, sorry. Shin, did you have to say something? Did you want to say something?

 **Xin** 37:17

Yeah, I I agree with the like the local food from my own country can create a good country like between me and my group.

 **Ravin Raori** 37:29

Brilliant. Have you shared any of your local food with them?



Xin 37:30

Yeah, yeah.

Because yesterday we went to like.

A Chinese restaurant in Elephant and Castle and we have the lamps, noodle, which make me like, really think of my like make shy.



Ravin Raori 37:50

Amazing. I love to hear that. And I'm so glad that you were able to introduce some of that. Your food and your culture to your other friends. That's lovely. I mean, I agree, like, food is such a big way to bond with people because it's like, again, like, such a like we eat food like 3-4 times a day, right. It's such an important part of who we are. And, you know, I'm obviously biased in this regard because I'm Indian, and I love food.

You know, not that you know other people don't, but in general, I just think food is such a direct example of being able to exchange culture, right.

Yeah, super nice.

I picked out a few as well that I thought were kind of interesting and I'll quickly touch on them. I won't try and I won't talk for too long. I love the idea of being on the same boat, right? I think that's definitely a feeling that we've all kind of highlighted in the past and in this conversation as well.

And I like the idea of of fear not, not that I like the idea, but I of I like the idea of acknowledging, acknowledging fear like.

It's really easy to.

Hide and say that, yeah, it's all fine, right? And we all do that to a certain extent.

But also being able to acknowledge the fear and be like, no, I'm scared and I'm sure you're also scared. I think that kind of perhaps opens up some opportunities and that lends in nicely to, I think the vulnerability, right? Are we willing to be vulnerable?

You you guys are being very vulnerable with me right now and I really appreciate that, but obviously this is much more of a smaller setting, right, where it's just the four of us and we're having a chat.

But you know when we're in the studio environment, the studios around us, we're feeling judged. Oh, my God, is my colleague gonna is my friend gonna like my work? Are they gonna feel like I'm a bad designer? Is my tutor gonna think this? Obviously none of these things are true. But these are the things we're thinking of. And we feel

vulnerable as well. But we or or rather we we we can't be as vulnerable in those situations because we were trying to save ourselves.

A lot of what we've been talking about has been quite positive in terms of like. Friendship, community. But I also want to just acknowledge that a lot of there's a lot of stuff in here, even from the initial survey that I did that a lot of people don't feel a sense of community, right. I think devananda you mentioned a little bit, not that you don't feel a sense of community, but that, you know, you don't necessarily maybe feel at home, at least not yet.

Right. And I think that's an important thing technology and I kind of feel like that sometimes myself too. I've been in London now for five years.

And see and it and it's difficult sometimes to feel at home.

Humour again, going back to, you know, a few people have picked out humour.

The last couple ones are more like aspirations, but I think they're really nice aspirations. I think being true to each other.


Whatever that means. But it probably means I don't who wrote this, but whoever wrote it and I don't want to like pick them out. Maybe they're not here today. I quite like that. The italics does as well, because it kind of makes me think of, like, oh, like. What is being true to each other mean? What is being true even mean, right? Is it about me giving the most authentic version of myself to someone else? Is it about, you know? Did anyone have any thoughts about this? Actually, I'm curious to know what. What would you? What would people define as being true to each other?

 **Denise See** 41:32

I think for me it's just about acting like yourself with different people, because I think that.

If you aren't yourself when you're making friends, you will never be comfortable.

Or like this friendship will never be real, as you might think it is. So whenever you. Whenever.

 **Ravin Raori** 41:56

Mm hmm.

 **Denise See** 41:59

I bond with people with people. I think it's very important to not fake my personality or fake.

Like things that I don't agree with so.

Yeah, I think that's just the idea of how I've been being true to each other means, yeah.



Ravin Raori 42:19

But do you? I have to a couple of questions follow up questions. You always find that easy to do, you know.



Denise See 42:24

Mm hmm.

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 42:29

And be is that something you expect from the other person as well?



Denise See 42:40

Well, I'm still figuring out, but now I can tell you that I don't necessarily expect everyone to be real with me because I'm sure that people have their own reasons for not for hiding, like some stuff, whatever you may call it.

But overall, I just think that however you act in front of people is really your own choice.

And if that's the most comfortable with you?

Then you know, I'll just take it.



Ravin Raori 43:16

Yeah, yeah, no, super interesting. And I kind of agree as well like because it's it's such a loaded statement like what is being true mean. And I think again it kind of boils down to maybe like the value of like be as authentic as you can perhaps right?

Because there's always going to be stuff that you maybe perhaps can't share or can't divulge to another. But it's I think it's an interesting framework to think about like the dynamics between two people or three people or how many other people.



Denise See 43:24

Mm hmm.



Ravin Raori 43:44

In a group.

I don't know if anyone else wanted to share anything about that. Just want to. Yeah, Shane, go for it.



Xin 43:52

I I write I write this.



Ravin Raori 43:55

All right, cool. Do you wanna? Why did you write it?



Xin 43:56

Yeah.

I just think of, like, not always compliments, like with friends.

So back.

Be yourself when you're making friends.



Ravin Raori 44:13

Yeah. Yeah, exactly.

And I think that's I think that's lovely that you know, be yourself.

And I suppose it's also an acknowledgement of when it's easy to be yourself and when it's not easy to be yourself, right?

But thank you so much for adding that in there. I think it's a really lovely statement actually it's it's I see it as an aspiration, as a value, right? It's like authenticity.

I also really liked this idea of scenes with shared memories just because I think this is a really nice way to define friendship. What is friendship? For me? A lot of it is this.

These kind of memories, and I think someone else was talking about memories as well. Yeah, devananda, we were talking about memories in your thing about, like, this idea of.

As you collect these memories, perhaps, or you archive them in your brain somehow, it kind of starts to define your friendship, right? Like every every time you're like, how? Who? How do you introduce a friend? Oh, I've known this person for like, 10 years. Or I went to high school with this person. Oh, I went to university with this

person. Oh, we met at work. Everything about friendship is kind of associated to something that happened in the past, right? Because that's what defines your friendship in a way.

Really nice. OK.

Sorry, put us in a bit of a contemplative headspace there, so I want to acknowledge that perhaps our brains need a little bit of a break.

Would everyone benefit from a 10 minute break before we do the second thing?

I'm taking the silence to be a resounding yes.



Denise See 45:50

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 45:53

OK, go stretch your legs, go to the bathroom, get a snack, whatever you want, and the next activity will be a quick one and I'll see you back here in 10 minutes, OK?

Thanks everyone.



Denise See 46:06

Dinner.



Xin 46:07

OK.



Ravin Raori 59:12

Are you excited for your trip back home?



Devananda Sudheesh 59:16

I am very clearly.



Ravin Raori 59:22

That's fine, I think.


Vinny, someone this message was it Denise?


That Denise mentioned that she won't be able to speak till 1:30, but can still join on the mirror activities. Great. That's fine, Denise. Don't worry.


We probably won't be speaking much for the next half an hour anyway, because we'll


be doing this activity, but shin, when are you? Are you also travelling back over the UI? Right when? When? What date are you going back?
I think you're muted.


 **Xin** 59:54
25.


 **Ravin Raori** 59:56
Oh, OK. So you're going a bit later.


 **Xin** 59:58
Yeah.

 **Ravin Raori** 59:59
Nice. And when are you back?

 **Xin** 1:00:02
Like January 14.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:00:07
Lovely. So that's a nice time. So you'll get to spend Christmas and New Year's.

 **Xin** 1:00:13
Yeah.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:00:14
Great. Lovely.
I just had an e-mail from Arishi as well. She was not feeling too well today, but she mentioned that she'll be able to contribute on the Mero as well, so we may see her right now or perhaps later on.
She might join in and contribute to the discussion on Miro Cool. I'll try and to keep this next one as short as possible because you know I want to let you all get on with your days as well, and I just appreciate all of the time. By the way, I mentioned in the e-mail, but I do owe you all a pizza at some point in the new year. Maybe we can find an evening or something.

Or perhaps you know at some point I would like to 'cause. I appreciate you all being involved with this.

Let me share my screen back.

Cool. So.

For this next part.

What I was hoping is and this is where where I unfortunately kind of have to leave things with you as much as I would like to, like, keep throwing these discussions. All know that your time is valuable and B.

That, you know, I don't ask too much of you either, so this is kind of where we leave things. And from this point, I will then.

Take all of this data and do something with it. You know whether it ends up being a manifesto, whether it ends up being some kind of like mission statement. I will do something with this data.

But what I will do is before I submit it for my project.

Or publish it on my blog. You know, we we work with these blogs at LCC.

Is I will share it back to you guys to have an opportunity to be like actually I would prefer if this was said this way or if I would prefer if this was, you know, just to make sure that you all still have a voice and feel represented in that final thing, OK.

So this last part is just to spend maybe 20 minutes or so. This is going to be like an entirely contemplative activity, looking at what's moved us as individuals and start to organise things under themes. This is just a starting point. We can always add more themes as well.

But for now I've just divided things into perhaps maybe what falls under a definition. So like this is what friendships mean are about right like it's about.

Two people sharing.

Memories, right? Oh, it's about going to the restaurant, right? Or it's about having someone to go to a party with. Right. It's about having. You know what? Just things that would fall under the category of a definition. OK.

Then next I want to move us over to values and values. We can think of them more as like words if you want them to be sentences, that's also fine, but values could be things like, you know, honesty is a value. For example, loyalty is a value or you know, going back to truth.

Like this idea of being true, like authenticity, perhaps, is a value OK.

And finally I want to move us over into thinking about what are the commitments that perhaps we can all make, you know, not just as students, but just as people in

this academic setting. So, you know, this is something for me to think about as well in terms of.

Creating a sense of community or belonging right? Is it about meeting new people, right? Is it about sharing something about your culture, like your food? You know, for example, like you were saying Shen earlier? Is it about putting yourself in uncomfortable situations? Right. What are the commitments we can make? And then I've got a final space for other, which is just if there's any other thoughts that you don't feel like really falls into a value or a commitment or.

A thing about friendship. Feel free to put it here.

And will take 20 minutes for this part 'cause. This is like a sort of like just, you know, write out all everything you felt going through this whole process.

And that and we won't spend too much time discussing it either. So this is just to give you some time to reflect on the conversations that we've had, which have all been really lovely. I've really enjoyed being in this headspace with you guys.

And just, you know, kind of summarise those things.

Into here, right you can still as well if you would like pick out and just copy paste stuff as well or write new stuff, whatever you prefer. And if you're not able, you know if if you feel like these 20 minutes were not sufficient, which they probably won't won't be in. Being able to articulate everything you all have the password and you and I'll send out a big e-mail again at the end of this giving people.

The new password and the links you can always come back and edit this. OK, this document will be live.

And so I'll be pulling from this document.

Up until my submission, which is in January, so you can always come in and add more stuff, OK? Is that OK?

Cool. So I'll start the timer now.

It'll take 20 minutes and then we'll have a bit of a wrap up and I will let you get to your Friday afternoon and hopefully what's gonna be a really lovely weekend as well. OK, I'll put the up tempo funk. Hopefully that leaves us in a bit of a celebratory mood and we can start now and I will also be adding some stuff in here because I want to be part of this with you.

All right, great. Thanks everyone. I know that was a bit of a long session to do some contemplation.

I'm sure we're all having a bit of mural fatigue as well by this point.

But you know, I'm seeing lots of lovely stuff here. I won't spend too long discussing

this, maybe just a few minutes, but I love that we've been able to articulate a difference between what the sort of relationship is, you know, things about, like doing projects together, like listening to songs and laughing.

You know, perhaps even some of the more experiential qualities of friendship. I love these kinds of things of like a chosen family or a hand that reaches out. When it comes to values, I think you know, I really like stuff like it humbles you as well. I think that's really important and you know, looking at things like empathy and loyalty and trusts and humour.

And I actually got really interested in what a lot of people wrote in commitments as well, right, like thinking about.

Being honest, when you get it wrong about being accountable.

The time and effort that's also spent right again, these are expendable things committed to like vulnerability to communication.

I think these are all lovely things. Was there any before I move into like what happens next? Was there any like overarching feelings or thoughts that anybody wanted to share?

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 1:27:42

Oh yeah, I wrote down the humble Co one. I think that's quite like an important thing for friendship. Like, you don't have to, like, always surround yourself with people who just, you know, they just agree with you all the time. I think as friends, you shouldn't be afraid to call them out and like you'll be like hey, actually like, take a break like or like, just calling them out on their behaviour I think.

That's really important, yeah.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:28:09

Absolutely. And I completely agree with you as well. Like I think you know, you don't want to be in friendships where people disagree with you. You don't want to be surrounded by people that don't call you out on the things that you deserve to be called out on sometimes because sometimes we can be like bad as well, right. And you want your friends to tell you the truth so that you're able to fix it or be better. And I think it goes back to the idea of of difference, of vulnerability of trust. Right.

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 1:28:21

Exactly.

Mm hmm mm hmm.



Ravin Raori 1:28:36

Because there's a level of trust that's also required in being able to do that for someone, if that makes sense.



Devananda Sudheesh 1:28:43

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 1:28:44

Yeah. No, that's lovely. Thank you for sharing that as well. But basically, Shin, I don't, did you want to add anything or?



Xin 1:28:53

Yeah, I think I like like my friend, give me, like, true comments. So I can get feedback too, improve myself.



Ravin Raori 1:29:02

Yes, absolutely. I think and there's a lot of research actually around like feedback in general.

Not just like, you know, you know, we'd make you do a lot of stuff with like peer-to-peer feedback or tutor feedback, but especially thinking about peer-to-peer feedback. We're constantly telling you all also that like you know try not to be just like yeah great work amazing or you know but actually like can we have enough trust in this relationship that you can tell me what I could improve on, right or what are things that I maybe haven't thought of or how I could make something better. Right. What are like blind spots in my project.

And I think it requires A level of friendship to be able to do that, because if you're doing it with a stranger or someone, there's a wall between you and them, it's not going to be the same, right. They're just going to be like, yeah, I like your project. You know what I mean? So I do think that it does require a level of, again, friendship and trust and community, and it goes to this idea of critical friendship, actually, and critical friendship is a framework within academia that talks about, you know, being able to acknowledge each other's differences, but then also being able to be

constructive about, you know, how we move further, right. And whatever it is that we're doing in Society of critical friendship.

Great. Denise, I don't know if you're around, you know, no stress or pressure because you you mentioned that you won't be.

Around for a while. If you're still occupied, no worries at all.

Let me just share back my screen, but basically what's gonna happen now is I'm gonna do these sessions with the third years on Monday and Tuesday, and then I'm basically just gonna have a moment to sit with all this data to kind of figure out. How do I actually present this to a panel, right?

So I'm gonna end up having to do some level of analysis of what we've generated, perhaps picking out some more themes.

Maybe taking out directly some quotes?

Maybe and I will try my level best to represent our collective voice in this process, you know, and whatever the outcome is, whether it's a mission statement or a small manifesto kind of thing or, you know, ends up on a website where you can kind of see these codes or something interactive. I don't have some ideas. I haven't quite formed with them yet, but whatever it ends up being, I will give you all an opportunity to have a look at it before I finalise it.

So that you can be like, yes, I feel like this is this is representative of my contribution to this thing or you can be like no Robin, I would prefer if you didn't include this or include it that because I think that's the whole point of this involving you all in it.

Does that sound fair?

Great, great. So again, this board is live and.

No worry, Denise. All good. This board is live, you know, I mentioned to Aarushi already because she emailed me. But if there's anyone else that was, you know, I remember last time we had more folks involved as well. There was.

Let me just have a look at who all were there on Friday. There we go.

Yes, I remember there was Yifan and Huiyan as well. So if you know if anybody anyway, if anybody wants to contribute more, they're welcome to because this will be live and you have the password. GM Dlcc 2024. Oh, hello, Denise. You're back. I hope everything's OK.

OK. Were you able to hear the last part that I was just mentioning?



Denise See 1:32:36

Yeah, yeah, yeah, I did.



Ravin Raori 1:32:38

OK, great. So I will send the outcome whatever. I'm not really looking at it as an outcome, but I will send the point at which this research culminates to you all to just have a opportunity for participant checking, which basically means, hey, this looks fine to me.

And if you know if there's any issues, just let me know. OK. And as I said before, hopefully in the new year, we can all find a time to maybe get some pizza or something maybe at the yeah, it will be really nice to as a thank you to all of you for being involved with this.

Before I wrap things up, was there any? Did anyone have any final thoughts or anything they wanted to say?

No. OK, cool. So I will cite you all as Co researchers in this project. So I will have obviously.

Just again to give you the full transparent details, it will, it will like I'll have myself as the researcher on the project and then I will list you all as Co researchers and participants in the research Group Working group.

Uh, so if you have any preferences for how you want your name to show up, just let me know. Right? Like maybe you can just e-mail it to me or post it in the chat.

Otherwise I'll just use your name as I see it in Moodle and stuff.

But yeah, that's about it. I just wanted to once again take this opportunity to thank you all. I'm very grateful for your contribution to this project that I've undertaken and I'm just really happy that you were all able to join me. Thank you for being honest and kind and empathetic and vulnerable.

And I hope that we can continue to involve you all in projects like this in the future, OK.


Cool. Great. Have a lovely Christmas break, everyone. Actually, no. I'm going to see you guys on. No, don't have a lovely Christmas break yet.


I will. I will see you on Wednesday. And then after that have a lovely Christmas break. All right.


Take care and have a nice weekend and once again thanks everybody. Thanks Devin and Denise Shin and everyone else as well who was there for the previous session?

Who?

Alright, take care. Happy weekend everybody. Thanks. Thanks so much. Bye.

 **Devananda Sudheesh** 1:35:02
You too. Bye.

 **Xin** 1:35:03
Bye bye.

 **Denise See** 1:35:05
Hi, thank you.

 **Ravin Raori** stopped transcription