

Focus Group for Ravin's Research Project - Session 1-20241209_121402-Meeting Recording

December 9, 2024, 12:14PM

1h 35m 43s

● **Ravin Raori** started transcription



Ravin Raori 2:18

How's it going? I think you might be on mute.

Hey, how are you?

I your voice sounds very muffled in the in the microphone for some reason.



Hubert Cheng 2:48

Hello, I'm Shaka Satsang.



Ravin Raori 2:52

OK, that maybe sounds a bit better now.

Can you hear me? Yes, I can.

OK, cool. Thanks so much for joining me for this call this morning. No one else has joined at the moment, unfortunately, which is fine. I think I was speaking with Prynne and he said that he might be able to join at 12:45.

But it's fine, you know, I know that it's the final year at the moment. And you know, there's lots going on.

But maybe we can structure this call as a bit more of an interview, if that's OK.



Hubert Cheng 3:40

That was one.



Ravin Raori 3:41

OK, cool. Are you able to turn on your camera by any chance? No pressure if you can't.



Hubert Cheng 3:49

You can't.



Ravin Raori 3:51

Yeah, don't worry. That's perfect. I'm also having some coffee at the moment. I'm also recording this meeting, if that's OK, but but I don't. I'll. I'll try not to include any video of you eating.



Hubert Cheng 4:06

I'll I'll just close my camera with. I'll just reopen it after I've been I'm done eating.



Ravin Raori 4:06

In.

OK, perfect. Yeah, that's brilliant.

So I'll just share my screen if that's OK.

And I'll take you through what the what the what I can tell you a little bit more about the project.

And.

Just take you through some of the questions. Can you see my screen?



Hubert Cheng 4:39

If I can.



Ravin Raori 4:40

It could.

Not loading. There we go.

So basically I'm doing a project at the moment on friendship.

It's a research project that's part of my teaching and learning research for this higher education degree that I'm currently doing called the PG CERT, which is something that's pretty common. Like most lecturers will end up doing it at some point to the other.

And it's basically a degree that.

Kind of allows us to continue researching about teaching and learning, but also think about how we can make this space better for you guys.

And so I've been doing this project now for the last few months is my final project and it's essentially a project about friendship, about community and belonging.

And I was kind of interested in looking at the student journey across the three years

and understanding the role that friendship plays in people's lives because I was talking to some students previously just to get an idea of, like, what their student experience has been. And overwhelmingly, I noticed that a lot of people.

Either struggle to make friends or you know didn't end up enjoying their time at university because they didn't think they would make the friends that they thought they would. Of course, lots of people also made friends and had a great.

Time at university and had a great experience with that, but it's just to say that, you know, it got me thinking in terms of this project. How can I set it up in a way that perhaps?

Can learn from you guys and your experiences and then bring some of that back into how we teach right in terms of how we structure learning in terms of can we create better environments and situations for you guys?

To to to just have a deeper sense of community.

If that makes sense. So I've I've been. I've been running these as focus groups with the first year because there was like five or six people in the call where we were basically going through different questions.

About friendship and about community and that sort of thing.

Also looking at challenges people might have faced, as well as the context and scenarios that people made friends and then looking towards the future, how folks imagined their friendships evolving.

And so we brainstormed quite a bit as a group. We wrote down some responses on Nero.

And then in the second session.

We started to organise some of what some of these responses under themes.

Right.

And different and I I can we don't need to get into the too much detail about this at the moment because we'll have an opportunity to do this ourselves.

But with themes, we were first looking at, you know, as a group, what moved people, right? So from all of the responses that we had generated, what moved people the most, so you know people selected different aspects of like you know, what does friendship mean to them or you know, perhaps looking at things like humour, you know, this idea of a home away from home.

You know, maybe more like values oriented things like love and empathy and understanding. I was part of that discussion space as well. And then towards the end

in the second session as well, we started to articulate perhaps some kind of collective definition of friendship based on values and commitments as well.

And with this project, I'm hoping that based on all of the data I gather and generate with you guys.

I can end up with some kind of mission statement manifesto kind of thing that articulates.

Perhaps some ideas about community and friendship in higher education.

I mean, that's just a very like quick overview of what the project is.

For the purposes of today, since it's just you and me right now. And then Prynne might join us later.

What we can do is perhaps just go through these questions on the mirror and then based on the sort of responses you give me, I'm happy to just type them out so that you don't have to then worry about like doing things like typing and stuff like that.

And then we can see if we have time today or you know we can move, we can either try and do the second activity today itself or you know in tomorrow's session depending on how we go for time is that OK?



Hubert Cheng 9:37

Yeah, that's fine. That's perfect.



Ravin Raori 9:39

OK, cool. Let me anyway send you. You don't need to be on the mirosense. It's the two of us. But if you would like to be on the Miro, you can.

Let me just send you this.

Anyone with the link can edit. There we go.

How do I send this to?

Yeah, I'll just. I'll just put it in the chat, if that's OK.

But again, you don't need to be on the mirror, so it's fine.

Cool. So.

The first question that I wanted to ask you today.

Was looking back to the first year.

How did your expectations about friendships and community change or evolve?

And again, like you know, the answer can doesn't have to be particularly like.

You know long or you know, it doesn't have to be.

You know, just like anything and everything that you think about this. So yeah.



Hubert Cheng 11:01

Doesn't mean by the changes since year one, or is it like recalling back to year one?



Ravin Raori 11:08

So I think that's a good question. So I think maybe thinking back to all three years, you know, maybe in year one when you came, you've had certain expectations about making friends and in 3rd year you've now realised perhaps that those expectations changed or those expectations evolved again like this can just be conversational. So you know you can just share your experiences with me, what that's been like and I can start like typing in here.



Hubert Cheng 11:34

I feel like your one has been a talker for me, like looking back for all three years because like it was back in the pandemic and I was having like past half a year online. So kind of like making friends, like relatively tough for me, especially when everyone has like.



Ravin Raori 11:48

Mm hmm mm hmm.



Hubert Cheng 11:56

From their like leader groups within one another, it makes me hard to fit in back in gear one, but then eventually I found people with like similar backgrounds, which they also took the first semester online.



Ravin Raori 11:59

OK.

OK.



Hubert Cheng 12:12

I cannot also like for a group of friends that I meet back in Europe one.



Ravin Raori 12:18

Mm hmm.



Hubert Cheng 12:19

And.

Abroad, coming to London, I was forcing myself to join relatively like quite a lot of activities with like different societies and almost like different schools. So I kind of made my way through of like making friends afterwards or like, yeah, year one was the toughest for me and for now because I was in Vps and most of my friends and my same great has graduated.

Which makes like making friends a little bit difficult for me especially.

When I'm trying to interact with this year's GMD students because like, yeah.



Ravin Raori 12:57

Hmm.

I was just making some notes here and again feel free to like tell me if any of this doesn't sound representative of what you said, but that's really interesting actually, and thank you for sharing that with me because I'm just thinking back to like my first year at Uni.

I was studying in Hong Kong.

And obviously the struggles were a little bit different because you know there was no COVID and things. But I kind of was placed in a situation where.

I didn't. I didn't really speak Cantonese.

And so it was quite difficult for me as well to make any friends, and again I completely.

Can empathise with what you're talking about as well. This idea of like people already being in groups, right?

And then it's quite difficult maybe to break into existing groups.

But I like this idea that you're talking about with the sort of like joining different activities in societies.

Did was that something you did in like year one or was that something you did more towards second year or like, you know, what was that? Did that help in any way?



Hubert Cheng 14:18

I had the idea of like joining societies by the end of like year one, so I start participating by the end of year one. But then.

The beginning of year two was like the peak that I was joining, like the first different

variety shows just to like need people or like, yeah, just to get some like networking and or and and all like sorts like.



Ravin Raori 14:34

OK.

And did you find it easy?

In terms of like meeting people outside of perhaps GMD and networking through the societies and activities like was that, was that like a natural process or were there some like, you know, what was that like?



Hubert Cheng 15:01

Kinda have to force myself out of the conversation. 'cause like I'm quite introverted. That's like a person. But then after like meeting people, like similar interests, it was like quite easy for us to get close and to and cirak and eventually become becoming friends.



Ravin Raori 15:23

OK, cool. Yeah, I know. Thanks for sharing that with me. I think again.

I was also a bit like you. Like when I was at HKU. Where's home for you? By the way? Hubbard, where did you grow up?



Hubert Cheng 15:36

I was in. I was raised in Vancouver for a bit, but then now I'll move back to Hong Kong and I was spending most of my time in Kowloon. But then in high school I.



Ravin Raori 15:47

I didn't realise that you're also from. OK, so we have some stuff in common then. Because I was in Hong Kong. You.



Hubert Cheng 15:56

Oh yeah.



Ravin Raori 15:58

But I lived on. I lived on Hong Kong. I was in. Do you know Kennedy town?

 **Hubert Cheng** 16:04

I do.

 **Ravin Raori** 16:05

Yeah. So I lived in Kennedy town like for basically the whole time I was there for seven years.

But obviously I've been to Kowloon where where in Kowloon were you based?

 **Hubert Cheng** 16:17

Home and team.

 **Ravin Raori** 16:18

Oh, wow. That's a nice area.

 **Hubert Cheng** 16:21

It's quite like a school area 'cause. It was quite like quite quiet, but it was like right next to Hong Kong. So it's like quite populated as well.

 **Ravin Raori** 16:28

Yeah, yeah, yeah. **** Kok was, yeah. **** Kok was like crazy.

Like I remember, what was it like the the ladies market?

 **Hubert Cheng** 16:40

Alright.

 **Ravin Raori** 16:41

And there was this building in **** KKK that used to sell sneakers. I don't if you remember this building.


 **Hubert Cheng** 16:49


Oh yeah. There's like, a street that sounds like sandyhurst.


 **Ravin Raori** 16:52


Oh yes, Ether Street, but on sneaker St There was one building like it was an old.


 **Hubert Cheng** 16:54
It.

 **Ravin Raori** 16:59
What do they call them? They call Tilos like, you know, the old Hong Kong buildings.


 **Hubert Cheng** 17:06
Can't really remember, but remember those like a just like a massive Nike.

 **Ravin Raori** 17:12
It was a massive Nike, yeah.
But there was also this one building that had like seven floors of, like, sneaker shops that were all selling, like those kind of limited edition.

 **Hubert Cheng** 17:26
Oh, I think I. Yeah, I think I know what the building you're talking about. It's always so it's always so crowded.

 **Ravin Raori** 17:28
Yeah, yeah.
Yeah. And then you go in the elevator and every floor is like different sneaker shops.

 **Hubert Cheng** 17:36
I have a favourite text forever.

 **Ravin Raori** 17:37
Yeah. Yeah, exactly. That one. I bought something I I saved up and bought some sneakers from there. I remember. Wow. I had no idea from Hong Kong. We should definitely talk about that more because I spent so much of my time.

 **Hubert Cheng** 17:49
Sure.

 **Ravin Raori** 17:51

Anyway, sorry I got distracted.

OK, so maybe moving into a little bit more of perhaps an emotional headspace.

Or maybe not even emotional, but more like personal. And you know, again, whatever you're willing to share is whatever you're willing to share. So you know, you don't have to tell me anything you don't feel comfortable sharing.

But I'm just wondering like what you know again, like you're nearing the end of your time on the course, right? You're going to graduate in, like, another half a year. And so just thinking in terms of, like, what has friendship ended up meaning to you in the context of university life, right, like.



Hubert Cheng 18:16

Sure.



Ravin Raori 18:38

In terms of your own personal self like you know, thinking about whether it's like a support system, whether it's about memories, whether it's about happiness, just curious, like, you know, or sadness or conflict or, you know, whatever that is just curious about what friendship has ended up meaning to you.



Hubert Cheng 18:58

We're in the supporting relationship like both like work base or like emotional base. And colleague in some way.



Ravin Raori 19:12

Sorry, say that again.



Hubert Cheng 19:13

But colleagues.



Ravin Raori 19:15

Colleagues, OK.



Hubert Cheng 19:17

And then.

Finally, in some way like yeah.



Ravin Raori 19:26

Yeah, that's that. I mean, I love the Word family because.

We had in the first conversation some of the first years and I'm sure you might have felt this way as well because you're you're also an international student. This idea of like.

Home, away from home.



Hubert Cheng 19:47

Yeah, exactly.



Ravin Raori 19:50

And.

How having friends or having a sense of community perhaps?

Can help with that feeling, right?



Hubert Cheng 20:01

Yeah, definitely.



Ravin Raori 20:03

So I'm just wondering, was that us, was that us, was that sort of what it's been for you as well with this with the Word family or you know?

You know.

Yeah, I was just wondering if you like, wanted to expand on that a bit.



Hubert Cheng 20:17

Oh yeah, 'cause I get close with people like quite easily, so eventually will become like quite close, but at the same time 'cause. I'm also like moving in like different space. So I like meet quite a lot of people quite constantly. So I'm like constantly making new friends.

And eventually some of them will be will remain quite close, but some of them might eventually like, leave.

But yeah, the concept is like.

Meeting like different people, like different groups and some of them might clicked

and eventually will be like quite close and those are like the friends that I feel like will remain in my life.



Ravin Raori 21:11

Sorry, I'm just typing that out.

I love all of these things. Thank you for sharing that with me. Like I think it's so interesting.

I like this idea as well. You mentioned like clicking with another person.

I think it's quite interesting like.

What makes people click right 'cause you mentioned here as well? Like similar interests, right? Obviously that's one thing in the previous groups we were also talking about this idea of like culture as well, you know, not just having the same culture, but the sort of like curiosity.

Curiosity around sharing your culture, perhaps, right?

And so that's really interesting. I also, you know, wanted to shout out that this is quite an interesting thing as well that.

Because you're constantly meeting so many new people.

There's a high likelihood that some of them will remain in your life. Some of them will move on, and in that sense, the friendships are kind of.

Sometimes a bit transient as well. You know, sometimes they I can imagine that like, you know, as you're rotated in different groups and have different kinds of rotations and things, it might perhaps put some challenges and constraints around like who we're friends with, but also when we're friends with them, right.



Hubert Cheng 22:37

Yes.



Ravin Raori 22:38

Umm, great. Great, great. Uh alright. This is all sounding quite wonderful.

I want to move on to the next thing in terms of, you know, and again be as honest with me as you can because again, this is like you know, although like I am recording this call and your face will be there and what the version of my project that gets published and your name will be there. But none of these answers will go back to you. So it will just be like this is just stuff we generated as a group. So you know in that sense.

The thing is kind of protected.

But again, what you feel comfortable is what you feel comfortable with sharing, but.



Hubert Cheng 23:17

Read.



Ravin Raori 23:20

How has the feeling of community or lack of community right? Because I don't want to assume that you do feel like there's a really good community.

And how does that feeling?

Affected your time on the course.



Hubert Cheng 23:34

Mm hmm mm hmm.



Ravin Raori 23:35

Yeah, it's. I guess it's a two-part question. The first part is do you feel like there is a community and the 2nd is like how has that affected your time?



Hubert Cheng 23:45

I don't feel like it really affect my time on the course, but in terms of like outside the course.

I I feel like because like like after meeting like quite a lot of people, I feel like I'm quite emotionally detached now, like knowing this like you hold us, like, not as trustworthy. Like, I'm getting sober and then.

Yeah, there's definitely coming to see. It's just that I feel like you're really have to, like, spend quite a while knowing which community is really a community. That's that makes sense.



Ravin Raori 24:28

I love that statement like I just. That sounds really powerful and I want to know more about that. Like, what do you mean in terms of like knowing which community is really community? I I guess it's probably attached to knowing the right people and who's trustworthy and who's not trustworthy. But curious to hear more about that.

 **Hubert Cheng** 24:45

Yeah, it's 'cause. I feel like at the back end, year one, I get.
I get really commit to like relationships or like community very easily, but then knowing that some might be like fake communities that trying to take advantage of me, I'm being more like in a protective after meeting like some of them. So it's like in a progression for myself.

 **Ravin Raori** 25:12

Hmm.
And then.
Oh yeah, go ahead.

 **Hubert Cheng** 25:24

So yeah, also after after like those experience, I feel like it takes me more time to really investigate or like really consider of like people or like trustworthy or like if yeah like that community is really a community that suits me or like I feel comfortable in.

 **Ravin Raori** 25:54

Yeah. No, I know what you mean, 'cause. Sometimes, you know, I guess it also connects with the idea of, like, people.
Being in these groups as well, right?
And I think as young people, you know, I'm not that much older than you guys. I'm 30. And so I was in the opposition, like, not that long ago.
And I think there's always a little bit of like, I don't know if you faced this. I don't want to assume that you faced this.
But it's definitely something that I faced.
This idea of like.
I want to be friends.
With certain people.
But I'm worried that.
They might not consider me worthy of their friendship as well. And then I start thinking maybe.
I'm trying to be friends with them for the wrong reason. Maybe I want to just fit in or

be cool.

And like, you know, in times I also succeeded some in being friends with some of those kinds of people. And then actually years later in that friendship, realised, as you were saying, maybe I'm not so comfortable in this friendship anymore because.

It wasn't what I thought it was right and I ended up being friends with this person for the wrong reason.

I mean, I'd like to also believe that, you know, people are nice and I met some lovely and wonderful people in my life, and I'm very grateful for that. But it's definitely, you know, it does impact.

That feeling of community, if you know friendship groups are closed off, or if people feel unwelcomed or uncomfortable, you know, and I can completely empathise with the idea of, like taking your time to get to know someone before you fully commit yourselves to them.

And you know, you talk a lot about this idea of commitment. And I and I think it goes back as well in the first group, we were talking about this idea of like being vulnerable.

And how friendship itself is quite a vulnerable act, right?

And in that sense, when you become friends with someone, you give them a part of yourself, right. And there's a level of trust involved in giving them a part of yourself.

But then they give you a part of themselves. And there's a vulnerability in that exchange. And you may or may not want to be vulnerable with different people, right?

So yeah, no completely relate.

But a lot of things that you've just mentioned again.



Hubert Cheng 28:38

I can definitely relate with what you just mentioned as well.



Ravin Raori 28:42

Mm hmm. Mm hmm. Mm hmm mm hmm.



Hubert Cheng 28:43

Oh, I feel like that was like times that I was trying to meet, like, really cool people.

And then and some there was like experience that I tried quite hard on it, but then I realised what I can't. I kind of believe in faith in some way because like some some

there was like times that I I was trying so hard. But eventually it didn't work out. But like probably a year later it's just it just happened naturally so.



Ravin Raori 28:48

Mm hmm.



Hubert Cheng 29:10

I'll, I'll I'm I'm quite I'm quite like I'm believing in the faith on this at the moment, but yeah, so I was going to try and as hard anymore.



Ravin Raori 29:22

Allowing things to take their natural bar. I like that. I like the idea of fate as well.

Trying to force yourself to.

This is letting me.

Yeah, I think I like this idea quite a lot as well. Like, you know, about letting things happen naturally.

Because it doesn't necessarily mean that one needs to be lazy about making friends, I think, but more that you know you can still put yourself in the right situations.

Where you know which is again like a vulnerable thing to do like, you know, go to, say a party or.

You know, join a new.

A working group, right? Or.

You know, work with someone you've never worked before, but then.

And, like friendship is not something that just happens out of like, oh, I met someone new, and now we're best friends. But actually giving the allowing the time for that relationship to evolve organically.

And it's something really interesting for us to consider as well, like in terms of how we can help create that sense of community, right, because a lot of what we do is like, oh, yeah, we should mix them up. But or we should make people sit on different tables. And, you know, all of that helps to a certain extent because you are forced in a way, to talk to someone or be in a new situation.

But then perhaps you know what it doesn't acknowledge is actually. Friendship is not so simple, right? And that things need to just take their natural course.

And yeah, it just makes me think, but yeah, lovely. Thanks again for sharing that as well.

Cool.

I'll move bus to the next question and then maybe we can have a little bit of a bathroom break or something.

But I appreciate you being here with me, especially since you're the only one.



Hubert Cheng 31:28

No problem.



Ravin Raori 31:30

Cool. And again I will cite you as well as all the other students that have been involved with this as contributors to the research.

And I will also at some point hopefully get you all.

A pizza or some pizzas or something 'cause. I really appreciate the help. So thank you for being here.



Hubert Cheng 31:52

Thanks.



Ravin Raori 31:55

Cool.

So what challenges or obstacles? I'm just going to hide these for now.

What challenges or obstacles have prevented you from forming deeper connections so you know some of this? We've already talked about, you know, like 'cause, you kind of mentioned this idea about like time commitments and, you know, trusting people and things like that. But maybe if we had to start to, like, single them out and list them out just as, like, these are the obstacles.

That could be could be really nice.



Hubert Cheng 32:35

Honestly, I don't. I don't really see like very like massive or like like challenges or obstacles, but the only thing that came across is probably like having different values.



Ravin Raori 32:47

Interesting.

 **Hubert Cheng** 32:47

All like all, like opinions. So it's like the same thing. There's like the moments where, you know, you're having, like similar thoughts or like values in general that aligns or not.

 **Ravin Raori** 33:03

Yeah.

Yeah, that's. That's interesting. That you mentioned that I was, I was doing this bit of research and friendship and you know obviously there is this sort of natural way of like we have similar values. We have similar opinions and so we can be friends but equally.

The idea of friendship is also a safe space where?

You can sort of trust someone enough.

That.

It allows you to also explore your differences if that makes sense.

And I wonder, and I wonder if.

 **Hubert Cheng** 33:41

Yeah, that makes sense.

 **Ravin Raori** 33:46

That's something that you've experienced or that's something that you know fits within. You know how these connections have worked out for you or you know, has it always been like, you know, there's just a clash of values. And so we're like, we can't be friends or.

 **Hubert Cheng** 34:05

I think it has more to do with like my own mentality or like how I bear with myself 'cause. I feel like the more I'm capable or like comfortable with myself, the more that I can like the more I'm comfortable with, like expressing myself. So I feel like instead of like depending on them, it's more like depending on myself instead.

But I feel like.

I feel like we're depending your your relationship on someone else. This is like quite

an unsafe action so.
I'm I'm more I'm sorry.



Ravin Raori 34:44

What's quite an unsafe action? Could you just? Sorry I missed that I couldn't hear you.



HC **Hubert Cheng** 34:48

Like raising your own emotion on someone else's instead of yourself? That's quite an unsafe action.



Ravin Raori 34:54

OK, basing your own emotion.



HC **Hubert Cheng** 34:57

Like, really depending on others on your emotion.



Ravin Raori 35:01

Alright, OK.

Yeah. Yeah, I agree with that as well, yeah.

So there's the IT again. It is the vulnerability of it, right?



HC **Hubert Cheng** 35:16

No, I feel like it's it's also something to do with like stuff development and and the progression. So I don't, yeah, I feel like I've done like seeing it. That's like a untrustworthy thing. It's more like it's like being stronger emotionally on yourself.



Ravin Raori 35:40

Yeah, completely get it.

I think I think these are all firstly, yeah, I think these are all super important.

Because although they are challenges, they are also an acknowledgement of.

Of yourself in that challenge, and I think that's really important, because if you're if you're not able to acknowledge what the obstacles are, then it's really hard to get over them, right?

So you know when you say when, when we say things like how comfortable am I with

actually expressing myself, you know or how comfortable am I with just actually even introspecting or looking at myself.

Because ultimately I need to be able to do that first before I can offer that to another I to completely get that. I think that's very that's actually really beautiful in a way to think about in terms of even though it is a challenge, the sort of highlighting of that challenge is perhaps a good thing.

And then again, you know, circling around things like vulnerability and strength, you know, we've talked about these and we can start to see some links perhaps with other things.

You know, it's just really interesting to hear, you know, 'cause so far I've just been talking to the first years. You're the first, like, year three that I'm talking to about this and getting that perspective of actually, like, you know, friendship is this hopeful thing. But at the same time, it's also, you know, a tricky, a challenging and emotional or vulnerable thing. So it's quite nice to hear, you know what that's been like.

For you as well.

Cool.

 **Hubert Cheng** 37:25

I feel like those are those are like the those are like something that I've learned throughout my uni.

Like years.

 **Ravin Raori** 37:34

Mm hmm.

 **Hubert Cheng** 37:35

Yeah. So.

 **Ravin Raori** 37:37

What are the things? What? What do you mean?

 **Hubert Cheng** 37:40

Like having like this concept or like this mindset is something that I learned throughout my years in uni.



Ravin Raori 37:56

Like you mean how you're looking at these relationships, right?



Hubert Cheng 37:59

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 38:10

Right. Wonderful. OK. Before I move on on to the last two questions.

Probably a good minute to just have a quick 5-10 minute bathroom break. Would that be OK?



Hubert Cheng 38:27

Oh, actually, is it OK if we just go through this 'cause I have like CTS in a bit.



Ravin Raori 38:33

Oh, yeah, fine. Yeah. Yeah, perfect. I just wanted to make sure that you are OK with. With, with. With that, if you're fine.



Hubert Cheng 38:41

Oh yeah, I'm definitely can look it.



Ravin Raori 38:44

OK, I think Pryn has joined us as well. So we can have Prynne for the last two questions and then Hubert, you're you're free to hop off after that. And I can take print through the first three questions.

Print are you around?



Prin Akapongkul 38:59

Hello.



Ravin Raori 39:00

Hey, how's it going?

 **Prin Akapongkul** 39:03

I'm good. How are you?

 **Ravin Raori** 39:03

Thanks. Good, good. Thanks. Hubert, are you able to also get your camera on now if that's OK or is it oh, cool.

 **Hubert Cheng** 39:06

I'm hypern.

Yeah, I'm still here with him. But yeah, that's fine.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 39:13

It's not the 6th floor.

 **Hubert Cheng** 39:15

Yeah, I have acbsi have CTS.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 39:19

Oh yeah, that's not registered in my head, so.

 **Ravin Raori** 39:26

So Prent, just to give you a quick recap before I take you into the mirror, but basically I was taking Hubert through a series of questions as a sort of focus group as a sort of working group I've been doing with the first years to understand what friendship and community means to them. And now I'm looking at you guys the third years.

To kind of understand what that journey has been like across the three years because my project is about.

Trying to establish an understanding of friendship in community.

Within the course across the three years and see how we can kind of help create more of that feeling of community.

So Huben and I have already gone through the first three. The first four questions. So we're going to do the last two questions as a group, the three of us. And then Hubert's going to jump off and then I can take you through the first three questions.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 40:22

Yeah.

 **Ravin Raori** 40:25

Let me just share my screen and.

Feel free to just shout stuff out and I can type it into the mirror 'cause it's just two people anyway.

But.

The the question that we were gonna talk about next was.

In what situations, context or scenarios have you made new friends on the coast, right? So this can be anything from like you know, group projects to like sitting with someone new to like going to the pub to being invited for someone's party to.

Joining a society you know, just like what are the situations, you know? Or it could be something like completely a little more like interpersonal as well, right? Like last in the previous focus group, people were talking about like, just, you know, smiling at someone. For example, in the elevator or like, you know, getting coffee together. So yeah, again, feel free to just shout them out. And I can type them in.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 41:30

Gmd wise, definitely the pizza party.

 **Ravin Raori** 41:34

Thanks.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 41:35

This is maybe a sign for me to like, you know.

It's time. Like maybe we should do a pizza party again. And I'm just joking.

 **Ravin Raori** 41:44

Maybe we should. We should. I'll. I'll take that up to Ian.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 41:45

Yeah.

I've been telling Ian that for the past two weeks I've been like, look, maybe we should

get the O's for the Christmas party, he said. We have £300. We either get the odds or no free drinks, so that was quite a clear, clear answer.



Ravin Raori 41:58

Yeah, the budget is beneficially.



Prin Akapongkul 42:07

I think.

Docker's Bar is also another one I think, but.

It has to be like after class.

That one is also quite useful. What especially when I was in first semes like second year. Weirdly, the smoking area.

At LCC it does the job quite well as well.



Hubert Cheng 42:31

Wow.



Ravin Raori 42:33

Like open signal.



Prin Akapongkul 42:33

I'm being full transparent. I'm there's no PR answer.



Ravin Raori 42:37

Yeah, and Bryn, just to let you know, none of these answers will be tied to any one person. This meeting is being recorded. So we'll all our faces will all be there, but none of these are like going to be tied to any one person. So there's no, you know, nothing. It's all anonymous. The answer is so, but. And and I think over a cigarette is actually a great answer. So I'm really glad to hear that.



Prin Akapongkul 43:01

I also think I'm sitting out in like the first first month of class 1st, 3 months of class. I think that was quite quite important where you sit, I think.

I mean, it's a huge difference. I mean, it's up to the people as well. I mean, you saw a class in first year. We can't seem to shut up, so.

I think it's also the people you sit with that's that's also something.
Because if I was, I was quite fortunate. I was sitting in a block where people just talk.
So making friends was a lot easier.



Ravin Raori 43:39

Mm hmm.



Prin Akapongkul 43:40

But if you sit in a table where they don't really talk or they talk to like, you know, you know, international scenes that like, don't really talk to other people, then that's a problem.

But I mean, that's itself is another way situation. I mean being from the same culture that's that's another that's that's another one I'd say that is quite useful.



Ravin Raori 44:07

Yeah, Hubbard was mentioning Hubot and I were chatting about that earlier as well. This idea of like similar interests and similar cultures and how that kind of makes it easy in a way.

Great. Yeah. These are all lovely. Who, but were there any for you that stood out?



Hubert Cheng 44:24

Oh, I'm at most of them for my my my old friends. Basically I'm eating new friends for my old friends most of the time.



Ravin Raori 44:32

OK.



Hubert Cheng 44:34

And probably crops and drinkings. That's where I meet all the UAL people.



Ravin Raori 44:43

Like social activities, right? Basically.



Hubert Cheng 44:45

Yeah. Yeah, basically. Or like some, like school offence or like for it shows from the

society or like.

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 44:57

Hey, yeah, I mean.



Hubert Cheng 44:58

But I feel like print cover most of them.



Ravin Raori 45:01

Right.



Hubert Cheng 45:02

I feel like print covered most of them already, yeah.



Ravin Raori 45:05

Right. Yeah. It's kind of interesting. 'cause like, you know, some of these answers are like to be expected. It's like, you know, the sort of like classic. You know, you're in design school. You go for a cigarette or, you know, you might not smoke, so you might just be hanging out in the smoking area with with other students or, you know, socials parties. I think that all of that makes sense. But then equally, I'm also really interested in this, you know.

The more softer stuff of like you know in in first year for example, you had like very fixed.

Seating arrangements, right. So like there was always like that one group at the back who just would chat with each other and then they would be the one group in front who was very chatty. And then there's like two or three groups that are a bit mixed and, you know, we as as lecturers as tutors. We always notice that and we try to kind of mix it up or change the seating arrangement.

And it's good to know that that does help in some ways, but as you were saying pren as well, like sometimes if you just end up on a table that no one's really interested or it's just super quiet.

It's kind of difficult, right? And it it kind of drains your energy sometimes as well.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 46:14

Yeah.

 **Ravin Raori** 46:15

Yeah, fair enough. All right, brilliant.

These are all great.

I'll move us on to the next question.

Which basically is it's a bit of a, maybe a bit of an emotional question. So again, feel free to share what you can and what you feel comfortable with, but if you could go back in time.

What advice would you give your younger self? Perhaps you know your first year self about making friends and engaging with the wider community.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 46:53

Definitely try to make friends outside of class more.

'Cause like I mean it's it's inevitable to not make friends outside of class cuz that's the new group already adding on, so trying to be an extra extrovert does not help sometimes. I mean that's just me. I was quite an extrovert back then. I don't know what happened to me now.

I also think it's OK to take rest. I mean, like you don't have to socialise 24/7.

'Cause like you know, it drains you. Let's be honest here. If you socialise too much it just drains the hell out of you.

Definitely join more societies.

 **Ravin Raori** 47:48

Mm hmm.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 47:51

I think I think that's quite important, you know.

Meet more people and all.

Just the courage to talk to someone random, I guess. I mean that's that's another one that's quite useful.

But I I feel like everything I've said so far is just to be an extrovert, which I understand not everyone is in that way.



Ravin Raori 48:20

It's all lovely and I, and I think you know, it's not about like this is an advice that you're giving to your younger self, right. So it might not necessarily be that to be an extra work because you know, that's again, that's like a personality thing. But it's perhaps, you know, more in this idea of, like, the sort of courage to step out of your comfort zone. Right.

Because it's very easy, I suppose you know and sharing a little bit of my experience with that as well to like sort of live within the confines of your comfort zone.

Because, you know, it's familiar and it's and it's less scary. But you know, you discover something really nice and beautiful when you step outside of it as well, you know, just giving people a chance, I suppose, is another one, right.

Yeah, I love all of these because they're all super aspirational. I also want to just shout out this idea of, like, you know, friendship or socialising, for example, this sort of sort of.

Adventure to find new friends can be draining and I think no one's really mentioned that up till this point and I think I really want to highlight that as well because again it is, you know, maybe we've talked about it in some other ways cause previously.

With Hubert, we were talking about this idea of vulnerability and how it's quite a vulnerable act as well to kind of give someone a part of you and take a part of them. You know, in that exchange of friendship.

And it drains you. And it requires energy. And I think being careful about that and pacing yourself with it can make can enables you to perhaps also give more to these friendships. So I think that's just a lovely thing to shout out as well. I don't know who, but if you wanted to, were there any was there, was there any advice that you would give yourself in your one?



Hubert Cheng 50:09

Yes. Yeah. 'cause I have, like quite an introverted perspective. So I'll say just just to show up, mix it, mix like a lot of like difference.

Attend like different events, just being there simply.

Sometimes it's like people just recognise.

Nice. You have to showing up and like different offence for like a few times. People will just eventually talk to you.



Ravin Raori 50:35

Mm hmm.



Hubert Cheng 50:38

And more importantly, I feel like don't take it personal. So whenever you don't get opportunities that you wish to be getting, just don't like it. Harsh for yourself lately. It's like, I feel like.

Just basically what you chose, what Krin just mentioned it. It drains you in in another way. It it's like another type of like training yourself so.

Yeah, but I feel like the other parts are like quite similar to what Krim just mentioned.



Ravin Raori 51:13

Hey, yeah.

I love that you both are kind of centering around this idea of draining oneself because you know it's just not something that I had considered before.

In the previous conversations at all that like, you know, it is, you know, and it's kind of interesting because I suppose it makes sense in your third year, your final year to be able to look back and be like, wow, there's a lot like making all of these friends and like trying to put myself out there and, you know, I'm sure you both in your own way, discovered some lovely, wonderful, beautiful people in your lives. But at the same time, it makes sense that you also have some perspective on the energy that you had to expend.

To be able to do that. So it's just really nice to hear. But I also really like the idea who put you just mentioned of like showing up and I think this is actually a really good value to hold.

Not just for this, but for everything you know, because I think a lot of us just don't show up, you know, whether it's, you know, at the gym or for a loved one or at work or at.

You know any other thing in our lives, like showing up in itself.

Demonstrates your commitment to a thing, I think, and it's very it's just a very beautiful way to articulate like.

Actually I am committed to this. I might not be able to give you my full energy, but I will show up and I will be there and then, you know, goes back as well. Hubot to what we were talking about earlier about like the kind of natural thing, right, like

things.

Allowing things to take their natural path you were mentioning as opposed to like trying to maybe force a friendship.

So I really like that idea quite a lot actually.

Thanks for sharing that.

Cool. Brilliant.

Hubert, did you want to add anything? I know that you said you have to jump off.

 **Hubert Cheng** 53:16

Oh no, not really. I can't really. I don't really have things to I don't like on top of my head.

 **Ravin Raori** 53:19

OK.

That's fine. You've got the link to the mirror, so if you didn't want to add anything, you can come in and add some stuff. OK, the mirror will always be live and just checking are you able to join the call tomorrow as well?

 **Hubert Cheng** 53:35

Oh, sorry. What's time? What's like? What? What's the time for the call tomorrow, 'cause, I can't.

 **Ravin Raori** 53:40

It's again. It'll be a. It'll be a quick one. It'll be at 3:00.

 **Hubert Cheng** 53:47

I'm not sure if I'll be like in like a inside space, but I'll try.

 **Ravin Raori** 53:52

OK, that's fine. I mean, you've got the invite in your calendar, so you know if you're able to make it, that'd be great. But if you can't, there's no stress at all, OK.

Right. Brilliant. Thanks so much, Hubert.

 **Hubert Cheng** 54:06

OK.



Ravin Raori 54:07

Great.

Bryn I if you're able to stick around for maybe like 20 minutes or so, I can take you through.



Prin Akapongkul 54:13

Oh, no, don't worry. I I you have my entire hour if you want.



Ravin Raori 54:18

OK, brilliant. How is your?



Prin Akapongkul 54:20

I'm not in a rush. I'm I don't have CTS well in my head, I don't have CTS anyway.



Ravin Raori 54:22

How? How was your?

How was your meeting for your ISA? Is it all OK?



Prin Akapongkul 54:32

Yeah. I mean, I gotta prove. I just have to now sign some documents and send it over. Then they'll send it to Kathy, and then all I have to do is just ask for it to be used.



Ravin Raori 54:45

I didn't. So you're gonna be submitting the PNI then in the ISA ISA deadline.



Prin Akapongkul 54:51

Oh, no, no, I it's too late for that one, I think.



Ravin Raori 54:56

OK, see what Lisa needed.



Prin Akapongkul 54:57

I mean I can if I want to, but it's just.



Ravin Raori 55:02

Yeah.



Prin Akapongkul 55:02

I think I had enough with P and I for now.



Ravin Raori 55:06

Because I think if you have an ISA approved then you can resubmit it if you want. But also I told you don't quote me on that. I think I'm. I think you can, I might be wrong, but I think you can.



Prin Akapongkul 55:11

Oh.



Ravin Raori 55:19

But I totally also get like being like actually I'm just done with it.



Prin Akapongkul 55:24

Yeah, I mean it's it's nothing against P and I it's just I'm really done with using figma.



Ravin Raori 55:32

It what were you doing for your PNA again?



Prin Akapongkul 55:35

I was stupidly I want to recreate a new feature for Google.



Ravin Raori 55:42

Oh, nice. What was the feature?



Prin Akapongkul 55:43

It's a, it's called Google Food. It essentially it forces the user to pick up like choose what food they want naturally.

Like it open the philtre page you select.

Essentially, the cuisine all of the stuff you want, there's tags in there as well.

Very specific.

And the tags are shifted through algorithm to fit with your personality and all the cuisine also shifts to which one you like as well more often so.



Ravin Raori 56:20

That sounds brilliant. You should. We should have chatted about that. I would have loved to.

Yeah, help in any way I could have, but you know, it's it's all right. But.



Prin Akapongkul 56:32

I'm sorry. Owen gave me so much work.



Ravin Raori 56:36

That's fair enough.



Prin Akapongkul 56:37

He told me to do so much more research.



Ravin Raori 56:40

Are you planning on continuing this in the major projects, so you're going to just do something new?



Prin Akapongkul 56:47

I am debating I am very, very, very hard debating on, still doing UXUI.



Ravin Raori 56:49

Right.

Yeah.



Prin Akapongkul 56:56

Or do something that is more fun.



Ravin Raori 57:01

But you're gonna do 2 projects anyway, right?

PA Prin Akapongkul 57:03

So it's two projects.

 **Ravin Raori** 57:05

Yeah, the major project unit is 2 projects. So you do to do you have to choose two briefs and then you make 2 projects for the 60 credits. So you can do one UI UX and then one something else.

PA Prin Akapongkul 57:20

Oh my God. I'm gonna need nicer for that one.

 **Ravin Raori** 57:24

I think if you have your, if you have your ISA approved, you have it forever. You don't need it to get it again.

PA Prin Akapongkul 57:29

Oh, OK, yeah.

 **Ravin Raori** 57:30

You just need to tell them that you'll be. You'll just need to tell them that you'll be using your ISA for the for whatever submit for each submission that you use it for. But once you have it like you don't. I don't think you need to approve it again, you just need to tell them that you'll be using it.

PA Prin Akapongkul 57:44

No, that's perfect. Then I'll be. I'll make a book and I'll make you a tui.

 **Ravin Raori** 57:49

Yep.

Yeah. So you have to.

PA Prin Akapongkul 57:52

Yeah, I mean, I'm making a cookbook which means I will need a lot of people to eat my food. So I think I will be caring a lot to uni.



Ravin Raori 58:02

Brilliant. Just drop me a line on teams.

OK, sweet. Cool. I'll take you through these first four questions really quickly and then again you can just shout out your responses and then I'll try and scribe them here as best as possible. If you feel that anything I've written, you want to change the link to the miros in the chat, you can always come and change it as well.

So the first question that I asked was looking back to your first year, how did your expectations about friendship and community change or evolve?



Prin Akapongkul 58:44

I think.

Expectation for fuzzy and like for friendship is just to make as many as I can.



Ravin Raori 58:54

In.



Prin Akapongkul 58:54

For some reason I don't why.

And just like, you know, try to have fun with them. Like, you know, every single time you meet up is to do something and not to just like.

But now being in 3rd year, it could also be that I'm also turning. I'm in my 20s now. It doesn't have to just be fun, it could just be like show, you know, grab a meal, grab a pint, play FIFA. Speaking of that, I was playing FIFA till like 4:00 in the morning on Saturday.



Ravin Raori 59:18

Yeah.



Prin Akapongkul 59:32

Started at 10, did not stop.



Ravin Raori 59:40

It's like me.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 59:42

Yeah, it's. We did play Ultimate Team. It's worse. We played kick off which. Got personal really, really fast.

 **Ravin Raori** 59:52

Fair enough.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 59:55

But.

I think it also like.

In fuzzy, I think I expected more things to happen. Like you know, more meetups, more Hangouts. But I think compats and now like, I feel like.

I'd rather spend less time but more valuable time. You know what I mean?

 **Ravin Raori** 1:00:17

Interesting, yeah.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:00:23

Yeah.

Like you know.

Quality over quantity. If I'm just meeting with like a group and it's just sitting there in silence on my phone, I'd rather not.

You know, I'd rather meet up and then just having some time to just hang out.

It's also because my friendship group kind of got a lot smaller. I feel like that changes over time too, like the value of like people and your friend it. It does get smaller.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:00:56

Mm hmm.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:01:00

But I I also think it's 'cause people grow.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:01:01

I think that brings you closer, right?

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:01:06

Different values like people change over time, so like it's.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:01:12

But is that why you think the friend group gets smaller?

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:01:15

Yeah. No, I definitely think so.

Like, I mean it grows people, grows like in terms like priorities and like, you know things they see. But that's just it to be fair.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:01:34

Yeah. And has that, you know, 'cause, I I wrote this thing down like deeper connection 'cause you were talking about like, you know, you don't wanna just sit on your phone when you're with your friends. But do you feel like in this more sort of like where you where you kind of value your own time but also the value the time you spend with your friends?

You know, despite the friend group getting smaller, do you feel like you've gotten closer?

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:01:59

Yeah, no, for sure. I my actual best mate, actually.

He moved in with his girlfriend, but we used to be in a group with like six different people.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:02:11

Mm hmm.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:02:12

Now that group got split into 31 left, then it's a three and then it's a 2. The two is me and him, but it's not because we hate each other or we had problems. It's just because we had different priorities and things we like. Like people naturally grow out of each other each other.

And I think it's some partly beautiful, but at the same time it's sad.



Ravin Raori 1:02:33

Mm hmm.



Prin Akapongkul 1:02:39

It's just natural part of life. I think it's just people evolve.



Ravin Raori 1:02:48

It's very nice.

We're articulated.

And I completely agree, like it is beautiful, because you always remember the memories, right? And you're like, that was me. A version of me at some point, right. And every day that you wake up, you're a new person, right? You're constantly changing and you value.

Whatever memories you share with anybody, right? But then you also acknowledge, ah, right. That's where we start, where our bots started to diverge, essentially.

And I and you're absolutely right, it is beautiful because you're looking at it in the positive sense of like they impacted me. They were a part of my life. But at the same time, it's also sad.

And and I think acknowledging that is important as well because it's because friendship isn't just about gaining things, it's also about losing things, right. Sometimes you lose friends. And I just appreciate you sharing that with me.



Prin Akapongkul 1:03:48

Yeah, I mean.

No worries. I mean I think it's it's quite normal for that to happen.

But I feel like with whatever you have left, it becomes a lot deeper.

You know, but I think that's.



Ravin Raori 1:04:04

Mm hmm.



Prin Akapongkul 1:04:07

I think it's 'cause like if you I I used to make a joke about this Jamie 'cause. I had a fear that our friend group would broke or just split up. I mean, it kind of did, but it's

just because we have priorities in our life now and we're just not always free. But I was like, if it splits, I mean it splits. It happens. But as long as we, you know, we don't forget about each other. That's all good.



Ravin Raori 1:04:16

Mm hmm mm hmm.

Hmm.

Yeah.



Prin Akapongkul 1:04:37

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 1:04:45

Yeah, I know you're right. Yeah. Absolutely. Right. I think. And I think that you know, that's again goes back to this idea of acknowledging, right. I mean, I've also, you know, I was when I was chatting to Hubert earlier, I was talking about like the different stages of my life so far, I'm not that much older than you guys. Right. I'm like 30. So I'm just in your position not that long ago. But I've gone through the sort of like.



Prin Akapongkul 1:05:04

Mm hmm mm hmm.



Ravin Raori 1:05:09

Stages of having and so view in some level in some ways right. Gone through the stages of having like, you know, childhood friends and then high school friends and then university friends and then work friends and then masters friends and now new work friends and like.

You're always collecting people on the way, but you're also always losing people on the way. And so it's this constant, like your bubble is expanding and contracting and expanding and contracting. But I love this idea of like, if someone impacted your life, don't forget them.



Prin Akapongkul 1:05:44

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 1:05:45

You know, and sometimes friendships are also just in the kind of simple act of just, you know, you haven't heard from someone in, like 6 months, you just message them to say, you know, hey, hello. I was thinking of you hope you're doing well and you know, sometimes that ends up just like also reigniting a friendship. Right.

Great. Yeah. No, thanks. Thanks for sharing all of these.

I'll move us on to the next question, which is I guess you know a lot of these things we've started to cover already.

But what has friendship meant to you in the context of university life? So this can be more like in terms of like your personal self, right? Like what has friendship meant to you in terms of like, you know, maybe it's about support systems or maybe it's about you know?

Hobbies. Maybe it's about like, you know having.

Like a second home or second, you know, whatever that is, you know, or at the same time, like, it doesn't have to be all positive like whatever your experience is. But what is it meant to you?

You know in this context.



Prin Akapongkul 1:06:53

I mean, I think.

What Hubert said before, I mean some remained some close quite close. I mean some eventually leave. I mean I think that's quite that that's true for sure.



Ravin Raori 1:07:07

Mm hmm.



Prin Akapongkul 1:07:07

I think for me friendship in uni.

It feels like you're making a friend for like a long term.

You know, some of them will be long term because you're not essentially forced to be friends with them.



Ravin Raori 1:07:24

Mm hmm mm hmm.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:07:25

You know, it's not like school where you see them every day.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:07:31

It's more active.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:07:32

Like, yeah, I mean it's very selective. I feel like, I mean my best.

He's not even from our course. He's from photojournalism.

But I feel like uni friends also takes a lot more effort to make, you know.

But I feel like you gain a lot more valuable friendship. The one that like will last like the one that you talk about, seeing them in the future with you.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:08:02

Mm hmm.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:08:03

You know.

Also think Uni friends are also a lot very it's like going to a networking event.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:08:14

Hmm.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:08:16

They could possibly be one of the I don't know the father of like a new graphic design or head of like a studio or who knows, maybe a head of like Dior. At some point. I mean, it's it's also about making connections as well.

That's I used to make a joke that UAL is this constant networking event that you go in every day.

But I feel like that's just Union general.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:08:46

I think that's no. I think it's valid.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:08:49

I mean, for me, a friend from the way I grew up, friends are more like family. Definitely for sure.

So I think it's like gaining another member of like people that you can't's family, I guess.

Like if you ask me, is Jamie like, you know, he's practically family from me. He practically lives at mine now.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:09:15

Mm hmm.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:09:16

And you know.

It's it's.

It's good. I think it's, you know, it's it's good friendships and I think it's, I don't know if you've met How I Met, you've watched How I Met your mother, but like, you know, it's like, yeah, it's like those type of friendships.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:09:31

Seen it? Yeah, that was me.

That was be the architect.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:09:38

Ted Mosby Barney.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:09:39

I was I always related to him because it was going through architecture at the same time.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:09:46

He's going through hell like every single time I re watch him. I was just like Dad. Hey, you're just making bad decision left and right.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:09:54

Yeah.

No, absolutely. I mean that's it's a great show, has some parts of it maybe haven't aged so well, but I've watched a few times like I used to really love that show. But I love these. I love a lot of these things that you've mentioned, you know, because I think you're kind of mentioning the two sides of it, right. Like one side is the kind of networking side. Like, I'm here making connections. Like you said, someone's gonna be someone in the industry in the future. So I want to make sure that also you're you guys are paying a lot of money to be here.

So you want to make sure you're getting that professional network out of it, right? It's kind of a degree thing. But then again, it goes back to that also requires energy. It requires effort, it's draining. And when it comes to, like the friends that are perhaps more natural or organic or outside of that, it ends up, you know, requiring less energy, maybe or, you know, they just end up because you're in this. There's also, like, that aspect of the shared experience. Right.

Right, like you. You're sharing this like time and space together for so long that you kind of get bonded in a way, you know you were mentioning about your mate who lives at your house now, basically.

I shared this image, I'll show you. I did like a survey with some of the year ones.

For this project I was.

What was it?

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:11:25

I do love how you're like, organised like names for like files are so much better than mine's.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:11:34

Uh, actually, it should be. In my keynote I'll show you.

But basically what I did was I is this the image? Yeah, there we go. So I put up this image in the first tier to get people to reflect on the starting of their journey. But I put this image of myself during my undergrad. We were in our this was a semester I did abroad in Shanghai. So I was doing my undergrad in Hong Kong, but we all are. We do like a semester in in Shanghai.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:11:57

Mm hmm.



Ravin Raori 1:12:06

And we were doing this project where because I went to architecture school right, we were building bridges out of spaghetti. It was just a building technology project where we were testing.

Bridge structures, but making them out of spaghetti so.

I kind of found this image randomly and it took me back to we spent all night. These are like two of my closest mates from my undergrad. We spent all night working on this bridge but we also spent a lot of time just like you said doing nothing, just like eating bits of dry spaghetti.

Or like you know, just hanging out or going for cigarette or whatever. But it's kind of these memories, you know, I don't really remember the spaghetti bridge that much, but I remember these times, you know.



Prin Akapongkul 1:12:47

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 1:12:49

And it kinda goes back to that whole shared experience thing, right, 'cause we're in this kind of like.

Thing together at the same time, and no one else is experiencing it just the way you are like as these friends that you're making right, it's the closest thing you have to family.

So yeah, just thought I'll share a little bit about my personal thing with you as well.

So I completely agree. No, no, no, of course, happy too.



Prin Akapongkul 1:13:12

Thank you.



Ravin Raori 1:13:17

Cool. Next one is, how is the feeling of community or lack of community affected your time in the course?

OK. So it's I guess it's like a two-part question. Like do you think there was a sense of community?

And based on that, how has that affected your time?

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:13:37

I mean, this is very different case by case I guess.

I mean, you'll get like the full extrovert version of me, which is I think what I always say to people when they ask me when I was on tours, they were like, what's the community like?

 **Ravin Raori** 1:13:46

Yeah.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:13:56

I always say the Community's what you make it to be like. It's really up to you how it will be because.

'Cause if you're an introvert and you just.

Refuse to talk to someone new. There won't be a community for you.

Even though you say, look, there's a community for you up there on the 6th floor, I mean, you can go up.

But if you haven't talked to any of these guys.

I mean, it's just an office area, isn't it? I think it's what you make the community into because now, like, the community could just be your friend group or it could be the relationship I had with the the year above last year.

I mean, it's really there is definitely a community for sure, but it's just you just got to try to get into it.

Because it's not like a, you know? Yeah. Just drop by and you'll feel welcome. I mean, for sure. You'll feel welcome, though. It's just like.

You just got to make an extra effort if you want to actually feel like you're part of it and you're just not sitting there.

And I think the fact that.

I mean, my time with the 6th floor for sure. Really like made it better.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:15:27

Mm hmm.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:15:28

The fact that I get to talk to people from the above's known that this is what I'm

going to be like. I used to make a joke looking at Mike being like Mike, is that what I'm going to look like when I'm in 3rd year?

He just went yes, which is slightly concerning or when Sergey was drinking in the middle of 6th floor and I just went oh ****, that's going to be me.

Haven't done that yet. I think in broad daylight.



Ravin Raori 1:15:55

Fair enough.



Prin Akapongkul 1:15:56

At night time, I have no regulation of doing that, but that's also slightly concerning. But I think it's it's like, you know, I feel like seeing that version of you.



Ravin Raori 1:16:10

Mm hmm.



Prin Akapongkul 1:16:11

It works both way, doesn't it? Like you see yourself being in their shoes in the future? But seeing the first years and second years now for me is like nostalgic seeing your younger self. So you kind of want to help them. You want to talk to them. But I mean, it's just it could just be me because I feel like I, I know a few of my mates that refuse to talk to the young. He is, they were like they're so annoying. I'm like, they're really not. They're going through the same thing we are.



Ravin Raori 1:16:44

Yeah.



Prin Akapongkul 1:16:47

But like you know, the First year's definitely had a lot of work to do from what I've been told.

I'm quite happy for them. I I pushed for that.



Ravin Raori 1:17:01

Prem, these are all really lovely. Thanks for sharing that. I think firstly, you're one of the first people that's mentioned community. I'm really happy that you've mentioned

it is that community is not just about your your group, right? It's about having a sense of the connection with the course overall across all of the year groups. I love that you talked about the first year and the third years and how seeing your younger self.

Sorry seeing.

Yourself.

Seeing your younger self or then or seeing yourself in in the people that are in the year above you and how that impacts you're kind of feeling of community. I love that you mentioned the 6th floor cause the 6th floor is such a special place, right?

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:17:46

It is. I mean again, like I said, it's it is what you make it to be.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:17:51

Yeah.

Yeah. Yeah, exactly.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:17:55

But it is such a special place.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:17:59

Exactly. And I'm really sad that we're not gonna have that anymore in the new building or we're kind of will, but we'll be sharing it without the courses, but that's OK. Maybe it opens up the whole idea of community, but I think you know, obviously you're just like, you're obviously like, you know, clearly a very, like, thoughtful person. You know, when it comes to how you think about community and, you know, you're very generous with your time and your friendships and it's quite evident, you know, even from the way that you interact with us as tutors.

It's just a really nice vibe, but it's also nice to hear that, you know, that might not be the case for everyone, right? Like you're saying some second years don't want to talk to first years because they might think that they're not cool or whatever. And again, like, thinking back to my time at UNI, actually, like gained a lot from my friendships with the, with the year above and the year below because it's exactly that, right. Like you're like, hey, I've been in the same situation as you. I can help you. I want to help you because I know that you're also.

Learn and be better, but then equally it's like I would go and like offer to help a lot of third years with their projects just because you know it was a good opportunity to learn. It was a good opportunity to get some advice to find like a mentor or whatever.

Yeah. So I think those are those are all super useful and really valuable as well. For me when I think about this research. So thank you for sharing that.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:19:25

There is, I mean I mean, thank you. Honestly, I'd never really thought about it until now, but.

But yeah, no, it's it's definitely that I think.

Being able to help someone else that makes you feel like you actually gain something from your degree as well.

Because I know a lot of people that are like, oh, I haven't learned anything new. I'm like, no, you have. You just haven't really thought about it.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:19:54

Yeah, we have an articulated, yeah.

OK, alright. Last question.

What are the perhaps the challenges or obstacles? Again, these might have changed from year one to year three, so feel free to just throw out words.

That have prevented you from perhaps forming deeper connections, or you know, and I know that you've, you know, like you like you mentioned, you've made some wonderful friends and engage deeply. But just thinking back in terms of were there any challenges or obstacles that you also faced when you were trying to?

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:20:31

Think lifestyle, sorry.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:20:34

Go ahead.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:20:35

Lifestyle is definitely one of them.

I think you know, especially in first year, I'm not throwing anyone under the bus. I'm

not saying like, you know people, you know, you know what they do in art school. You know that might be the way they do things. You know, I don't do it. They do it. But because I don't do it, I feel like it's harder to like be in the same space they are like, you know, mindset, because they're all so in tuned on doing the same thing where I'm just like that's for the vibes.



Ravin Raori 1:21:03

Mm hmm.

Mm hmm mm hmm.



Prin Akapongkul 1:21:13

Being that for just the vibes is nice, but.

It's also you can feel left out quite easily.

And once you feel left out, it's just harder to like. Even still, when you get connected again, it feels like it's harder for you to open up to them because like, what? What if you've? You're a bit different and now they're like, ****.



Ravin Raori 1:21:39

Mm hmm.

By lifestyle, do you mean like?



Prin Akapongkul 1:21:47

Things they do, like my mate used to go clubbing or like, you know.



Ravin Raori 1:21:52

Like, yeah, like drugs, alcohol.



Prin Akapongkul 1:21:54

Yeah, drugs and all, I mean like.



Ravin Raori 1:21:56

Yeah.



Prin Akapongkul 1:21:58

You know, sometimes I don't do drugs. I I mean.

I don't do drugs, but I I also think it's.

Some people, when you're in accommodation definitely for first year, I feel like it's such a normal thing.



Ravin Raori 1:22:15

Mm hmm mm hmm.

Yeah.



Prin Akapongkul 1:22:20

When you're the one not doing it.

You kind of feel like out of place a bit.



Ravin Raori 1:22:26

I totally get that and you know, look, it's it's, it's something that's always gonna be around, right.

In terms of like, it's part of like being a young adult, it's part of like, you know, and I think the choices we make are actually what what we what we attribute our values to as well, right. And I've been in a similar position to you as well where you know, I started like perhaps experimenting with things like alcohol and stuff. After I was 18, you know, perhaps didn't want to do some other things.

But you know, there's always that sense of like, disconnect or they can be that sense.

Like you said, right. I'm there for the vibes, but sometimes I might feel left out

because I'm not engaging in this lifestyle, perhaps as much. And I mean, it goes back to the idea of peer pressure as well, right?



Prin Akapongkul 1:23:13

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 1:23:18

Like, did you ever feel that?



Prin Akapongkul 1:23:20

I mean.

I think.

That's the problem right when sometimes, like if I tell you I'm like, yeah, yeah. Like I'm gonna be honest with you. I do smoke at times. Once in a while, but I think.



Ravin Raori 1:23:38

Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's fine.



Prin Akapongkul 1:23:41

I think it's. I mean it comes, but I feel like I need like a little encouraging, but like it's OK mate like it. It's like like he knows I want to smoke, but he also knows like I don't want to be that guy. That's like yeah, let's smoke. So it's like it's more encouraging than peer pressuring but.



Ravin Raori 1:23:52

Yeah.

Yeah.



Prin Akapongkul 1:24:04

But I I don't really have that. I think most of the time when I said no, they do like like you know when it's when it comes to hard drugs.

I just tell them no, I'm gonna do it. And most of the time, they like, not even most of the time, all the time they understand.



Ravin Raori 1:24:19

OK.



Prin Akapongkul 1:24:20

So I I don't think peer pressuring is really a problem. I think oh, another challenge. People being introvert, I think you know people not willingly open for new connections.



Ravin Raori 1:24:33

Yeah.



Prin Akapongkul 1:24:34

I know definitely for third years I've noticed this quite a bit.

Because I feel like we have so much going on in our life.
For some reason, I feel like we just kind of shut into bubbles again.



Ravin Raori 1:24:50

Mm hmm.



Prin Akapongkul 1:24:51

And I mean, the third years, we're all like interlinked somehow. But I also feel like there's bubbles like, you know, unseen bubbles. But, you know, it's that. Like there's groups that's clear over there. Like, you know, there's a nuke and Danielle. Then there's Kiara Lucia anad. And then there's me. And then and then I kind of jump around and then there's Uday. Victoria, you know, the DPS people.



Ravin Raori 1:25:07

Yeah.

Yeah.



Prin Akapongkul 1:25:22

And you know it's it's just like it's unseen bubbles. But you know it's the, but I guess it's you could always just be like me and just, you know. Jump around but. Kinda. Just force yourself into it.



Ravin Raori 1:25:37

Very good.



Prin Akapongkul 1:25:40

Eventually, one of them will stick.



Ravin Raori 1:25:42

Yeah. No, I love that. And again, thanks for sharing again, Brian, like, don't like you know with all of the conversations about around like alcohol and stuff like that. Like, again, I'm not going to even though this is being recorded. I'm not. None of the data is going to be published as like, this was something Prince said or this was. So don't worry, you're fine.

PA Prin Akapongkul 1:26:04

Yeah, print print just merged a lot like he's a he's a, he's a pothead.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:26:06

Yeah, you're fine. Yeah, you're fine. And, you know, we've all been in that situation. So it's fine. You're absolutely fine. And I, I'm. And I the reason I wanted to talk about that was because I know what that feeling is. Right. Of being, like, how much do what do I feel comfortable with? Right. Because it's a personal thing. Like, you want to define your comfort zone around that. Right.

But it's good to know that you know you've not felt a sense of peer pressure and that people have been respectful with how much you want to do or and what you want to do, right?

And you sound like you've got a very mature kind of like responsible way of interfacing with that side of your life as well, which is nice to hear.

But yeah, no, I know. I think this idea of the unseen bubble, the sort of invisible membrane of.

Friend groups is sort, I mean, you know as as tutors, you can also see it, right? Like obviously don't know who's in what group.

But you can kind of see the same people with the same people and you know it is. It is what it is like I think in, you know in in some ways it's inevitable, right? Like people will be in groups in some ways. It's I'm sort of similar to you where I liked having a friend group, but I equally also liked floating around and talking to new people. Right. Because I think one of the things that's really important about friendship is a value.

Is that it encourages you to explore as doing some research is reading a paper about friendship, and he was talking about how.

Friendship encourages you to explore your differences in a Safeway, right? Because that's what a good friendship is, right? Someone who is not just someone who's similar to you, but someone who you can also be comfortably different around, right?

PA Prin Akapongkul 1:27:43

Mm hmm.



Ravin Raori 1:27:54

If you're constantly surrounded by people who just agree with you, or who are similar to you, then that can also be a bad thing, right? So it's nice to hear that. You know, you make an effort to try and dip around and meet new people, but also at the same time engage and connect deeply.



Prin Akapongkul 1:28:02

Yeah.



Ravin Raori 1:28:13

You know.

With any other challenges or obstacles that you faced.



Prin Akapongkul 1:28:18

I think.

Time is definitely one of them. Like I mean, especially during a hand in season.



Ravin Raori 1:28:23

Yeah. So.



Prin Akapongkul 1:28:29

I think it's.

It's, I think also people not being around so often. I think it's a lot easier in second year because our group just kind of gets you know classroom gets swapped around.



Ravin Raori 1:28:37

Mm hmm.

Mm hmm.



Prin Akapongkul 1:28:45

I also think people not being around is also kind of hard because sometimes like the people that are quite sociable, won't come in.



Ravin Raori 1:28:50

Hmm.

OK.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:28:55

The people that are quite like quiet wood 'cause they actually care about the education sometimes.

Surprisingly, especially in critique days, no one shows up.

That's just also me to, to be fair, I can't really say much.

But I feel like people are not showing up. Is also a problem. It's it's a lot harder to socialise with people that don't want to socialise with you.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:29:26

Mm hmm.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:29:32

But yeah, I mean I think.

It's just finding the right people, isn't it? To hang out with?

 **Ravin Raori** 1:29:40

Mm hmm.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:29:41

But other than that, I don't really have any challenges, but I'm also pretty sure I kind of put myself in position where they kind of have to talk to me.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:29:50

Because you bring them for gotcha. Keep them.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:29:52

Yeah, yeah, yeah, I. It's either that or I kinda just show up and just went. You're right.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:30:00

Yeah, you are very like good at.

Being generous with the way you offer yourself to other people, I think it's a really

nice quality that you have. You know, it's always been so lovely to just chat to you in the studio and stuff. I mean that.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:30:11

Thank you.
Q.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:30:18

Great. Brilliant. I will stop sharing my screen.
Basically what happens now is.
Tomorrow, are you able to make the call tomorrow or are you?

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:30:29

I think I would be able to, but I'm not sure if I would be able to stay the entire time, but I'll try to stay.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:30:34

OK, you've got the invite, right?

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:30:38

Yes, yes, I do.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:30:40

So hopefully if you're there, by the way, I really appreciate your time, generosity and vulnerability today, because it's just been so nice listening to your responses and typing them down. If I've misrepresented you in any way, feel free to just go and change the answer. The stuff in the mural, OK? It's just to take away the burden of you having to type. So I'm just typing away while you're.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:31:03

No, thank you. Thank you so much.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:31:05

But yeah, basically in tomorrow's session, you know, however long you're able to make it for, we'll just start to pick out some stuff from all of the stuff that we've

generated and just move it towards articulating some kind of definition about friendship, because I'm kind of hoping to end up at a kind of mission statement or manifesto kind of thing that's like my own burden. I'll do that later by myself. But it's just to kind of get you all involved with the research a little bit to maybe put pick out the right teams. Basically, so it's not going to be a very long session, but yeah, however long you're able to make it for, just appreciate you being there. And I owe you a pizza as well, so.



Prin Akapongkul 1:31:44

No, it's not that deep. Don't worry.



Ravin Raori 1:31:47

No, no, no. I've told everyone that's been involved. I will get you guys pizza in the New year once I'm back. Yeah. Or if you want meeting from India, let me know if there's like a, you know, thing in. I'll bring you some sweets from India. Oh, fair enough.



Prin Akapongkul 1:31:53

****. Thank you.

It's it's fine. Thank you. I I have my flatmate, Anat. He's coming back from India. Thank you though.



Ravin Raori 1:32:05

All right, then. Yeah, no.



Prin Akapongkul 1:32:08

But you really don't have to. I I really don't mind doing this.



Ravin Raori 1:32:12

Well, thank you so much and you will be listed whoever's been involved in yourself as well will be listed as you know, contributors to the research as well. So you know, wherever this gets published within UAL, you'll see you'll be credited as well. So, you know, I want to make sure that. Yeah.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:32:27

Oh, thank you.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:32:30

Cool. Brilliant. I should let you get on with your afternoon, but thank you. So, so, so much for your time again.

And hopefully see you tomorrow.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:32:40

Yeah, yeah, hopefully. See you tomorrow. Yeah, no worries.

Yeah, I'll get. I'd love to talk about the community. Anytime I feel like it's my job too now, because I work at UA L.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:32:52

No, fair enough. It's lovely seeing you in the morning as well. You know, it's just a nice place to see and you know someone who's always smiling. It's good positive energy.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:32:59

Thank you.

I mean, Owen probably said something different. He saw me when I walked in at like, 945 bloodshot eyes. I'm pretty sure he thinks I was high.

I looked high at that time. To be fair, I just woke up.

It's like, are you OK? I'm like, yeah, I'm ***** on phone.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:33:19

So I'm telling you to sign. He probably just was thinking back to his RCA days and you know.

Just remembering what it was like to be in design school.

Yeah.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:33:33

It's just like now, research deeper. And I was like, I can't do this anymore.



Ravin Raori 1:33:36

Let's see here.

Oh, I'm sure he'll be fine. Your project sounds lovely.



Prin Akapongkul 1:33:43

Yeah. And I hope it's fine.

I think I turned to Owen. I was like, please be nice and he's like, I'm gonna be fair. I'm like, no, no, be nice.



Ravin Raori 1:33:48

OK.

Oh no, I'm sure he'll be nice. Don't worry. Oh, when's the best?



Prin Akapongkul 1:33:57

He is, he is.

Yeah, yeah. No, please let me know if you have any more questions to ask. I mean, I'm always available to text.



Ravin Raori 1:34:10

Brilliant. Yeah. Let me do that.



Prin Akapongkul 1:34:10

I mean, I'm not.

Cool.



Ravin Raori 1:34:13

Yeah, I might take you up on that, but yeah, don't want to pick up too much of your Christmas break as well. So you know you deserve some time off.



Prin Akapongkul 1:34:20

Oh, I'm. I'm in Thailand. There's no such thing as Christmas break.

I'll be working on my dissertation so.



Ravin Raori 1:34:25

Fair enough. OK.

Oh, lovely. Have you got family there?

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:34:30

Yeah, yeah. My mom and Dad facially live there. Now. When I say officially they used to travel around, but now they're based there. So yeah, that's that's good.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:34:42

Well.

Give my love to your family and hope you have a lovely Christmas break and New Year.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:34:47

Too, yeah, you too. I'll probably see you around the 6th floor. If you're in this week and you'll go in a few times.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:34:54

Yeah, I've been. I'll be in tomorrow, so hopefully I'll see you tomorrow.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:34:57

Yeah.

I'm definitely going in tomorrow just because for a bit, I think early in the morning. But or like afternoon early afternoon just because I need to grab something, but. Yeah, I don't think I'll live up there this week.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:35:14

Fair enough. Fair enough. You know you need a break as well.


 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:35:18


Yeah.


 **Ravin Raori** 1:35:20


All right. Well Bryn, I I better hop off because I've got to make it to Augustine for a little research project.


But thank you so much again. And yeah, see you tomorrow. Hopefully. I mean, I'll see you in person, but then hopefully later on line as well.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:35:38
Oh.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:35:39
Good. Thanks, brynn.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:35:40
No worries.

 **Ravin Raori** 1:35:42
Alright, see you soon.

 **Prin Akapongkul** 1:35:43
Alright, see you.

 **Ravin Raori** stopped transcription