

Event Report
Podcast Series: Making Contact episode: “Spare the Kids”

Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020

Time: 6pm - 7pm

Venue: Online Zoom Webinar

Facilitators: Neal Lester, PhD, Founding Director of Project Humanities; Michelle Melton, PsyD, Project Humanities Community Ambassador and Psychologist

Full Recording: <https://tinyurl.com/PHpodcastclub1>

Number of registrations: 50

Geographic range of attendees: Arizona (Gilbert, Tempe, Phoenix, Ahwatukee, Glendale), Florida, Los Angeles, Alabama, Washington

Zoom:

Unique views (attendees only): 35

Average attendee time in webinar: 52

Facebook Live:

1-minute of more views: 22

3-second views: 179

Average watch time: 41 minutes

Most viewers at once: 10

What are three words that describe your experience from this event?

- Informative, Interesting, Intriguing
- Humbling, Informative, Thoughtful
- Informative, Enlightening, Enjoyable
- Insightful, Compassionate, Challenging
- Informing, enlightening, interesting
- Enlightening, Reflective, Sorrow
- Heavy, Important, Thought-provoking
- Very Informative, Understanding of other cultural influences, Feeling sad
- Eye-opening, relevant, nuanced
- Reflective, validating, thought-provoking

What new awareness did you gain or what is your takeaway from this experience?

- The correlation between parental violence and the future of the children as well as the way theology has been twisted by colonialism.
- I had no idea that there are still states where educational institutions are allowed to place hands on children. I also had no idea that so many children are dying at the hands of their parents/caretakers.
- The cultural connection between Black families and corporal punishment.
- I learned a lot more about why black parents beat/punish their children.
- For Black parents to do better by their children, which I feel that we have been working towards and have gotten better about believing spanking is the most effective way of disciplining.
- I have changed my mind about corporal punishment. I never was a proponent of "whipping" or "beating" children. I did however slap and spank my son a handful of times. I justified that by saying it was reserved for times he "really" needed it. When he was little and ran into traffic and when he was an adolescent and told me to "shut up!" I wouldn't do that now, if I could do it over again.
- I found there is a much wider difference in the way children are raised based on culture. Because of those differences experiences are different in feel and response are also different.
- I was presented with a new perspective on the reach of systemic racism as it relates to familial practices within non-Anglo households.
- I didn't know how many black children died at the hands of their parents every year. I also have grown up with parents affirming each other's decisions to use corporal punishment and it was normalized for me, but seeing that clip (although it was more extreme than my experience) helped me see it almost from an outside perspective and it seemed very shocking to me. It'll definitely change how I view these conversations next time they happen around me.

How might this event impact your life and work?

- I would have to consider this question longer
- Makes me much more aware of racial divides and inequities
- Awareness is the first step to battling social injustice.
- Remind me to consider the variety of childhood experiences other people are likely to have endured.
- As a POC, I also relate to parents whooping children and it is nice to know a parent's view on what is going on.
- Offer more advice to young parents that I know.
- My parenting days are done, but I can help to spread knowledge to other parents.

- Not work so much (I am retired though I do volunteer work). It will open my eyes a little more and provide a better understanding of cultural reactions.
- Such an event has deepened my critical thinking skills, giving me more ideas of what to consider whilst pondering or discussing complex topics. In short, my outlook on life has become significantly more nuanced.
- While I disapprove of corporal punishment, I've always thought that it is something that is hard to control for parents if it was modeled for them. This has definitely made me think and feel more strongly about unlearning this behavior; I'm not sure that I want children but if I end up becoming a parent, I now feel very strongly that I need to find better ways of parenting. I'm hoping to be more vocal about it within my family as well.
- I'm not sure how this will affect my work as a teacher, but that is something I am interested in researching.

Other comments about this event:

- Terrific facilitators
- Thank you for broaching a charged topic with compassion & positivity.
- Great topic.
- It was great, the conversation was lively between the moderators and the participants in chat. I wish there was a way to see all the comments - I think some were coming from Facebook and others from Zoom?
- Enjoyed both speakers very much.
- Incredibly facilitated, authoritative facilitators that contributed critical perspectives to the discussion, and an all around amazing and effective way to connect virtually.
- Great conversation and discussion as always. Always trying to learn positive parenting.
- It was good. I typed a question asking if you had any more info about the mother in the news clip.
- So many emotions running through my mind and heart.
- I was so pleased to be able to participate. The facilitation was great! One of my friends from Book Club joined as well. She's already texted me to tell me that she can't wait for the next one. Passing the word
- The podcast was amazing. I was so bummed that I couldn't post and participate in the conversation because I had so much to say. But I didn't receive a Zoom invite from Eventbrite after I registered. But Jocelyn posted a link in Comments so I could watch, just not participate in the discussion part.
- I've always known there is a spanking culture in many different cultures, especially Black America, but I never really sat down with the effects it could

have on a child, their behavior, and their own future behavior. Coming from a fairly liberal Indian family, I often hear about my parent's homes growing up and how whenever they misbehaved, there were also spankings involved, or at least threats of them. Obviously, they grew out of it, but it took time and a large cultural shift for them to understand that there are other ways to raise a child with discipline. Altogether, I found the discussion very interesting and informative because it really offered a new perspective to these things we hear about or see in television so often, but personally haven't exactly experienced.

- It was quite honestly the most human I've felt in months. Discussing the complex facets of the human experience with such nuance and in-depth analysis, hearing so many different viewpoints, etc. allowed me to reflect on my own levels of self-awareness while educating me on points I've never considered. I felt such mental freedom I can't even put into words. All-in-all one of the best discussions I've ever been a part of in my life & looking forward to the ones that follow!
- I really enjoyed that program. I have never been put in a position to think about that specific issue, and I definitely learned a lot. I found the question of 'Why do we care more about property than human life?' incredibly poignant. The podcast prompted an incredibly important discussion which I really enjoyed listening to!
- It was a good conversation. Appreciate Project Humanities doing it.
- Interesting conversation. Processing it and the podcast. I have had many conversations about this from social workers, child development professors, students, and clients (predominantly black).

What other topics would you be interested in learning about?

- Anything you have to offer!
- Techniques for active listening especially across cultural, ethnic, racial, religious, or political divides.
- Any topic on human rights, especially with what is going on in the world right now.
- Community activism.
- What I can do to create more inclusive environments.
- Cultural changes throughout the generations
- Stigma of being a person of color (not just black)
- Gender roles, sexuality, individualism vs. collectivism (culturally)

Participant Feedback Demographic:

ASU Student: 2

ASU Staff: 2

Community: 6

Event and Media Promotion

Jacque Starks, Maricopa Community Colleges

Dr. Amira de la Garza, ASU Hugh Downs School of Communication

Ahwatukee ASU professor rolling out podcast series

https://www.ahwatukee.com/community_focus/article_2f48128a-a5b9-11ea-bfdf-6704b1ae6593.html

Project Humanities launches 'Talking, Listening and Podcasting'

<https://asunow.asu.edu/20200602-creativity-project-humanities-launches-talking-listening-and-podcasting>

Website and Calendar Listings

ASU Department of English newsletter