**File Label:** 130616\_007

**File Length:** 10 minutes 46 seconds

**File Notes:** Interview with a liberal, middle aged woman who is married to the man interviewed in 130616\_004.

**Transcription**

**AES:** “Yeah.”

**SM:** “But we appreciate it.”

**RSP:** “But yeah, that’s ok.”

**AES:** “But we appreciate you being proact—"

**SM:** “Is it ok if we record?” *(SM interrupting AES)*

**RSP:** “Yeah. I’m [respondent gives name] by the way.”

**SM:** “Ok.”

**AES:** “Ok.”

**SM:** “We’re still going to refer to you anonymously.”

**RSP:** “That’s OK.”

**AES:** “This is Scott. Anand.”

**RSP:** “Anand?”

**AES:** “Yeah.”

**RSP:** “Awesome.”

**AES: “**So, I am a, umm, a professor over at Boulder.”

**RSP:** “Ok.”

**AES:** “And Scott is actually a PhD from Boulder who is now at SUNY New Paltz but we’ve been working on this project together for a long time.”

**RSP:** “Ok.”

**AES:** Umm, what we’re trying-what we’re trying to do, we’re currently in a book project, is, we’re, among other things, we want to kind of understand how people experience politics through their neighborhoods.

**RSP:** “Ok.”

**AES:** “Right.”

**RSP:** “Cool.”

**AES:** “Umm, and, uh, one of the ways we- we kinda want to look at is through yard sign displays in neighborhoods. So we had a lot of data on this: national surveys but also different research sites, where it’s kinda geotagged….”

**RSP**: “Ok.”

**AES:** “Kind of look at how this evolves in campaigns.”

**RSP:** “Yeah.”

**AES:** “So, that’s kind of---wh-what we’re trying to do today is, kinda---you know---a-wer-we’re data guys but we want to add some, kind of, like, contextual understanding to that.”

**RSP:** “Ok.”

**AES:** “And talking to people. And, we-we know ho-how people respond to surveys, but we want to put some meat on those bones, you know, and, and flesh that out.”

**RSP:** “Ok”

**AES:** “Yeah, in the interest..Yeah, So, umm, so let me just start and we’ll see if your, your answers match…”

**SM:** “You guys can compare later.”

*(RSP laughs)*

**AES:** “Yeah, but..”

**RSP:** “Ok. Yes, you can totally record. You have my consent.”

**AES:** “Yeah, thank you so much. And this will be, it will be anonymous”

**RSP:** “Ok.”

**AES:** “…again.”

**RSP:** “Not a problem.”

**AES:** “Umm, So about how long have you lived here?”

**RSP:** “Ohh, seven years actually. Ok, so 7 years in this house, umm, 9 years in Colorado.”

**SM:** “That’s good. He said the same things.”

**AES:** “Yeah.”

*(RSP, AES, SM all laugh)*

**SM:** She checks out! Ok!

**RSP:** “Ok, cool.”

**AES:** “Yeah, yeah.”

**AES:** “Umm, so, would you say that the neighborhood has changed since you’ve lived here.” ***(1 minute 34 seconds)***

**RSP: “**Umm, a little bit---you know--- *(AES in background “K”)* really, like, in terms of demographics, um, it was an older neighborhood when we moved in. It’s still mostly and older neighborhood. Um, we have some younger families who are moving on the block but for the most part, it’s, its pretty steady, pretty constant.”

**AES:** “K. Would you—what would you call your neighborhood? What would you think of when you think of your neighborhood. Like…” ***(1 minute 58 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Ok.”

**AES:** “A street or like a couple streets or…”

**RSP:** “Uhhm.”

**AES:** “…or a whole area.”

**RSP:** “What-What I like about it is, and this-this, this does answer your question, I promise. Umm is ta- because of the school down the street, it does kind of give like a central pull. So umm, I don’t know about some of the other younger families, but I do know there are several other kiddos that have gone to this elementary school. Umm, there’s some families who like, yea their-their kids went to the elementary school, the middle school, and the high school and have since moved on. So, like, it’s-it’s like really, kind of, a neighborhood that’s united by the elementary school and that was a big draw…”

**AES:** “Yeah..”

**RSP:** “…initially I think, for a lot of families.”

**AES:** “Yeah.”

**RSP**: “So, it’s, yeah, it’s kinda like this street, another couple of streets. We always go to the farm—farmers’ market in summer. So, it’s-this is kind of like our base but then we’re able to branch out a lot.”

**AES:** “Gotcha. Gotcha. What w-How would you characterize the politics of your neighborhood?” ***(2 minutes 53 seconds)***

**RSP:** *(sighs)* “Pretty Democratic.”

**AES:** “OK.”

**RSP**: “I’d say. Like, I, it, it seems that way but then again at the same time I am sort of oblivious to politics.”

**AES:** “Right.”

**RSP:** “So…”

**AES:** “Interesting. What do you mean by that? Like your oblivious it?” ***(3 minutes 4 seconds)***

**RSP:** “My, uhhh,… so my dad, my dad works rather he’s, umm, he’s a retired solider, effectively.”

**AES**: “Gotcha.”

**RSP:** “So, umm, I grew up with a military family, and yet, it was very clear from the get go that politics was not something we talked about. Like it just, it wasn’t a thing.”

**AES:** “Yeah.”

**RSP:** “So, I kinda grew up with like the mentality of, umm, we have political opinions, we just don’t talk about them. So, like, umm, it wasn’t until I think, almost after college before I realized that there are some areas where I am very politically diverse from my family and I just kind of filed that away as… we just don’t talk about it and its still fine, it’s like, just—these things just don’t come up and we’re ok.”

**AES:** “Yeah.”

**RSP**: “So, we don’t, we don’t poke and bring it up. And then when Owen and I got married. When my husband and I got married..”

**SM:** “We’re going with Jim, so…”

**RSP:** “Ok.”

**AES: “**Yeah, that’s right, actually. He’s, he’s Jim on our first rec---"

RSP: Ok. Great, Great. *(RSP interrupts AES)*

**SM:** “We give, we give him a name.”

**RSP**: “So, when we got married, umm, his family talks about politics, a lot. Like they are super engaged, they are a union family, like there’s just, it’s really interesting, like, oh hey, talking is something that is actually OK.”

**AES**: “Yeah.”

**RSP:** “Umm, so, politically speaking, I kind of, like, just ignore when people have yard signs I disagree with.”

**AES:** “Ok.”

**RSP:** “Umm, but at the same time, like, there was a bond issue, umm, 4 years ago now that *(SM/AES in background “yep)*, umm, I was actually really involved with that *(AES/SM in background “yeah”)* because I worked for the school district. So, we had the bond yard sign out, umm, a couple of years ago. Umm, we had the—we have friend who works for, umm, the Denver Art Museum. So, we helped, umm, support the Denver Initiative. Even though, it’s like, yeah, nobody in our neighborhood could support it, but like, of course we will put up a yard sign.”

*(AES laughs)*

**RSP:** “Just to show that our neighborhood does actually support the arts.”

**AES:** “Yeah”

**RSP**: “So…”

**AES:** “So, you, you mentioned that you-you kinda like block it out when you see ya-yard signs you disagree with…” ***(4 minutes 53 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Mhmm.”

**AES:** “So, I take it you notice yard signs.”

**RSP:** “I do.”

AES: “Ye-ye-yeah. And would you say, that like, do yard signs make feel anything? Is that part of why you try to block it out?” ***(5 minutes 1 second)***

**RSP:** “Umm, when they are yard signs that are hurtful, yeah 100%.”

**AES:** “OK”

**SM:** “What is a hurtful—you mean--- is that a—is hurtful a candidate you disagree with or is that a specific issue or something like that?” ***(5 minutes 15 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Umm, sometimes when it is issue based, uhh, we haven’t really had a whole lot around here that have been like pro-fracking, which would be something that I would be really be personally opposed to. Umm, but at the same time, umm, it-like we have some friends over in Lafayette and, umm, they have one of the yard signs that’s—you know---, umm, in multiple different languages of just like---they basically promotes the message of we are a tolerant family, period. And, like it says, like, it in different languages…”

**SM:** “Yea we saw one on the street right around the corner”

**RSP:** Yeah *(slightly talking over SM)*, it’s like, I kind of crush on that yard sign. Like, I want that yard sign to, like, be prominently, like permanently, on the house, or something *(AES in background “yeah”)*, just because, like, it’s awesome. But, um, I think it would also help convey the message, no I don’t want your pro—you know--- gun messages in my neighborhood, thank you.

**SM:** “Right.”

**RSP**: “So…”

**AES:** “So, when you see a yard sign, whether you agree or disagree with it, it-it does make you think something about those neighbors, I’m guessing?” ***(6 minutes 6 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Briefly.”

**AES:** “Briefly. Ok.”

**RSP:** Yeah, umm, there’s, there’s a house, umm, we-we are both--- There’s a house a couple of blocks over we’d walk by it and they had a, umm, Trump yard sign in their—in their yard a couple of years ago and I still can’t quite shake that. It’s like, I see them out walking their dog and I still greet them because I like dogs, but at the same time…

**AES:** “Yeah”

**RSP:** “We’ll just not talk about that if ever we become friends….” *(RSP laughs)*

**AES:** “Is there, is there--- It sound-it sounds like you put yard signs out. Umm, do you think there is som- is there a certain type of person who puts yard signs out?” ***(6 minutes 39 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Umm, I have been told that my family is attention getting, so I guess attention getters.”

*(AES and RSP laugh)*

**AES:** “So other neighbors have told you that? Huh, interesting. Gotcha.”

**SM:** “Does that worry you at all?”

**RSP:** “Umm, it pissed me off a couple weeks ago because that’s when the situation happened but I don’t even care anymore. Umm, if it weren’t so- raining so much we would probably be outside on drawing on the driveway with sidewalk chalk because it makes me happy.”

**AES:** “Ok.”

**RSP:** “So, yeah.”

**AES:** “It makes my kid happy too.”

**RSP:** “Yeah.”

*(AES and RSP laugh)*

**AES:** “And it’s just fun. Sidewalk is just awesome.”

**RSP:** “Yeah, it’s super fun.”

**AES:** “Umm, so, you, you mention this a little bit. Umm, do you, do you talk politics with your neighbors..”***(7 minutes 19 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Uh-Uh.”

**AES:** “Or not really?”

**RSP:** “They-the reason why, umm, is we, we went to the neighborhood caucus, umm, for the presidential election a couple of years ago and it was really interesting to learn that, umm, we were very diverse with our neighbors and it was actually, it seemed to be a problem for them. And there’s the…”

**SM:** “In the caucus?”

**RSP:** “Ye-yeah, it’s like it came up that we were, we were on opposite sides for like the same party *(SM/AES in background “yeah”)* just different candidates and it was *(AES in background “interesting”)*, it was, it seemed to have been something that, that bothered some of our neighbors so we just don’t talk about it.”

**AES:** “Yeah.”

**RSP:** “Or at least I don’t. ‘Cause I don’t like to bother people about silly stuff like that.”

**AES:** “Yeah.”

**RSP:** “Not silly stuff I am passionate about.”

**AES:** “Right.”

**RSP:** “So.”

**AES:** “Do you feel like the neighborhood is a different place when elections are going on?” ***(8 minutes 9 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Yes. I think so.”

**AES:** “Interesting How-how so?”

**RSP:** “Umm. It just seemed to be a little more ignited, a little more heated. Umm, it just, it just feels a little different. Ummm.”

**SM:** “What do you mean by heated?” ***(8 minutes 23 seconds)***

**RSP:** “It jus-, for instance, like, like the family with the Trump sign and then, umm, we, although we did not caucus for Clinton, umm, we did then eventually have a Clinton sign in our yard, and it was one of the moments, of like, like, we know-we know we kind of were familiar with where one another lives, and it was just sort of a hmm.”

**SM**: “Their, their the Trump house saw you’re the Clinton house so…”

**RSP:** “Yeah! Yeah, so it was ju-just like—it was never said in those words, but, *(AES in background yeah)* umm, it was just kind of an interesting, an interesting vibe. I guess.”

**AES:** “Gotcha.”

**RSP:** “Umm. I did worry sometimes a little bit about our yard signs being taken just because of the fact that---you know---sometimes things just happen and mostly just, I’m lazy and I don’t want to have to go back to the Democratic office to get another one. So, I was like *(RSP laughs)* jus-just say here.”

**SM:** “So, it was a bit, probably, busy…”

**RSP:** “Yeah.” *(RSP interrupts SM)*

**SM:** “and stuff like that. People are busy.”

**RSP:** “Busy is better than lazy, you’re right.”

**SM:** “Yeah.”

**AES:** “So, it sounds like---you know---kind of, from what you told us, like, that putting you preferences out there, being attention getters, as you put it…”

**RSP:** “Yeah.”

**AES:** “That-that’s important to you, right? Umm, so it sounds like you’ve been given yard signs for volunteer work…”

**RSP:** “Yes.”

**AES:** “Would you, would you pay for yard signs for like t-to put you opinions out there? Is that like, like something *(RSP in background “umm”)* that is important to you/” ***(9 minutes 43 seconds)***

**RSP:** “As long as the funding was going toward supporting the local cause. Umm, I really wouldn’t be in favor of it, umm, to be just, to go and, like, fund the campaign. It’s like I rather it fund the volunteers it-, so it keeps the lights on…”

**AES:** “Yeah.”

**RSP:** “…rather than being something that makes us, like, have more ads on the news, cause a lot of people tune the ads out anyway, so… “

**AES:** “Yeah.”

**RSP:** “I’d rather not contribute to that part.”

**SM:** “Do you think people tune the signs out?” ***(10 minutes 10 seconds)***

**RSP:** “They probably do. But, I already admitted myself I tune them out myself to a certain extent, but, umm…”

**AES:** “But you do notice them to a...”

**RSP:** “I do notice them. Yeah.”

**AES**: “Right, right.”

**RSP:** “I notice them, umm, but I don’t know, just there’s di-different areas like I know I can’t control the funding but I like to think I have an impact on it. So.”

**AES:** “Yeah. Any other questions? *(pause)* No, I don’t think so. Yeah.”

**SM:** “You two have been very helpful.”

**RSP:** “Sweet.”

**AES:** “Thank you so much. Umm, alright, so let me give you this..”

**RSP:** “Ok.”

**AES:** “Thank you for your time…”

**RSP:** “You’re welcome.”

**AES:** “And I, well I’ll give you one of these sheets as well….”

***RECORDING FINISHED***