

Cas 1

Who were you friends with when you were in school in Canada?

When I was younger, so elementary, it was kind of just people in my class: just like whoever I played with during recess. It was a pretty good mix of like different backgrounds. Also, after grade 3, I entered the Gifted program, so that kind of was from grade 4 to grade 8. It was like the same class with the always the same classmates. And then, I think grade 7 and 8, in terms of friend group, I did get like a little bit closer, tighter knit with... I guess slightly more like, majority Asians in my class. But still, at that time, I still played with everyone in the school. And high school, still the Gifted program for grade 9 and 10. And so my classes were still with like, this mostly the same classmates. Plus, like, I think one or two other schools that were also part of the like gifted school feeder Program. Yeah, that high school was Thornhill Secondary. And that was predominantly like Jewish background, in that area. So that was like the mix-up, I guess: mostly Jewish, but the rest were a pretty big mix of all sorts of ethnicities, I guess. In my friend group though, I think it was becoming more Asian, slowly. Part of it I think was just the classes I was attending...

Researcher: The Gifted Program?

Participant: The Gifted Program, yeah, because for grade 9 and 10, they started allowing kids to, like, if they were very like high-achieving and whatnot, they were allowed to join in the gifted courses. And there happened to be so many Asian kids. Yeah, and then, that just naturally led to that kind of friend group.

Researcher: Do you mind briefly explaining to me what this Gifted Program consists of?

Participant: Yeah, so it never felt really clear what it was. Essentially, in grade 3, they made everyone take a few tests, I think. From what I understand—I might be wrong, but from what I understand—it's like, it's mostly an IQ test with a lot of like pattern mechanization and whatnot. But Gifted is considered like special education, where, yeah, they kind of think differently, and they generally tend

Childhood friendships

- Friends with peers of diverse ethnic/racial backgrounds

Gifted Program (elementary to high school)

- Most of the peers = Asians
- Naturally led to friendships with Asians

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Exemple du codage initial, tiré des travaux de Lindsey Paek

<p>to learn faster. A lot of people will summarize that like, ‘Okay, these are the smart kids’, but it’s not necessarily that either. And it wasn’t clear throughout the program, and I’m still not really sure.</p> <p>Researcher: So I guess it’s not something that you apply for. It’s, they place you in this program once they see that you get a certain test score.</p> <p>Participant: Yes, so they do a test, and you could choose to enrol into the program from grade 4 and onwards. And once you’re in, you generally stay—you could leave whenever you want, but yeah.</p> <p>Researcher: Does that give you an advantage when you’re applying for universities?</p> <p>Participant: Not really. It’s supposed to be, like special education, and their intent is to teach us a little bit differently from the regular stream. It’s supposed to help us learn in a way that matches how we think.</p> <p>Researcher: Right, thanks for that. And how about when you were in university? Your friends?</p> <p>Participant: I went to the Western University of Western Ontario, which is in London, like two hours west of Toronto. Thankfully, I had a few friends from high school that were also going to Western, so we stayed pretty close. And, since we’re talking about school and studies, the funniest thing happened in the first year. So first year we entered dorm, and me—so we get to request one roommate—I requested my friend from high school, and he requested me. And the dorm we were staying at, it’s like a four-person room, and my friend and I were one pair, and we were going to be paired up with another pair for a room. Me and my friend are Korean and Chinese, and then, the others who joined us were also Asian, two Chinese guys. Yeah, but it turns out, the rest of the whole floor was only Asians—we were all put together by chance. They do like, there might have been some input from like the matching questionnaire we filled up beforehand. Maybe that had an effect. But, like, the whole floor for Asian guys got put together.</p> <p>Researcher: I mean, Western! Asians are not the majority there, are they?</p>	<p>Gifted Program (structure and characteristics)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Not sure how to define it- Kind of like special education- ‘Smart kids’ stereotype, but not only- Entrance test, but free to leave when one wants <p>University experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Some high school friends, close friendships- Placed on the same dorm floor with Asians (maybe matching questionnaire) <p>Cultural influence = unintentional (ethnic/racial) grouping</p>
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Participant: Nope. The majority's like the White Canadian. So I feel like, in my life, I never intended my friend group to be predominantly Asians, but a lot of times, it just kind of happens.	
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Cas 2

<p>Who were you friends with when you were in school in Canada?</p> <p>Participant: I think elementary I was mostly I was just pretty much friends with like people of all races and colours, and not one in particular, I would say.</p> <p>I think, in the neighbourhoods of my elementary schools, Rockford and Bayview Fairways, they, at least during the times I was there, there wasn't really a Korean community there whatsoever. Um I think in fact that like all the Koreans in one of the elementary schools actually left like a year after I joined the school. So for the most part, it was just me making friends with other like Caucasians or like you know so on and so forth, like Cantonese people etc. but um again, no one, no particular ethnicities in specific.</p> <p>Then moving onto, I think, Thornlea Secondary school, I think, that's when I started leaning more towards the Asian group. It just happened naturally.</p>	<p>Elementary school friendships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making friends with people of various races and ethnicities <p>Absence of Korean community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Korean community in elementary school, leading to a more diverse range of friendships. <p>Secondary school friendships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural shift towards ethnic grouping - Lack of links to Korean community - Throughout all of schooling experiences
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But this again doesn't mean that I was really making friends with like the members of the Korean community. There were a couple of Koreans for sure that were in my grade, but at the same time, I wasn't really friends with them--not that I really tried.

So, for the most part, I was just speaking English, hanging out with maybe like Cantonese Chinese Mandarin people.

This I guess pattern didn't really change much throughout my university years.

Friendships based on language and culture

- Forming friendships with classmates who spoke English, from Asian backgrounds
- No specific focus on ethnic groups

University experiences

- Continued the pattern of forming friendships with other Asians