

Transcript of Interview with Ted and Howard Fan

Interviewee: Ted, Howard Fan

Interviewer: Ted, Howard Fan

Date: 12/05/2021

Location (Interviewee):

Location (Interviewer):

Abstract: Two college students conduct this interview with each other to compare the COVID 19 pandemic with past pandemics. They discuss government response and society reaction.

Howard Fan 00:01

Ted, do you consent to be interviewed by Howard?

Ted 00:05

Yeah.

Howard Fan 00:06

Okay, today is December the fifth at 7:37pm. So the first questions I have is how do you think people reacted to COVID compared to past pandemics?

Ted 00:19

I think that people reacted somewhat better to COVID, that they may have to pass pandemics. But overall, it was a fairly similar reaction because people, people pretty similar to how they are in the past. Like, we'd like to think that we've evolved and become better in overall, but we're pretty similar to, to our ancestors. And so I think that there was probably a better reaction, because in general, people are more, more intelligent and more informed. And maybe that doesn't seem that way. But I think definitely when you look at past pandemics, people, people were a lot less knowledgeable about everything. And even if people seem stupid, or even if their reactions seem pretty dumb, there are there's a lot worse that people have reacted to past diseases.

Howard Fan 01:03

How did learning about pandemics change your view of COVID?

Ted 01:07

I think, looking at past pandemics kind of put COVID into perspective. For me, it gave me an idea that a lot of people and my myself I believe that COVID Was this really special thing. And that you know, it's a once in a lifetime. This has never happened. But when you look at all the previous pandemics, you see the it's I mean, pandemics are pretty common. And I mean, what was uncommon was that we haven't had one in such a long time that we haven't had one since like the influenza outbreak. And so I think that it really just showed me that this is this isn't as insane and as unbelievable as I thought it wasn't as many people thought.

Howard Fan 01:45

Okay, so from what would you have learned? Do you think the world will improve its response to future pandemics?

Ted 01:53

I think so I think that the world? Well, I don't think maybe as much as they could, like, there's probably a lot that they can do that they won't do, just because people will only do you know so much, but I think that the response will be pretty substantial. Because, I mean, we saw just how, how little we did.

Howard Fan 02:15

Okay, so did one particular past pandemic struck you as similar to COVID?

Ted 02:19

I think when we looked at cholera, when we looked at cholera, and just how people when they were sending different messages to their family members, just how similar they seem to us today. So even though cholera is such a different disease, it felt that the way people reacted was pretty similar to COVID.

Ted 02:41

Howard do you consent to being interviewed?

Howard Fan 02:43

Yes.

Ted 02:44

All right. So the date is December 5, at 7:40pm. So just to get into the questions, did learning about other pandemics help you put COVID into context?

Howard Fan 02:58

Yes, I think it definitely did. The reason for that is because I think, first of all, by just me experiencing COVID at the age of 18/19. I think it's really rare. I've never seen anything like this ever in my in my life. But by looking and studying, specifically at the global pandemics and studied thoroughly about the past, pandemics that have happened in the history of human race, I think this pandemics I've definitely think that it's just another common, common human disease, that the entire human race is like going through.

Ted 03:45

How does this pandemic COVID compared to past pandemics?

Howard Fan 03:49

I think speaking from a technological perspective, our experts are definitely responses much more quickly than the previous pandemics and the vaccines came out right after like, you know, the COVID ravaged all the cities. And fortunately, were able to have all the medical cares. And all the precautions that were taken by the government are able to not make the situation look too bad. As for the political perspective, I think this society is like becomes more dividing, especially in the United States. Where do you see a group of people who doesn't believe in this COVID thing they are as another people were just kind of taking to another extreme that they think

we should wear our mask all the time regardless of blah, blah, blah what. So I think that's that's just kind of the two extreme claims that I've seen in today's society.

Ted 04:55

And do you think humans have learned from their prior experience with pandemic?

Howard Fan 04:58

Yes, they have learned and no they have not. The reason I said yes is because I think humans definitely are putting more trust into our scientists. The reason I said no is because we're still seeing some people acting really foolish and behave just really stupid during the pandemic. And they're not like trust the kept politicizing this COVID thing which makes the entire situation even worse. So I think that's not good.