

## Transcript of Anthony Jodlowski Interview by Karen Kilby

**Interviewee:** Anthony Jodlowski

**Interviewer:** Karen Kilby

**Date/Time:** 2020/05/22 11:16 AM AST

**Location (Interviewee):** Menomonie, Wisconsin.

**Location (Interviewer):** Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

**Transcriber:** Kalissa Reins

**KK:** This is Karen Kilby and I am conducting an oral history interview for the COVID-19 project for the public seminar history class. The date is 5/22/2020 and I am conducting this interview with Anthony Jodlowski. Hi Anthony.

**AJ:** Hello Karen.

**KK:** Okay, first off what- where do you live?

**AJ:** I live in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

**KK:** And what is your job?

**AJ:** I am a server. I'm a waiter.

**KK:** So how has COVID-19 affected your job?

**AJ:** It's massively impacted my job. I'm not working because of it [laughs].

**KK:** So how- let's see [beeping noise] affected your daily life?

**AJ:** Immensely [laughs]. I'm lucky I have unemployment. If I didn't have unemployment I'd be right now broke. I wouldn't have the ability to support myself and I'd have very few if any job prospects.

**KK:** [papers ruffling] What concerns do you have about the effects of [echo of interviewer's voice through interviewee's audio] of COVID-19 on your employment and the economy more broadly?

**AJ:** I feel that once this- once we reopen things should re- return relatively to normal. And I feel that- but I do feel there will be a deeply(??) impact left upon the economy. I know many people right now, they're not gonna be able to be employed at this time.

**KK:** And what are your thoughts on that?

**AJ:** [echo of interviewer's voice through interviewee's audio] I think that it's unavoidable and there's nothing we can really do about it in the short term. But I do feel that we can work together to improve the lives of everybody that's been impacted and effected by this.

**KK:** Had do- [echo of interviewer's voice through interviewee's audio] have you or anybody you know gotten sick from COVID-19?

**AJ:** Myself, no, but I do have friends that have been sick or gotten sick from this. It's affected them greatly.

**KK:** And how has that affected you personally?

**AJ:** [sighs] Immensely, you know, I don't wanna see my friends suffer or people I know hurt.

**KK:** What have been the biggest challenges that you have faced during the COVID-19 outbreak?

**AJ:** Getting what I need done despite all the shutdowns of society. Dealing with the increased tension of others and the increased irritability of most everyone around me. Dealing with lack of preparedness that's been going on around me due to this. Dealing with the political division and divisiveness that's been going on around me and the resulting effects of that.

**KK:** How has the COVID-19 outbreak affected your community in Menomonie?

**AJ:** Immensely. There's been an immense increase of aggression among many of the people- indigenous people of the population. As a psychology major, I also noticed a larger level of combativeness among- and how to deal with it. A lack of community unison. A lack of cooperation among each side of the fence in this matter. I've watched many people shun and openly mock other people for having their own opinion about the matter. I'm watching a very divisive break occur within society here or with- within the community. I've also watched a lot of people just directly disobey the orders of the CDC and the government. There's a large amount of growing anti- anti-governmental opinion on both sides of it.

[papers rustling]

**KK:** Let's see, knowing [echo of interviewer's voice through interviewee's audio] what you know now, what do you think that individuals, communities, or governments need to keep in mind for the future?

**AJ:** Preparedness, an actual plan for such and such a thing happens. More financial support for those impacted by such a- by such a situation. A larger community outreach and incentivization, not only by the government, but- but by community leaders to get each side of the opinionations of what to do to work together to come to the middle. And- and far more impact, or not far more impact, but far more effort should be delivered into getting the community to work together in a far more harmonious fashion.

**KK:** [papers rustling] Let's see. You're also a s- a student in psychology. How has that affected your schooling?

**AJ:** I'm gonna be- I haven't been able to be in class. It's greatly impacted my ability to learn. I've lost the face-to-face element that I treasure so much of my schooling. I've lost, you know, my- my connection with many of my fellow students which I would work with in class and be around in class and within our com- within our own community. As a psychology student I've seen a deep division form within the ranks within our own school with this matter. You know, it's been devastating to many people both socially, economically, and from a humanist standpoint. [clears throat] It's been very difficult to deal with it.

**KK:** Let's see, let's see my phone is about to stop recording here so I have to do a second part here.

**AJ:** Okay. Do it.