

Interview History

INTERVIEWER: Amanda Díaz – undergraduate student at the University of Puget Sound’s History department for her Summer Research project.

TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

Time: July 9th, 7:33pm

Place: Over the phone in Tacoma, WA and Salinas, CA

Total number of recorder hours:

Persons present during interview: Amanda Díaz and Elizabeth Padilla

CONDUCT AND PROCESSING OF INTERVIEW:

This interview is part of the Summer Research Richard Bangs Collier Scholarship at the University of Puget Sound for the project titled, *The American Creed: Immigration and Detention in Tacoma*. The interview was conducted in English.

Amanda Díaz prepared for this interview by taking the HIS 387: History of US Immigration course taught by Prof. Andrew Gomez in the History department. Amanda has also presented at President Crawford's Inauguration Symposium about the private-immigration detention center in Tacoma, the Northwest Detention Center. She also founded the club called Advocates for Detained Voices, a club that works with a local nonprofit to provide legal and counselling services for families affected by the NWDC.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Records relating to the interview are located in the Archives at Collins Memorial Library at the University of Puget Sound.

Table of Contents- ELIZABETH PADILLA

July 9th, 7:33pm over the phone in Tacoma, WA and Pico Rivera, CA

(1:03)- Family's immigration history, her mother is a second generation American, her father came to the United States through the Bracero Program.

(2:33)- Elizabeth talks about how she became interested in immigrant justice for two main reasons, 1) helping her father become a US citizen and 2) when her husband, Angel Padilla, was detained at an immigration detention center in Bakersfield, CA after his release from prison.

(12:20)- Elizabeth Padilla spoke in Washington DC along with other advocacy groups like Black Lives Matter and LGBT groups that were all trying to stop the privatization of detention.

(14:15)- Tactics that the guards used to control and fear. Elizabeth talks about how she would write grievances after grievances and letters to directors and to the main headquarters but no one would respond to her complaints.

(19:23)- Elizabeth talks about some of the emotions that she felt throughout the time her husband was detained and what she decided to do to cope with these emotions.

(25:00)- Elizabeth discusses the two biggest barriers for getting her husband released. 1) Finding an attorney for her husband and 2) telling her husband that she couldn't find an attorney and giving him bad news.

(28:10)- She shares stories of family members who have suffered from family separation when their loved ones are detained in private detention centers.

(32:30)- Visitation and the step by step process of going through security and only getting an hour to visit your loved one.

(34:04)- Similarities and differences between the detention center in Bakersfield and the Northwest Detention Center.

(36:55)- Impact that different immigrant advocacy groups had in mitigating the impact of the Northwest Detention center.

(39:27)- Impact of the Latino community, and how our society "mexicanizes" all Latinos when they are all very diverse. She expands on the stereotypes that are placed on them that prevents them from being united and fight for immigrants rights.

(44:57)- Privatization of the detention center and its impact on the individuals detained and on the families detained.