

Supplement to:

Laemmli, Taylor. 2024. "Classed Burdens: Habitus and Administrative Burden during the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Sociological Science* 11: 114-137.

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE for “Classed Burdens”

Taylor Laemmli, Summer 2020

Introduction

Welcome and thanks again for participating. Exchange names. Before we start, we should go over the consent form. Remind participants: “I texted/emailed this to you earlier.” Read over this with them, emphasize that the interview will be recorded. Ask if they have any questions and ask for consent.

Get consent to record: Is it okay if we record this conversation?

Ask participants to agree verbally to the information in the consent form on tape: Would you please confirm that you consent to participate in this study, now that we are recording?

To help protect privacy and confidentiality, I ask that you avoid naming names or directly identifying third parties who haven’t consented to participate in this research. Instead, you can refer to these people by their relationship to you, such as a family member, friend, co-worker, or supervisor. So for example, instead of saying that I was hanging out with Jasmine, I’d say I was hanging out with my roommate. Make sense?

I’m just going to be asking you a few questions about your background, where you’re from, what you’re doing for work, fun—a whole variety of things. I will also ask about how you’re experiencing life since the COVID-19 pandemic began. I like to think of this more as a conversation than as a formal interview, so feel free to talk as much as you’d like, and to jump in at any time if you have questions, or if you want to add something that you think is important. If there are any questions you don’t feel comfortable answering or don’t want to answer, that’s absolutely okay, just let me know. If you want to stop the interview at any time, that’s okay, too. Any questions so far?

Begin the interview when they are ready.

Basic Information

I do have a few basic questions. Could you tell me just some demographic information?

- How would you describe your gender?
- How would you describe your race?
- How do you see yourself politically—conservative? Liberal? Republican? Libertarian?
- How would you describe your sexual orientation?
- Could you tell me how much education you’ve had—college? High school? More than that?
- How old are you?
- Where do/did you work, and how long have you worked there?
- How much do/did you earn there? Do you have any benefits?

Background

Thank you! Okay, let’s get into the conversation part. How are you doing?

Just to start, I’d love to learn a bit about your background. Where are you from originally?

What kind of place is that?

How do you like it?

What’s your family like?

- Partner? What do they do? Did they go to college? How long have you been together?
- Children?
- Parents—what do they do? Did they go to college?
- Siblings—how old, what do they do? Did they go to college?

Work

Where do you work?

- How long have you been there?

How did you end up working there?

- What made you want to get this job?
- What initially attracted you to this work?

What do you think of your boss—what are they like?

- Do you get along?

What was it like when you first started your job?

- Were there any awkward moments?
- Were there ever times when you felt out of place?

What did you have to learn to do your job well?

- How did you learn this?
- Can you tell me about a time you made a mistake at work?

What do new people have to learn about the job?

- What kind of mistakes do they make?
- What is the worst thing a person could do at your work?

How would you compare your work now to other jobs you've had?

- How do you enjoy your job?
- Can you tell me about a time when you really loved your job?
- Can you tell me about a time when you really hated your job?

Can you tell me about a typical workday?

- What does it feel like when you come into work?
- What sorts of people do you interact with?
- Do you have any favorite customers?

What do you most want to get out of this job?

What do you want to do with your life?

- What's your dream job?

Are there perks to your job?

Has anything really bad happened to you at your job?

Does your job make you feel proud? Special?

Leisure and Daily Life

What's a typical day like for you?

- Before COVID-19?
- After COVID-19?

What do you like to do for fun in your free time?

- What do you most like about this?

How did you get into that activity?

- Did someone tell you about it?
- Is this something you’ve always done?

COVID-19

What has life been like since COVID-19?

- How does this compare to what life looked like before?
- How are you doing?

What has changed for you?

- Where are you living?
- Who are you living with?

How do you feel about your future?

- Financially?
- Socially?
- What are your biggest concerns?

What worries do you have?

- Are you trying to address them at all? How?

Have you been relying on anyone for help—people to talk to, to support you?

- Can you count on them?

Is there anything about your life before that you really miss?

- In the workplace?
- In leisure, the rest of your life?

Is there anything about your life now you really like?

How have your employers responded to COVID-19?

- What do you think of their response?

Have you noticed other people in your community responding to COVID-19? (For example, customers, people at other businesses)

- What do you think of their responses?

What do you think of the government response to COVID-19?

- What do you think the government should do?
- How do you think things are going?

What do you think life will be like in the future?

- Will things go back to normal? When?
- Will things be different? How?

Has this changed how you think about anything—your perspective on life, work, politics?

Stratification Views

This might seem like an odd question, but I’m really interested in your perspective on society, especially people’s economic situations in the United States.

- Do you think class matters in the US?
- How, or why not?

What do you think class looks like—what are the categories?

- Which people belong in which categories?

Which category do you belong in?

- What puts you in that category?
- Have you always been in this category?
- Who else is in that category with you? Why?
- How do you know someone is in a different category from you?
- Who is below you? What puts them below you?
- Who is above you? What puts them above you?

Do you think you’re going to stay in this category?

- How do you think it might change?
- Why do you think it will stay the same?

The American dream is important to a lot of people. Could you describe in your own words what you think people mean when they talk about the “American Dream”?

- What do you think of this idea?
- Do you think it’s possible?
- Do you think things are fair?

Have you always felt this way?

- When did you start to feel this way—what happened?
- Has COVID-19 changed how you feel or think about this at all?

How do you see yourself politically?

- Why?
- Have you always felt this way?

Concluding Remarks

Is there anything else you think is important to tell me? Anything I haven't asked about?

Do you have any questions about this research, or about me?

Thank them again for participating.