

1. Survey distributed to students:

Anthropology of the city- Prof. Stephanie Rupp - Fall 2017

THE ELDERLY AND THE CITY- AGING IN NEW-YORK

Survey N°

1. Where do you live in the city?

.....
.....

2. Do you live :

- Alone
- With your family
 - Parents, brothers and sisters
 - Husband, boyfriend and / or children
 - Larger family (uncle, aunt, etc.)
- Roommates or friends?

3. Have you always lived in New York?

- Yes
- No
 - Where are you from? (Country and/or city)

.....
.....

4. Do you have family here?

- Yes
- No
- How often do you see your parents, grand-parents ?
 - Every day
 - More than once a week
 - Every week
 - More than once a month
 - Every month
 - Every two months
 - Less than every two months

○ Where do you see them usually?

- At your place
- At their place
- Somewhere in town
- Other

.....
....

6. Are you involved in an intergenerational club or association?

- Yes
- No

7. Do you work with elderly?

- Yes
- No

8. Would you like to age in New York city?

- Yes
- No
 - Where would you like to go?

.....
....

9. Do you think that New York city is a great place for aging?

- Yes
- No
 - Why ?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

About your grand-parents (or parents if they are more than 65 years old):
(if you don't have parents older than 65 years old or grand-parents, you don't have to answer to the next questions)

10. Where are your grandparent(s) living? (country, city, if New York, where?)
.....
.....

11. Is it :
- Couples
 - Your grandmother alone
 - Your grandfather alone
 - Both are apart with recomposed families

12. Do they live:
- Alone
 - With you or family members
 - In special houses

13. How old are your grandparent(s)?
- Less than 65
 - 65-70
 - 70-80
 - 80- 90
 - More than 90

14. Do they have friends around them?
- Yes
 - No

15. Please select the activities in which your grandparent(s) are taking part:

- Outdoor activities in a group (i.e. gardening, walking in group, playing outside...)
- Outdoor activities alone (or with friends)
 - Park
 - Museum
 - Movie Theatre
 - Shows
 - Libraries
 - Restaurant or café
 - Shopping (other than grocery shopping)
 - Swimming pool or Gym

- Club or association (i.e. playing card...)
- Community Engagement
- Indoor activities alone (i.e reading, sewing ...)
- Travel (with or without groups)
- Other :

.....
...

2. Interview 1: Lady in Marcus Garvey Park

1. Where do you live?

In the Bronx, South East, around Interval Avenue

2. Are you from NYC?

Yes, I have always been living in the city

3. Do you have family here?

I used to. Most of them have deceased or move, and scattered. So basically, I am kind if alone, except from one or two aunts. One is in Manhattan and the other in the Bronx, but I am not even sure.

4. Do you see them often?

One of them, I do.

5. Ok, and usually where do you see her? At her place, or at yours, in the city ?

Usually at her place because she is elderly so I usually assist her with households duties and stuff like that.

6. Do you have friends?

Oh ya ! Ya

7. What do you do with your friends?

Usually we go to the movies and go out to eat, or with a normal weather we would just go around and sightsee more or less.

8. Where do you like to go?

South See Port is one place, The Village is another. It's been a while I have been further up in the Bronx, like around Fordham I think. Anyway, no the Bronx too much, usually more Manhattan, downtown. Different parts of Manhattan.

9. Ok, and why do you like those places?

Well, because it is different from where I live, number one and they usually have nice restaurants and you can usually see things that you don't normally see in your own area or even up here (East Harlem).

10. Do you take the subway?

Yes.

11. Are you a member of a club or an association?

Hum, I am a democrat. Other than that not really. I haven't even been, woow I am embarrassed to say that, but I haven't even been to church in a while but not too much.

12. So you don't meet other people besides your friends?

Not really no, maybe once in a while.

13. Are you having activities with young people, so children or babies?

No, not too much. Most of the members of my family that are young like that I don't see often. The one cousin I have, in Georgia, he has got children but I never see them you know. But heu I have them, in my family, but the answer to this question is no.

14. Alright, and you would like to have opportunities to have babies or children with/ around you?

For me personally not too much because I am single and that's a lot of responsibilities, and you know the children I see Well, not too much no.

15. Do you like museums, shops, shows...? Do you go often?

Yes, yes ! But not often, once in a while because it's expensive to do a Broadway shows, but the movies yes, but sometimes you come across... like a friend of mine is involved in an organization where they get tickets when, if it is a all group of people, like 10 or more, it's a reduce price, so in situation like that I can go. And the museums I haven't been in a while but I have been to like the Museum of Modern Art. I have been but it's been some time.

16. Do you go to the Gym, or the swimming pool or other sport activities?

You know I don't ! As fat I am I don't go to the Gym, I should !! No, I don't. Woo no I haven't been since a while, I was thinking about it. A lot of my friend are deceased, or have moved away. See, you lose contact sometimes.

17. And do you like outdoors activities like walking?

Oh, yeah !! In the right weather. But you see I sit here, in the winter, but I have enough close now !! When you are covered that's fine.

18. So how happy are you in New York, do you like it here in NY ?

Huum, yeah, yeah, well enough because I have been here all my life. But I wouldn't mind living, well, I have never been in California. I have been in Canada, years and years ago, I wouldn't mind ... if somebody says, here is the millions dollars, I wouldn't mind get you I apartment where you want, I would try some place else, yeah. But, basically, since that's not gonna happen, I can deal with living in New York.

19. Would it be more in the country side or would it be in a city ?

(silence) Huum, let me see... wow... hum ... In the country if I had a family, nieces, nephew and kids to run around, stuff like that, then the country. But me, as being single, the way I am, city is fine for me.

20. And where don't you think it's nice to go in NYC, where don't you like to go?

Hum I am gonna say this, and it might sound funny, but the news, they speak about things happening in Brooklyn, you know people getting rubbed. I don't think I would like to live in Brooklyn. (...) So I don't think I would like to live in Brooklyn, also 'cause of the distance too.

21. And do you think it is more difficult for elderly to be in NYC?

No, not so much, you know why, because they have things for the elderly people, like organization, clubs, and but sometimes yeah ... Like I won't be late at night for one, as an example and ... well I am by myself, so ... maybe that's why I am by myself, but sometimes it can be hard for elderly. But I think it can be hard for elderly people anywhere. So yes, it can be hard.

22. Why do you think it can be hard?

Well, sometimes it can be dangerous, the person that go late at night, or the people that would walk their dogs, and I am only saying that because of the things I hear on the news, so in a way that can be a bad thing, because that type of thing does not happen everyday. But out of the news, you get conditioned. But that's bad too because it doesn't happen to everyone, but it can happen and you have to be aware of that, when living in the city. So I don't go to Brooklyn. I can't think of anything else.

23. Do you like Time Square for example?

Oh Yeah, yeah !! I haven't been since a while. But back in the day, when I was younger, and my friends were more around, yes, I used to go to the movies and place like that. But by myself no.

24. And would you have any recommendation for New York, to be better for the older people? What would you like?

More housing opportunities, you know, when you look, especially around here, there is so many homeless people, everywhere you walk, so that ... If I had one thing to suggest or to ask about, it would be that, more housing.

3. Interview 2: Korean Man, at Church – Time Square

1. Where do you live?

I live in Long Island city.

2. With who?

I have a house and I have a family, two daughters. They are 24 and 25 and one daughter is living by herself and working for a company and one daughter is living with me, going to college.

3. Are you from New York?

I am actually from South Korea but I am citizenship from United State, I arrived 15 years ago.

4. Why did you come here?

Because of job, I used to work for LG. Right now I am working from Informa, it is a global company, London based and I am a IT director.

5. Do you have your family here?

Only my wife and children. I don't have grandchildren yet, but soon they marry and have baby I hope.

6. What about Friends?

I have many friends because I am a president for an American and Korean Association, I have many friends, lawyers, doctors.

7. What do you like to do when you are with them?

Normally we discuss about New York, Korean and American people, how can we help them and also we provide healthcare and we support people, for the food and clothing, we care many poor people.

8. Are you member of another association or club.

No. I am the leader of the American and Korean association, we help more than half million people in New York.

9. And so when you hang out with your friends for fun what do you like to do?

Normally I invite them or the invite at home and we have dinner party, with food and great talking, and enjoy, entertainment normally.

10. And in the city do you like to go to the movie theatre, museums or art exhibitions?

With friends?? (laugh) Actually at my age we don't go to amusement or other place but when I was young, with friends, I a lot went to Opera House.

11. And why don't you do it anymore?

Nowadays my hobbies changed, nowadays I want to support young and poor people, that's what is the purpose of my life, and not only that, I have activities with the church.

12. And what activities do you have with the church?

Church, I ...euh protect the church and I take care of young people.

13. Ok and so how do you take care of young people?

If they have problem with their life, I can give them ... I mean consult with them and comfort with them and I can give them good solutions. Because I have many experiences of schools, jobs, I can share my knowledge and experience.

14. That's very interesting! So, what do you do usually in a day

In a day, euh .. because I am full time working for Informa company, I am a director, so I am managing my people, around 50 engineers, I have meeting everyday, what we gonna do today. And after the company, of course I take care of my family also, I take care of the church and the Korean association, so I am pretty much busy.

15. And so if you picture yourself in some years, when you will be retired, what do you think you would do ?

After retire, still I want to continuously and vibrantly support the young people because they don't know about life and they have many problem, mentally and also physically, they don't know how to believe, so I want to support them, young people, also I want to help the poor people, and educate them so they can grow up and they can overcome the difficulties, after retire still.

16. That's a really great goal! So are you taking part to any outdoors activities, like walking?

Outdoor, normally I play, I play the sport, I play tennis, and I play golf, twice a month. So you asked me what do I do, I play golf with friends.

17. Where do you play golf ?

There is New Jersey, there is all many nice place I go to New Jersey.

18. So you live in Long Island but you come all the way here to the church (37th street – Manhattan)

Yes it's far but I love here, because here the mess is and people is amazing.

19. How do you feel here in New York?

New York !!! haa ... New York is so many people, and crowded. Very talented people. All the economy, and social and culture and political, is all centered in New York. So many thing and variety, and existing city, not only for the young people, for everybody it is exiting everyday.

20. Why is it exiting for you, as an aging person in New York ?

Because the United State is a global confound, for international. Amazing people come and walk together, so New York especially, is amazing, and facing with amazing people and walking with them is making you happy, there are brilliant, also New York culture is different than other state and city. New york has a unique culture, even in America. Very special. All the area is a high quality and there is great vision in New York.

21. So do you think it is nice to age in a mega city like New York?

I mean the Manhattan or the other borough and cities? Generally at a old age, I mean it depends on the people, some love so much the city, that they want to live in Manhattan even if it is crowded, and many people love Manhattan so much. But some of them want to see outside.

22. Outside, where do you think they would go outside?

I mean, New Jersey, the nature, to relax, and trees, the mountain. Enjoy it, but still many of my friends love Manhattan, still existing.

23. And where would you like age when you retire?

Still I would like to be in Long Island city, so I would like to stay there.

24. So where do you really like to go in New York when you go out and enjoy the city?

Heuu, personally I love so much the sing, the opera. Opera theatre in Manhattan, Time Square is my favorite.

25. So why do you like this neighborhood especially ?

Heuu, because I like the song the music, I like the musical environment. And also I like the sport and watching the hockey. At Penn Station, the Madison Square. Sometimes I go there and see the Basket Ball and Hockey.

26. And do you go to anywhere else in New York ?

You mean for the travel? Of course I go to other states and cities., other international.

27. Do you travel often ?

Once a year.

28. And is there some place that you really don't like in New York?

Heuuu I don't think. (laugh)

29. So do you think that Elderly can face some difficulties in New York?

Elderly Euh ... I don't think so. Elderlies ... Everyday there is facilities and all the culture also, there is .. you know. There is things made for them,

30. What kind of things do you think of ?

Heu, they are help to live, and all the transportation and hospital, and all the city is ... they should have no problem, I think that the city is better than other state, better than New Jersey, because to have the hospital, the services is very difficult, very far. To get the services, and not only that, many things.

31. So you think they are being supported here?

Yes, I think that New York is better for the elder, for support, because especially the elder is sick, they worry about sickness and healthcare so I think New York is much better.

32. Do you have any recommendation for New York to be even better for the Elderly?

Heuu, I hope that for the elder people we could have some more event and some activities if they provide form the city, from the government or non-profit organization, that would be great because they are more focus on young people. I hope that more ... because older people need to exercise and they have more time, they don't know how to spend the time. So I hope from the city or government, they provide more event for the elder people.

4. Interview 3 : Men in Paris Baguette- West 96st

1. Where do you live?

Up near Columbia (Upper West Side)

2. Have you always lived in New York

No, about 40 years, I am from Los Angeles

2. Los Angeles ? Ok, and why did you move ?

For what I wanted to do, here was better, New York was better.

3. Ok, What did you do ?

(seemed shy and didn't really want to answer)You won't believe it I was a dancer, a professional dancer.

4. Oh, so was it better to be a dancer in New York at that time ? Is it still today ?

Yes. I really don't know, I haven't been in a while.

5. Do you have family here ?

Hum some distant cousins, but I don't see them.

6. And what about your friends ? Do you meet them often ?

Hum, ya .. I don't have a lot of friends, but I meet them once a week about

7. Right and what do you do when you are with them ?

Well, we go to movies and we eat out.

8. And are a member of an association or a club ?

No

9. And, do you have children or grandchildren ?

NO

10. And are you having any activities with young people ?

Not anymore, I used to teach dance.

11. Oh you teach. Alright ! So what do you do during your day ?

Well, I work, I am not retired.

12. What do you work for?

Hum I give ... company. I do the IT guide and the book.

13. Alright, and what kind of activities do you like to do in your free time then?

I like Parks, photography.

14. Oh you like photography?

Yes

15. So do feel happy here in New York?

Well, you know times have changed, so not like, not as good as it used to be.

16. And what changed?

It got to be really crowded and more expensive. And you know when you are younger it is more exciting, more fun.

17. So where would you like to go, if you could?

Hum... Probably Europe. Yeah, I have been, I mean .. I like Paris.

18. You have been in Paris ? It's where I come from !

Oh I lived in France for 4 years actually! I loved it. I had to work for Maison de la Culture and we had to go to La Rochelle twice a year for two month each time.

19. La Rochelle is very nice too.

Well, yeah, it's a nice place but we had to be there off seasons. So we rented little houses in Chatelaillon. It's very small, and after 10 o'clock nothing happen. I mean La Rochelle was okay but you know, at night, you know ... But Paris I love Paris ! I liked the café and the life, and just walking around there. I went back recently and it

got a lot bigger, in the sense that it is harder to walk, you know in the city. I use to walk all over Paris.

20. Yes it's becoming more crowded as well. But not like NYC.

I couldn't believe that! No not like New York, but it was April, so a lot of visitors.

21. Yes it's changing too.

Well yes you know it's funny because nothing was like ... well the food was like two things, French cooked eggs and dressing salads. And I noticed that food is not quite as good but I think it is partly because, you know, they now cook for foreigners and they didn't use to. When I was there, I went on that tour, and a girl from Hong Kong said " We can't eat French Food ". So I wouldn't mind being back in Paris.

22. Right !! But so do you go to restaurants here ?

Yes sure. If you, well.. In Los Angeles, when I go and see my sister, they have lower, better and less expensive restaurant.

23. Oh really ? Do you go to see your sister often?

Once a year

24. Once a year, ok. And you don't miss it too much Los Angeles?

Hum.. I talk to my sister a lot.

25. Do you like to to have outdoors activities? Like walking, gardening ?

I like walking, in different park.

26. Is there places that you really like in New York?

Ah ! There is near Brooklyn a place, near World Trade Center, next to the Marina. I like that part of New York. The park is very nice.

27. And is there places that you don't like in New York, that you don't go there anymore ?

Hum, well you know, New York there is places you don't know, like for instance Brooklyn. I work in Long Island, I never use to go there before and now I have to go there everyday and I walk around and it's nice. But I didn't like it so much because the people are not like in Manhattan. Different, no, but more the type of people you would meet outside of New York, with more prejudice. But I think that's changing. But a lot of New Yorkers would be " I stay where I know", you know

But sometimes with a friend of mine than comes once in a while, he is from Taiwan so we decided to go around, to Flushing, or in China Town, try a sample of food.

28. That's nice. Right, and is there any difficulties that you are facing here in New York while aging?

Yeah, it's funny, I am not .. euh .. I mean out there on the 7 line, there is no elevators and all the subways are 5 or 6 floors down, and you have to walk up all these stairs. So that's getting harder.

We can see women with baby stroller. I used to help them, I can't anymore. But there is women that carry all that and it's hard. I think it's one of the biggest thing, all the stairs.

29. That's right !! And do you think it is nice to age in a megacity like New York ?

I don't think it is nice to age anywhere (laugh). Heu, it's no ... I mean I don't know, I could .. you know, I don't know, I could, I haven't me, yet, I don't know.

27. Alright, so last question, do you have any recommendation for new york to make it more age-friendly ?

Heu, well, hummm , you know, I think, I guess it's more of a political thing, it's more than just old people. Yes I think probably making it easier to get around, but I think, you know, if you call some government agency it is hard to make it through, so I imagine .. You know there is a lot of talk but not much done, so it's hard to do things. But I think, yes sure, making it easier to walk. You can see a lot of people walking very very slow and we see the others out of their patience.

5. Interview 4: Man in Barnes and Noble – Upper West Side

1. Where do you live ?

I live on the Upper West Side

2. Do you live alone or with family ?

I am alone

3. And you are from New York ?

Yes, I am from New York.

4. Do you have family here ?

Yes I do.

5. Everyone is here or do you have people elsewhere ?

A lot of my family live in Isreal.

6. Oh really, do you see them sometimes ?

Some would say too much (laugh) yes I see them a lot. And I do have family here as well.

7. So do you visit Israel, or they come here ?

Both, I visit Israel a lot and they come here a lot.

8. Do you like Israel ?

Yes, yes.

9. Do you have grandchildren's.

No, I have grandnephews and nieces and a lot of them

10.And do you see them often ?

Yes, yes. The one in Israel yearly, and the one here I see them all the time.

11.That's really good, and you meet your friends, what do you do usually ?

I like to go to the movies, go out to eat, sometimes museums.

12. Do you like shows ?

Yes I see Broadway shows sometimes.

13. And do you like the parks ?

I go to central park, I go to the park here on west side.

14. And are you a member of an association or a club ?

Club no, but I am a member of a number of association, but not a member of club. I work, I am a director for a program for homeless elderly, so I am a member of an association social workers, ARB and few other organizations. I am doing that for 30 years.

15. That's really great ! How happy do you feel in New York ?

I like in New York, I like Upper West Side. And all my family, also I have lived on upper west side for a very long time, so all of my family like ... , they say « oh we want to live with you, we want to live here ». Leave me alone (laugh) come to visit but leave me alone. They have seen the upper west side for many many years and they love it.

The west side is a very nice neighborhood, although it use to be not such a nice neighborhood many years ago. It was a rough neighborhood. It's gotten too expensive and very very nice.

16. And did you live there when it was rough ? Did you see the change ?

Yeah, yeah, I have seen the change. A lot of the change are good, some are not so good. Like for example, you told me about anthropology, this was considered the change (Barnes and Noble), this store, it was considered a great change and now we don't know if it will stay here anymore because of online. It is a wonderful wonderful place, it is full today because it's Christmas but it's very empty most of the time.

17. (Talk about books and tablettes) Is there some place in New York that would like a lot ?

Well, I was born, and I have relatives and I go to Brooklyn, so I do like Brooklyn. But I know new Yorkers that don't really move, like in New Jersey. I move all over. Although there is a lot to do in the city.

18. And on the contrary is there places that you really don't like in New York?

Well, there are some neighborhood that are a little unsafe to go, even in Brooklyn or what ever, but now, things have changed. All of new york is a pretty good place to be.

19. So are facing any particular difficulties in the city?

Well, I think and I know that a lot of older people, not me, thankfully, but a lot of older people, they grow old in a neighborhood or an apartment and they can't afford the rent and they get kicked out and they have no place to live and that's a problem. It's gotten to be really expensive even if you don't worry about the rent, food is very expensive , all things are very expensive here in New York, but no, thankfully I am good.

20. That's good, I am happy to know that. And what do you think about aging in a megacity like New york ?

I believe that, if you can afford it, New York is a very good place to age, because unlike Florida or other places, they have to drive. And here they don't have to drive, there is a lot to do, there is a lot of people you can relate to and so, I think New York is a really good place. I know a lot of people don't like the weather. I am ok with the weather. It's cold. It gets cold, but I think that New York is a better place for older people than say Florida, where you have to drive.

Well a lot of people grow old in Florida and they drive and when they get older they continue to drive and it's a problem when they can't drive. They get isolated.

21. That's right. And the final question : Would you have any recommendation for NYC to be even more age-friendly ?

You know we talk about that at work a lot and heu, I think it would be good for the elderly to provide some help to make sure the people remain in their homes, when and that they will get .. they should be more funding and services for older new Yorkers to reduce isolation. And we talk about it everyday.

6. Interview 5: Lady in Barnes and Noble – Upper West Side

1. Where do you live?

I live near here, on 77th street upper west side.

2. With who ? Do you live alone ?

My husband.

3. Are you from New York ?

No, I am from Ohio.

4. Ok and did you move a long time ago?

Heu, yes I moved to go to college, to Baruch College.

5. And do you have family here ?

Yes, you know my parents live nearby. I lived in Boston before I moved here, yeah my son and his children live here.

6. Do you see them often.

Yes once a week.

7. And when you meet them or your friend what do you do usually ?

Most recently I would watch some play or have dinner with some friends.

8. Are you a member of an association or a club ?

Heu, like a formal one ? I have a reading group and I have a political group and a short story group and I am learning specialist so I have two professional groups where I go regularly.

9. And are you doing any activities that are including children or babies ?

So, I tutor, I do this reading buddy thing with first and second grader once a week, and I am reading specialist so every afternoon I see three kids every afternoon who are elementary age. So I teach them. They are kids that have trouble reading.

10. That's very nice, and do you like outdoors activities ? Like walking, going to the park or even gardening ?

Hum, gardening around here ... heu, but I like walking and going to the park

11. Do you like museums, libraries ... ?

Libraries yes, shopping, and bookstore.

12. How happy do you feel here in New York ?

Hum well I have been here so long, I feel happy, I mean, heu, it's the first city I lived in and I like living in a city, I like being in a city rather than in the countryside.

13. Would you like to live somewhere else if you could ?

Well no all my friends and connections are here. Ideally, I lived for 2, my last 2 years of high school in Ohio in Boston. I like Boston.

14. So what do you think is hard in New York ?

Hum well transportation is easy, I like that. I like the subway, even if everyone is complaining about it. I mean when it works it is great. You know I mean, there are a lot of big problems in the city, it's hard to think that you won't make any difference, it's hard to figure out how to solve the problem. That's for you, young people.
(laugh)

15. Is there some place that you really like in New York ?

I really like the West Side, and heu Central Park and Riverside Park at least do don't get lost you can only see the way out. I like small exhibits as well, like the exhibit of the Folk Art Museum, it's very small, and at .. I like Museums, I live small places, but for a place I really like to go I like Riverside Park.

16. And is there places you don't like ?

Hum, I don't love Central Park because I get lost. I actually Like Brooklyn, that's for places I love. I mean I don't go to places I don't like so I can't really think of any.

17. And a what do you think about aging in a city like new York ?

I think if you can afford it it's great, you can have food delivered, you can .. I mean it's all about money, but I can take the elevator to my apartment and I can take a taxi if I have to go to entertainment, I mean it's very ... and I do know people who moved

out in the suburbs... and they are great hospitals which I think about, and which every older adult think about and it's easy to get around, but it's expensive so it's not an option to everyone.

18. So would you have any recommendation for New York to be more age friendly ?

Hum ... let's see . hum, for me, I do have connections here but there are people that can get lonely too, and .. I mean with what I've read, you know social connections is what you need wherever you are so I think if there were just more ways for people to meet when they are not able to get around. I mean, Actually I go to the talks here (Barnes and Nobles), it's fun and it cost nothing, and I know there are things, they are not musical but things that are .. not the performances but the students playing and that people tell me how wonderful it was, courses to take, but I don't know how available it is, I think all that should be more available.