

The background features a light blue gradient with numerous stylized, colorful illustrations of diverse people in various poses and outfits, including a woman in a red shirt and dark pants, a man in a yellow sweater and brown pants, a woman in a red polka-dot top and blue skirt, a man in a brown shirt and blue pants, a woman in a red dress, a man in a brown shirt and blue pants, a woman in a yellow shirt and blue overalls, a man in a brown shirt and red pants, a woman in a red shirt and dark pants, a man in a red shirt and dark pants, a woman in a blue and white striped sweater and dark pants, a woman in a tan top and blue shorts, a man in a blue and white striped sweater and dark pants, a woman in a red shirt and dark pants, a man in a red shirt and dark pants, a woman in a yellow dress, a man in a red shirt and dark pants, a woman in a blue jacket and dark pants, a man in a red shirt and dark pants, a woman in a tan top and blue shorts, a man in a yellow sweater and brown pants, a woman in a red dress, a man in a red shirt and dark pants, a woman in a yellow dress, and a man in a red shirt and dark pants.

Engaging in Digital and Physical Space

Our Team

Ecy
King '23



Tamilore
Awosile '23



Kendall
Beache '20



David
Kwoba '23



Who We Interviewed



Glenn: The Expert



Colins: The Hermit



Ace: The Performer



Todd: The Mingler

What We Asked



1

The Expert

How does one meaningfully engage people in a virtual setting?

2


The Entertainer

Describe the transition from engaging an in-person to a virtual audience.

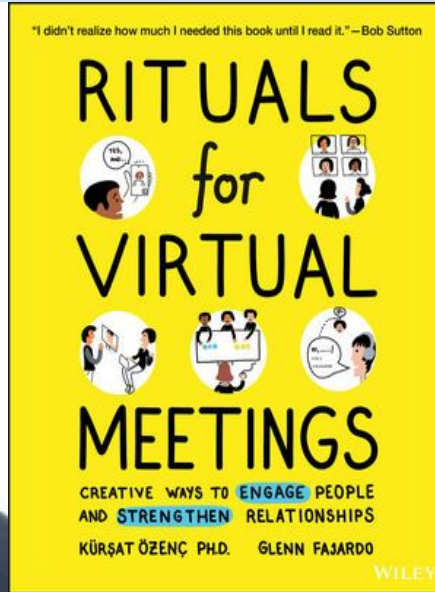
3

The Entertained

Describe the transition from being a part of an in-person to a virtual audience.



Interview Results



Glenn: The Expert

"I think the way we can move forward is to get people to experiment and try things and then see what works for them"



Ace:

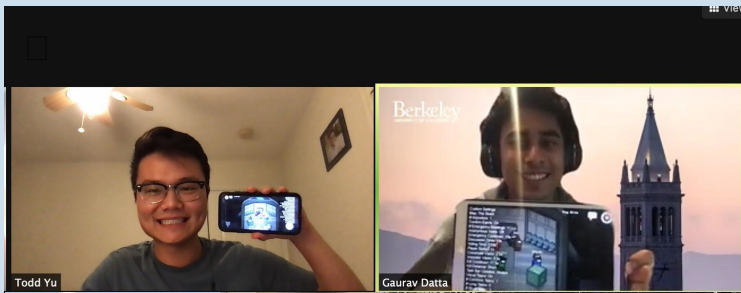
The Performer

"I encourage people, even if they're not presentable to turn on their cameras... to turn on their mics and snap because even though it's going to be messy, I love a chaotic good and I love to hear any sort of sounds like people breathing"



Collins: The 'Hermit'

"I can't tell you about a time when I had fun during the lockdown, I was mainly just doing work"



Todd: The Mingler

“I'm pretty sure this doesn't just apply to me too, but I didn't follow you know...I didn't become a hermit, like the rest of California wanted”

Empathy Map

Says

During the fall I was hoping around zoom calls a lot and it wasn't fun for me... it made me more efficient, and I can take on a greater workload, but that comes with the **detriments of less social interaction**

Being on a video call is now like a **universal experience**

I will say that I was very fortunate to have been thrown into an environment that was well adapted to be virtual with school and the internship

Everytime you turn around, someone tried to talk to you

There are so many ways which it **can create a beautiful opportunity**. And so that was a really great opportunity for me to **share my lyrics with folks in ways that I could not have done in person**

And what's interesting is I **actually feel like I'm hanging out with more people now** because now instead of watching a game with like two other people. There's like 10 other people and like all these all the texts

I can't tell you about a time when I had fun during the lockdown, I was mainly just doing work

We had only two microphones, so we were literally passing the mic back and forth on stage, **and that sort of chaos you can't really get virtually**

Thinks

Thinks if you feel like you're just kind of **stuck on one thing** and you you're not able to look at multiple things like that can be very frustrating

Thinks Zoom meetings are to the point: **everything feels like work** on zoom

Thinks it's important to **interact with the audience in some way**, shape or form

We want **feedback in the form of engagement**

Thinks it's **harder to decide which new people to connect** with online based solely on their profiles

Thinks performing virtually **has some advantages**, including no performance anxiety for pre-recorded gigs

Random interactions can happen on zoom but it is **much slower** (it takes 4 or 5 meetings)

Thinks **maintenance** with staying up to date with social media can be **burdensome**

Does

They **use platforms** like TikTok & Instagram stories to share small snippets of their creative processes. Also uses IG lives for performance

Drives up to see friends because he **rather have in person interactions**

Relies on FaceTime, Netflix, and small game nights now for social interaction due to social distancing

picks up **subconscious expression in people's voices**

Connected with people by going to events pre-pandemic

I encourage people, even if they're not presentable to **turn on their cameras... to turn on their mics and snap** because even though it's going to be messy, I love a chaotic good and I love to hear any sort of sounds like people breathing

Separates his work and social Zoom calls as best as he can by topic and by mental preparation

Be genuinely interested in how people are and what they're doing

Feels

"I want... performance to not be a one way situation... I really love when there's like **communication back and forth** between the audience and me onstage."

Productive in virtual space

Enjoyed meeting new people & having new experiences at in-person events

Bored and needing a break from the screen

Felt most **depressed** when he had to do his thesis during lockdown

Focused on being intentional in virtual spaces: "Am I able to bring my full self to this space?"

The **need** for personal interaction and spontaneity

Small interaction to and from meetings. "the little things" that make **grow friendships** and build trusts

“That's another pet peeve of zoom. I don't think you can build super, super meaningful relationships, unless you know the person beforehand.” - Todd

Insight: online chats, comments, and reactions are important for social engagement, but there seems to be a huge disconnect when it comes to emotionally engaging

Need: people are humans. They want emotional feedback online— to *feel* like they are heard and being listened to in a meaningful way.

Question: How might we create meaningful emotional connection online?

“We had only two microphones, so we were literally passing the mic back and forth on stage, and that sort of chaos you can't really get virtually” - Ace

Surprise: People miss and desire chaos, spontaneity, variety and novel experiences in virtual settings

Need: Variation is the spice of life and without it, people get bored easily and quickly. People need to change up their virtual and physical space to best engage.

Question: How might we be creatively spontaneous online, using the space around us and in front of us?

“There's all these kinds of affordances that you have that you wouldn't have in physical space. It's a matter of getting curious about what you can do and stretching the possibilities.” -Glenn

Contradiction: There are those who are limited by the constraints of the online space, and those who use those constraints to push the limits of their creativity

Need: People need to be able to explore and experiment, expanding their mindset about virtual space

Question: How might we encourage a growth mindset when it comes to virtual engagement?

People miss the
chaos and
spontaneity of in
person interactions

Physical, auditory,
participation are key
to meaningful
engagement



Performers + experts are
more likely to experiment
with virtual tools, whereas
the entertained are trying to
distance themselves

Questions?