

Hey Watch This!

Sharing the Self Through Media

Produced, Directed, and Edited by:

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Note about Names: In accordance with the research and ethics protocol for the study, interviewees in the video are cited by their preferred name. In most cases, participants requested to be referred to by their YouTube channel name. Capitalization and spelling are preserved as represented on a participant's YouTube channel, unless they appear as the first word in a sentence, then grammatical convention is followed. A few participants requested that I use their official first name, and a few requested that I use a pseudonym. YouTube participants whose interviews are not included in the film, or who are unknown to the video maker are listed as a "YouTube participant." The director is referred to in the transcript as Patricia.

00:02 [White writing on black screen] "If we wanted to tell our friends, 'Hey come and watch
00:03 this,' it'd be a lot easier if we just put it on YouTube" - A YouTube Participant
00:07 PrincessDiana161 [Speaking in her own video] I wanted to do a little vlog
00:09 and say how much *fun* I have had on YouTube. I have- I've had- I've had mad fun with
00:16 you people.
00:17 Eric [Speaking his own video] Hey guys, how's it going? I just wanted to make this
00:19 video before I left for the L.A. gathering which I'm really excited about.
00:22 Lemonette [Speaking in her video] Just huggin' and kissin' and and laughin' and-
00:28 Oh, it's just awesome. And I know you all get tired of hearing that from people.
00:33 You just don't know. You just gotta go to experience it. But it's the truth.
00:37 I- I'm just going to join- get on the bandwagon with 'em and tell ya. If you've never
00:42 been, you don't know what you're missing. And um, no video can relate what it's like.
00:49 And you just need to go!
00:50 K80Blog [Speaking in her video] It's gonna be so much fun. I am so excited. I can't wait
00:55 to meet the people I'm gonna meet and see all the people I'm fans of, and God, it's gonna
01:03 be- I'm just really really excited. So I'll see you there, if you're going.' And if you're not,
01:11 I'm going to do video blogs and uh, they'll probably come up way after the fact but that's
01:17 fine. But I'm definitely bringing my camera and I'm definitely doing video blogs.
01:23 [Image of woman vlogging with a man chatting, inaudibly]
01:26 [Writing appearing on screen as if being typed] Hey Watch This!
01:31 [Writing appearing on screen as if being typed] Sharing the Self Through Media
01:36 [Writing appears on screen] An Ethnographic Experience
01:38 [Writing appears on screen] Mediated by Patricia G. Lange
01:42 [Camera panning around a Hollywood street. People are milling around, talking.]

01:42 [Writing on screen] “As One” Hollywood
01:42 [Patricia speaking in voice over] This is the scene right now, right here.
01:48 OhCurt [Sees Patricia filming and speaks to her]: See the thing is, I know you’re shooting
01:50 footage. If I post nothing on my channel, we’re still covered.
01:53 Patricia [Speaking to OhCurt]: Maybe, you trust me that much?
01:55 OhCurt: Well-
01:56 Patricia: There’s been mistakes (laughs).
01:57 OhCurt: That’s true. And I actually thought I was recording in Atlanta when it turns out, I
02:02 had hit the stop button.
02:03 Patricia: Oh yeah?
02:04 OhCurt: Some of that footage was very confusing.
02:06 Patricia: It happens.
02:07 OhCurt: Yes.
02:09 Cory [From SMPFilms, talking to the crowd]: I’m like ok we’ll we’re not sponsored and
02:11 we’re not making money. We’re just hanging out so, like.
02:14 Boh3m3 [Pronounced bo-heme; yelling out from the crowd]: Speech!
02:15 Cory: Speech?
02:17 YouTube participant [Speaking to Cory]: Yeah! Go! Go! Go!
02:19 Cory: Alright, so, uh. Number one I just want to tell you guys, thanks for coming
02:23 out I really appreciate it. Uh, but the main thing, uh the reason why I didn’t promote this
02:28 like really really big is because I kind of just wanted the hometown people here. You
02:32 know to just kind of chill out. You know of course we’ve got Karen all the way from uh,
02:35 Minnesota.
02:38 Patricia: Yeah!
02:39 Cory: But uh, you know the big thing about this is I just want to remind everybody that
02:42 like, there really is a community on YouTube. You know whether YouTube wants
02:49 to really get involved with it or not. The main thing is, is we’re here with each other to
02:53 share the stories and the experiences because when you go home to your friends how
02:56 many of you guys can relate to telling your friend, “Oh man, dude you have to see this
03:01 new video from this girl that’s talking about this and that.” And they’re like “Dude
03:04 whatever.” And they walk away and you’re just like, man they just don’t *get it*. Well
03:09 today we get it. So, that’s the whole thing. You know share your stories. We’re going to
03:12 be here till like later on.
03:15 [YouTube participant hands Cory a microphone] Cory: Can you hear me? Okay. Yeah, so
03:16 we’re gonna be here till like you know five o’clock. I don’t know what we’re gonna do.
03:21 If anything let’s just go with the flow and do what you want to do. Have some fun. Walk
03:24 around. That’s all it’s about. Just have some fun and hang out.
03:27 [Camera pans around to see people hugging and talking]
03:37 Spricket24: Oh my gosh. NickyNik you son of a bitch! Come here!
03:43 [Spricket24 pretends to knee NickyNik in the groin. He laughs. They embrace.]
03:46 NickyNik [Speaking to Spricket24]: What’s happening?
03:47 Patricia: [Speaking to musoSF]: How did you get started on YouTube?
03:50 MusoSF: Um, I- it started with the typical, I would- somebody would sent me a link to
03:56 some funny video and I would come look at it. And uh, so I would just- I didn’t have an
04:00 account. But then I read a news article about geriatric1927 being the 87 or something-

04:06 year-old guy who is on YouTube. And so I thought oh that sounds interesting, I'll go
04:12 check that out. And I watched a video of his and then I wanted to comment. And I
04:16 realized you have to have an account to comment. So I created an account. And then um,
04:22 then I started watching his videos. And I went ahead and subscribed to him. And then
04:25 I started finding other people that he talked about and eventually I started thinking,
04:31 maybe *I* can do this. So a few months later, I started making my own videos.
04:34 Veronica: I actually started as just a watcher. Um, I was in a car accident four years ago.
04:40 Um, and I lost my ability to walk. And there wasn't much that I could do but play video
04:45 games and play on the internet. That was my thing. And seeing other people go through
04:51 like difficult times really made me, allowed me to, see that okay, I'm not alone. You
04:56 know, and then watching like *Nalts* and *MuggleSam* and people like that. Like, I was like,
05:01 oh wow they're so adorable or they're so funny or stuff like that. [So I] got to see a real
05:07 human side of people. And then I remember one of my first videos was a response to
05:13 *Nalts Gets Fit*, and I had just gotten cleared to start working out. And it was in the
05:19 beginning of this year and I figured you know what, this is going to be my time to start
05:23 getting the support that I need.
05:24 Anakin1814: Uh, the idea to share my life with people and get a response. Actually, I've
05:32 been writing journals my whole life. Um, in notebooks for years since like 6th or 7th
05:38 grade. Eventually I took that online, kind of doing a blog thing. Um, the whole
05:43 podcasting thing came out and video podcasting. And there was a site called YouTube
05:47 where I could do- put my videos so I could make them easy to look at, [and] view, this
05:54 site called YouTube. And I could embed them on MySpace and my journal and all that
05:58 stuff. And eventually this community formed and now I've been on YouTube for a
06:04 couple years and it's just amazing how its changed. And I see it as like a big grand
06:10 scheme art project, me sharing my life and getting feedback for it.
06:15 Patricia [Speaking to Susan]: What made you start making YouTube videos?
06:19 Susan: That's actually very embarrassing, um (laughs). I started making YouTube videos
06:24 to capture the attention of *Blunty3000*. And it worked.
06:30 Patricia: Why did you want to capture his attention?
06:32 Susan: 'Cause he's attractive (laughs)
06:35 Patricia: And it worked. What happened?
06:37 Susan: Well, we became very good friends. I mean there was a lot of uh, there was-
06:43 there was some good uh flirting, definitely. But we became friends. And I actually
06:52 became *very* good friends with his subsequent girlfriend. So and she and I- I would
06:59 consider her a very good friend.
07:01 [People hanging out on porch of a resort hotel] A YouTube participant [Speaking to a
participant whose channel is called *Tubegranny*: You is one hot bitch!
07:03 [Writing on screen]: "SouthTube" Marietta, Georgia
07:04 [People chatting and recording]
07:05 YouTube participant: You need to borrow [inaudible] shoes there *Tubegranny*.
07:17 YouTube participant [Speaking to *Tubegranny*]: *Tubegranny*, where you going' now?
07:20 *Tubegranny*: Downstairs.
07:21 YouTube participant: Huh *Tubegranny*. You giving out autographed pictures now?
07:26 *Tubegranny*: I sure am.
07:28 YouTube participant: [Am I gonna get one of them] autographed pictures?
07:29 *Tubegranny*: I ain't got but five left.

07:30 [People milling around and laughing in the resort's lobby]
07:34 Nalts: [Laughs; a YouTube participant kisses him on the cheek] Oh! Do you guys mind
07:38 if I get naked? [Glancing in Patricia's direction] Is anybody taping this?
07:41 Patricia [Speaking to lemonette]: I was curious to know why uh you helped organize
07:44 SouthTube today?
07:45 Lemonette: Well it was an accident. I didn't- I didn't really mean to. Um, a character
07:51 named Tubegranny on YouTube left a comment on a web page of mine that said uh,
07:58 "Praise the Lord, let's do lunch," or something to that effect.
08:02 Lemonette: I knew we had like three or four more in the general area that would have no
08:06 problem meeting up. So he said, oh he got so excited, he said I've been waiting for
08:11 somebody to say that. Let's- let's do it. Let's just y'all get together and meet for lunch.
08:17 So this is- this is the little lunch- [this] is me and Tubegranny doing lunch. Um, he
08:23 contacted um by email, uh another friend of ours, hmarty, um and several of us in
08:33 Georgia. And uh it just kind of ballooned from there. We were like, well we need a
08:37 location where a lot of people can get together and you know they could drink if they
08:43 want to. Or it could be like a family- we wanted everybody to be welcome because um,
08:48 some of the gatherings were more like "partyville" you know and this has been partyville,
08:53 don't get me wrong! But it's been a very welcoming place for families too. Hmarty is the
08:59 one that did all the planning. All I did was suggest lunch together.
09:03 Patricia [speaking to DaleATL2]: What brought you to SouthTube today?
09:05 DaleAtl2: (laughs) I have been on YouTube for uh over a year now. I have actually made
09:10 genuine friends in that period of time. And uh most of those genuine friends I have not
09:16 been able to cement that friendship by actually physically saying hello and shaking a
09:20 hand or giving a hug and this was actually the opportunity that uh- it's the only type of
09:25 opportunity you have when so many people in a community are so spread out. So I could
09:29 not miss this opportunity. Plus it was ten miles from my house so I couldn't pass that up.
09:34 Jenluv37: I really was just looking forward to meeting uh different people. Uh you meet
09:38 people online and you get a sense for their personality and you wonder what they're like
09:42 in person and most of the time my experience at this point has been that they're very
09:46 similar to their personalities online. And it's'- it's exciting to get to spend time with the
09:52 personality you get to know online.
09:54 ZenArcher: I know these people. Better than I know my own neighbors, I know these
09:58 people. [Images of people hanging out at a barbeque in a wooded area] I know what
09:59 they're about and what they do. And- it was- it was like going to a family reunion. That's
10:05 what it was about.
10:06 [White writing on black screen] And now...A SouthTube "Press Conference"
10:10 [Lemonette holds a green gourd, pretending that it is a microphone and she is reporting to
10:11 reporters or paparazzi] Lemonette: I'm going to tell you the truth. This is- News flash!
10:14 News flash! Right now, I am wearing women's underwear.
10:20 [Humorous reactions from mock paparazzi] YouTube participant: Oh! Oh! My God!
10:22 Lemonette: I'm sorry.
10:24 Lemonette: The truth can finally be told.
10:27 Lemonette: Lemonette is wearing women's underwear.
10:30 YouTube participant: How dare you?!
10:31 YouTube participant: [dramatically] Dun dun dunnn! (laughter)

10:34 Lemonette: You know the South's supposed to be genteel and- There are freaks down
10:41 here. But I'm telling you. *I am* a freak. I'm a Georgia freak.
10:46 Lemonette: Oh look at him. Isn't he cute?
10:49 YouTube participant: Look at how many cameras. I want to show this. Wait, wait, wait. I
10:52 need to show this.
10:57 YouTube participant: Fucking cameras, everywhere.
11:00 YouTube participant: Around lemonette. Everybody circle! Everybody circle!
11:02 [YouTubers circle around lemonette, recording her] Lemonette: I'm talking to *you*!
11:03 YouTube participant: I mean you either get YouTube or you don't. I mean like, like I say.
11:07 Part of this was Tubegranny. I mean I go on and I find the humor in what Cory [from
11:12 Tubegranny] does, his singing. Um and his Tubegranny, his hoochie coochie. I call my
11:15 mother in, or my sister. And they're like, do these people have jobs? How do they have
11:21 time to think all this up? When do they go to work? But you know like some people
11:24 [inaudible] just like anything. Everyone has hobbies and interests. There's people that are
11:28 out I guess fishing. People like golfing. What the people that are 'Tubers do, is in their
11:35 spare time, they're thinking creatively, what they could video, what could they put up
11:39 that's funny, that'll get people interested and entertain people. That's what I'm, you
11:45 know, my opinion.
11:47 Patricia [Speaking to OhCurt]: So, would you mind holding this, cause-
11:48 OhCurt: (laughs) You sure?
11:49 Patricia: I- I can't get the right distance.
11:50 OhCurt: [Adjusting the camera] Alright.
11:51 Patricia: Thanks.
11:52 OhCurt: Let me make sure I'm not hitting other- Okay hit a button. Sorry.
11:54 Patricia: (laughs) Hit a button.
11:55 OhCurt: I hit a menu. Oh if I hit it again, it goes away? Alright.
11:58 Patricia: So is that- [checks camera] okay.
11:59 OhCurt: Alright.
12:00 Patricia: Do you think it's important for everyone to be on camera, on YouTube?
12:03 OhCurt: (laughs) As we're struggling to be on camera here as you ask that question.
12:06 Patricia: I know, exactly.
12:07 OhCurt: Uh, no, I don't think it's important. Um, at least it's not compulsory. Um, there
12:12 are plenty of people who have never made videos on YouTube. Uh, who've spent the last
12:16 three years just leaving nice, friendly comments to me and other people and they interact
12:21 with the rest of us, it's- It- it eventually you get to know people one way or the other.
12:26 Either through their videos or through what they say in text. It can work without video.
12:32 Patricia: Yeah, cause some people say, oh why do people hide behind a Powerpoint
12:35 presentation? And they don't like that.
12:36 OhCurt: (laughs)
12:37 Patricia: You know, it's hard to be on camera though. You have to have certain skills, I
12:40 think.
12:41 OhCurt: Yeah, or at least if not the skills, the comfort level.
12:43 Patricia: (nods)
12:44 OhCurt: I mean I wouldn't necessarily say that I have the skills but my comfort level has
12:48 improved.
12:50 Patricia: Hmm. (nods) Just by doing it a lot or-?

12:51 OhCurt: You- yeah, the first video I made specifically for YouTube, I was nervous
12:56 beyond repair. I- I think I spent like thirty minutes shooting, and I ended up with three
13:01 minutes that was usable. And it took some creative editing to make it all cohesive.
13:06 Yeah, I was very nervous at the idea that this is going to go out on the internet. Because
13:10 of the idea- because back then I didn't really know- I didn't really know what that meant.
13:15 Who would be watching it-
13:16 Patricia: Sure.
13:17 OhCurt: [and in] what can, you know, in what capacity or whatever, so.
13:20 Patricia: Yeah. But now you're comfortable?
13:21 OhCurt: I'm comfortable with it because I've resigned myself to the fact that you don't
13:24 know who's watching and you just- you know, you don't control who is hitting play.
13:30 Patricia: Hm mm.
13:31 OhCurt: That's just how it is.
13:32 Patricia: That's how it is.
13:32 OhCurt: Yeah.
13:33 Patricia: Alright, thanks a lot.
13:33 OhCurt: Sure.
13:33 [White writing on screen appear on black screen] "I vlog therefore I am..."
13:34 [Green writing on screen appear on black screen] Y'all Watch This
13:34 Patricia [Speaking to musoSF]: Do you think it's important for people to be in their own
13:36 videos?
13:38 MusoSF [In voice over]: I think they need to spend some time in their own videos just so
13:41 people can get an idea of who they are and what they're doing.
13:40 [While musoSF is speaking, the film shows a montage of different people who are
vlogging in their own videos, seen against various backgrounds such as in their living
room, den, kitchen, or driving in their car]
13:44 MusoSF: Um, I mean I think that's what builds more of a community on the site. There's
13:48 people who are just doing it to put out their- their work, their art work and their- it's
13:51 really not about them but-
13:53 Patricia [Voice over]: Right.
13:54 MusoSF [Voice over]: That you can see anywhere. I think- I think it's important for- if- if
13:57 you're involved in the community or want to be involved in the community you should
14:00 appear at least occasionally in your own videos so people know what *you're* personality
14:04 is.
14:05 Patricia [Voice over]: Just cause it seems like a skill, that you know you either have it or
14:08 you- you should develop it, maybe.
14:10 MusoSF [Voice over]: Yeah, but I think, I mean I- I was never- I never felt like I was
14:13 skilled in that way and I- for I long time I wouldn't be in my- well I- I would but I would
14:18 always be cra- being crazy and not myself but um but like every once in a while I would
14:24 think of something that I wanted to talk about so I would. And when I did, people were
14:28 like oh, it's so cool to see you just talking and even if you're *not* good at it, I think people
14:33 want to see that. Because we want- those of us who are kind of into this and want to
14:36 spend a lot of time on it-
14:37 Patricia: Yeah
14:38 MusoSF [Voice over]: It's important to get to know each other and- and people will start
14:41 getting on someone's case, like why don't you ever talk? I'd love to see you just do a

14:45 vlog, you know. So, I think- I think that's- I think that most people who have gone ahead
14:49 and tried it have been glad that they did even if- even though they still say, no I'm not
14:54 doing this. This is not what my thing is going to be but-
14:56 Patricia: [Voice over] But they, but they tried it, is the thing.
14:59 MusoSF [Voice over]: Yeah. Yeah.
15:01 [Music plays. White writing appears on a black screen. The written dates and voice over
are excerpted from the video *My YouTube Story*, posted under the account name of
bnessel1973, who refers to himself in his videos as Brian. The writing says: January 26,
2007]
15:02 Brian [In voice over from his video *My YouTube Story*]: January 26, 2007.
15:06 [Within the video *My YouTube Story*, Brian shows one of his old videos. This video is
depicted as an inset image in *Hey Watch This!* Brian is facing the camera and speaking in
the video in his inset image.]
15:07 Brian [Speaking in his inset video]: Hey this is Brian.
15:10 Brian [In voice over from *My YouTube Story*]: It was an inauspicious start to a YouTube
15:12 career. A three minute video taken from my cell phone. Poor lighting, poor sound, and a
15:19 lens that made me appear much more Yeti-like than reality. But it was a start, and all
15:25 things must start somewhere. [Note: A Yeti is a legendary, abominable snowman
creature.]
15:32 Brian [Speaking in his inset video]: A couple people have requested that I [made] a
15:30 video.
15:31 [Writing appears on screen, excerpted from Brian's video *My YouTube Story*. The writing
says, February 27, 2007]
15:32 Brian [Voice over]: February 27, 2007.
15:35 [Writing appears on screen. The writing shows text comments posted by YouTube
participants to bnessel1973's video *My YouTube Story*. Images from Brian's video have
been removed in this section and are substituted with comments Brian received on his
video. The comments were curated by the director and play during Brian's original voice
over, in place of his original video images. The comments scroll from different
directions, sometimes the top, bottom, or side, to show how comments can feel as though
they are coming from many directions.]
15:36 Brian [Voice over] My baby boy Evan passed away from SIDS. [Note: SIDS stands for
sudden infant death syndrome.]
15:37 [Writing appears on screen] Comment: I am so sorry for your loss.
15:40 Brian [Voice over]: Everything in my life changed that day. Everything.
15:46 [Writing appears on screen] Comment: I also lost my son and came to youtube to help me
15:47 deal with the loss.
15:47 Brian [Voice over]: YouTube. Family. Everything just became different for me.
15:54 [Writing appears on screen] Comment: How do we put our hearts and souls in these
tiny comment boxes in return?
15:55 Brian [Voice over]: The person that I was prior to that day was no longer around. My
16:01 laugh was gone. My *hope* was gone.
16:06 [Writing appears on screen] Comment: That is the cutest baby. Anyone would miss him.
16:07 Thanks for all your videos.
16:08 Brian [Voice over]: And I really didn't know what I was going to do with myself. I knew
16:11 that somehow I needed to get back to the person that I was.

16:15 [Writing appears on screen] Comment: ...I am glad you found so many friends to help
16:18 you get through this...we all have stories to tell about our lives...
16:19 Brian [Voice over]: Even though I was going to miss my little guy every single day. I
16:25 needed an escape from reality.
16:27 [Writing appears on screen] Comment: Thank you for putting a smile on my face. I've
16:28 loved your video since the beginning and I still do!
16:28 Brian [Voice over]: And when I came back to YouTube, it became that place. But I
16:33 didn't feel comfortable being myself on YouTube anymore. I was trying to get away
16:38 from the emotions that I couldn't control in my real life. And that is when my "friends"
16:43 came to stay with me.
16:46 Brian [Voice over] April 17, 2007.
16:47 [Writing appears on screen] April 17, 2007.
16:49 Brian [Voice over]: Creating characters gave me an escape.
16:52 [Images from a montage appear in an inset box. The montage is from bnessel1973's
video *My YouTube Story*. They depict his fictional characters and their facial expressions
as he describes their importance to him.]
16:52 Brian [Voice over]: It allowed me to be silly. It allowed me to act how I wanted to feel. It
16:57 became a form of therapy, a- a coping mechanism. And after a while, it brought fun back
17:03 to YouTube for me. It also allowed me to be creative. I was able to create stories,
17:10 relationships, and silly drama between myself and my characters. What was just going to
17:15 be a few videos with these guys ended up being my niche. And what I love doing. It also
17:22 brought many of *you* into my life. You accepted my characters, even embraced them.
17:27 And by doing so, you opened your arms to me. You allowed me to continue to have the
17:33 escape I still need from the hard times. While giving me the chance to talk about what I
17:38 have gone through. And I'm eternally grateful to you all. The number of videos I've
17:44 made is far less important to me than the journey these videos have led me on. And the
17:49 friends I have made through YouTube are some of the closest I have in my life.
17:55 [Writing appears on screen.] Comment posted by Brian: Thank you so much.
17:56 You've touched me with your comments, and always been there to support me. It means
17:57 a lot to me.
18:00 [Writing appears on screen] Do YouTubers engage in "participatory cultures"
18:00 Henry Jenkins: Participatory cultures are cultures where- which are very open ended.
18:04 They allow lots of people to make contributions. Uh, we think participatory cultures are a
18:10 really rich learning environment. So if we look at for example, the communities of fans
18:17 on the internet. Or blog communities that grow up around gaming. Or communities that
18:22 emerge through video blogging. What we see are spaces where lots of people are making
18:27 contributions. They have a sense that their contributions matter to other participants.
18:32 Uh, there's sometimes formal or informal critiques that are taking place, which allow
18:37 people to acquire skills and improve at them. Um, often it's a case where newbies are
18:43 learning from more experienced players, but not with a fixed hierarchy or predetermined
18:49 trajectory. It's not like schools where there's teachers and students. It's more like mutual
18:53 mentorship, emerges in those kinds of environments. There is a sense that not every
18:58 member needs to contribute, but every member should feel like they could contribute,
19:03 and that they feel that their contributions are going to be recognized and valued within
19:07 the groups.
19:08 [Writing appears on screen] "Midwest Gathering" Minneapolis

19:09 Spricket24: (smiling and waving to the camera) Hi!

19:10 [Image shows people walking down a street. Some of the people smile and wave to the camera as they pass.]

19:17 [Image of a woman laughing and signing a man's souvenir YouTube T-shirt]

19:21 YouTube participant [Speaking to the man as she signs]: You look like you're

19:22 in pain.

19:25 [Image shows people on a city street vlogging together. Several cameras are visible.]

19:26 BroJo Ghost: Let's make it a fourth, with an autobiography going on at the same time.

19:28 YouTube participant [from off camera]: Now we know it's YouTube.

19:29 BroJoGhost: [Realizing the lens cap is still on, and removes it.] Lens cap!

19:31 BroJo Ghost: Okay. So, I'm John. And my user name is BroJo Ghost, b-r-o-j-o g-h-o-s-t.

19:40 And uh-

19:41 YouTube participant: Look it's a camera off. Duck! (laughter)

19:45 BroJo Ghost: So yeah welcome to-

19:46 YouTube participant [Chasing down another participant]: Lurker!

19:47 BroJo Ghost: Minneapolis. And uh, pretty surprised there's a big turnout. And wow,

19:53 there's lots of people.

19:54 Anakin1814: What's it like having everyone record you at once? (laughter from off camera)

19:57 YouTube participant [From off camera] Parallel universe.

19:58 BroJo Ghost: I don't know. It's never happened before. I'm usually the one behind the

20:01 camera and I'm usually like-

20:02 YouTube participant: How does it feel?

20:03 BroJo Ghost: I'm not used to like recording myself or being recorded.

20:05 Anakin1814: Well how many people watch your videos? Just like right now, only ten

20:08 people have watched this video. It's- it's a failure.

20:11 YouTube participant [Raises hand]: First!

20:12 BroJo Ghost: Just like mine.

20:13 Anakin1814: You suck!

20:15 Brojo Ghost [Bows] Thank you.

20:17 YouTube participant: Go die!

20:20 YouTube participant [Gesturing down the street]: Here comes the grey-shirted lurker!

20:23 YouTube participant: [Inaudible] take video of the lurker!

20:27 YouTube participant: We're making your first video *now* lurker! (laughter)

20:31 Patricia: How do people in participatory cultures generally treat lurkers?

20:36 Henry Jenkins: Well I think a lurker is first of all seen as a potential participant in most

20:41 cases. Unless the lurker becomes a troll or a stalker, right? That lurking is a way of

20:45 learning. It's peripheral exposure to the activities of the group, and over time the lurker

20:52 learns what it takes to become fully a participant. Now for many cases, a large chunk of

20:59 the population are lurking, in the sense that they are not actively contributing yet. But

21:03 they provide an audience for the performance and the creative expression of other

21:08 members. And so, if you're YouTube- if you post your stuff on YouTube, the percentage

21:12 of people who post stuff is much lower than the percentage of people who comment on

21:16 stuff, is much lower than the percentage of people who watch stuff, or send out links to

21:22 videos to their friends and so forth. But each of those people are doing important work

21:26 that sustains the creative community. Now, generally, a participatory culture takes as its

21:31 value, bringing more people into the center of that, increasing participation. And so there
21:37 is a kind of pull or tug on a lurker over time, at least in a fairly robust social community
21:43 of participatory culture, to join and become more public with their participation.
21:48 [Image shows a group of participants jeering and pointing to another participant]
21:49 Spricket24: Lurker! Get an account lurker! (laughter)
21:53 YouTube participant [From off camera]: Peer pressure.
21:55 Spricket24: But how are we going to know if he *does* get an account? How are we gonna
21:58 know it's *him*, is what I'm saying.
21:59 YouTube participant: I- I think we should make *him* an account saying, "The Midwest
22:02 Gathering's uh, Lurker." (laughter)
22:05 [Other participants offer suggestions for the lurker's account name]
22:07 YouTube participant: Lurker 6-7-8
22:08 YouTube participant: We could just have him make a name that we know is going to be
22:11 unique and then-
22:12 YouTube participant: S24Lurker.
22:14 YouTube participant: We'll just pick his name.
22:17 [Image of the Ontario Science Centre appears on screen. Writing on screen says "888"
Toronto]
22:20 [People sit around a drum circle in front of drums or holding instruments such as maracas
and simple metal cymbals. The drum circle is being facilitated by a member of the
science center.]
22:22 Drum circle facilitator: You guys ready? Alright!
22:24 [The facilitator begins beating out a rhythm. Participants slowly begin beating on drums
and playing their instruments. The rhythm eventually becomes more intricate. The image
shows people smiling and enjoying participating in the drum circle.]
23:07 Patricia [Speaking to myloflex]: Do you find it easy to come to these meet-ups in terms
23:10 of finances and time off work and things like that?
23:13 Myloflex: Not really. Honestly, um. The one in New York a year ago, was very, very
23:18 difficult. You know, hotel, flight. Um, here I'm- I'm a little more local so it is easier, but
23:24 getting the time off wasn't easy. I had to work a lot of straight days to get this- this
23:29 weekend off. Uhh, and the drive is just- a commute's a commute you know, in Toronto
23:34 so.
23:36 Patricia: Why did you decide to come anyway?
23:37 Myloflex: Why? You know what, it's fun! I like it. I think it's fun. I get to meet the
23:41 people I talk to or comment on all the time on YouTube. And it's a chance to see them
23:46 again. You know it's nice. It's like one year around. And uh, it's- it's fun.
23:52 [White writing on black screen says: Sadly, not everyone can attend a meet-up...]
23:56 [White writing on black screen says: But YouTube participants find a way to include
others...]
23:59 [A man and two women are standing in front of a computer, which has a web cam. They
are smiling and talking to the screen. A woman blows a kiss toward the screen.]
24:00 [Writing on the bottom of the screen says: People interacting via web cam with remote
participants]
24:14 Patricia [Speaking to the man in front of the computer]: Can you add comments?
24:16 YouTube participant: Yeah.

24:20 [Image shows a giant projected screen in the middle of the room. Writing at the bottom of the screen says: Their live video chat session on Stickam shown on a big screen]

24:25 [Image shows a close up of the Stickam chat session running during the YouTube meet-up in Toronto. There are two rows of six boxes (for a total twelve boxes) in which video images of remote participants are being displayed. Underneath the two rows of video images is a text chat session. Note: Stickam was a live video chat service that ran from 2005 to 2013.]

24:34 [The image cuts to a pan around a different room with slowly changing colors. First pink, then red, then green. The image shows a party in which people are chatting and drinking.]

24:44 [A woman sees Patricia recording the scene and her. She approaches Patricia with her camera and trains the camera on Patricia.]

24:47 [The image changes to an outdoor park. White writing on the screen says: Santa Monica Meet-Up. MusoSF is holding a popsicle stick in this left hand that has a small photograph of another YouTube participant on the end of it.]

24:48 Voices off camera are heard saying: Can you put Gary closer to the camera? Put Gary-

24:49 turn him this way. There you go.

24:50 MusoSF: Oh so you want Gary in the picture is that it? It's not about me. It's somebody

24:54 to hold the freakin' popsicle stick!

24:57 [Laughter off-camera is heard.]

25:01 [MusoSF mugs for the camera, attempting to adopt the same expression as Gary has in the photograph on the popsicle stick.]

25:09 MusoSF [Turns the popsicle stick around. There is a different photograph and facial expression of Gary on the other side. MusoSF again comically mimics his expression]: Oh wait, now this one.

25:14 MusoSF [Adjusts his expression]: Wait, no.

25:16 YouTube participant [Speaking off camera]: Put him closer to you. There.

25:19 YouTube participant [Speaking off camera]: Hold him next to your heart.

25:25 YouTube participant [Speaking off camera]: Good old Gary.

25:26 [The image shows the popsicle stick stuck in the ground, the way one might place such a stick holding a small garden sign, say with seed information.]

25:27 MusoSF: And if we water it, a *new* Gary will grow!

25:29 [More laughter is heard coming from off camera]

25:32 [The image becomes unsteady, as the director attempts to focus on the popsicle stick.]

25:35 Patricia: It's hard to laugh and hold the camera at the same time. (laughter)

25:38 Michael Wesch: YouTube is actually connected into this vast network of other sites,

25:43 right? So, part of this huge media scape. Um, and when we started doing the research, we

25:48 just- we just literally sat down at the front door of YouTube, like the most recent, uh

25:55 uploads. And we just watched them, second by second. We'd log them and look at what

26:00 we were seeing as it was coming in. So the ten of us, like myself and nine

26:04 undergraduates, we each took like three random seconds throughout the day and we

26:09 watched all these videos and we catalogued them. You know and tried to figure out

26:13 what's the distribution? And we found- the- the coolest thing we found was that 2% of

26:17 them were people just talking to each other on YouTube. And actually referencing

26:22 something that they called the YouTube community, right? And this is bizarre to people

26:26 who think that YouTube is all about skateboarding dogs and- and whatev- Nora, the

26:31 piano playing cat or whatever right. Um, and- but there's this really rich community and

26:36 what struck us about it was the depth of connection we that were seeing on there. And we
26:42 started wondering how does that happen? And why does that happen? And we thought
26:45 the only way to find out is to do YouTube ourselves so that's when my students started
26:50 vlogging and starting to get that experience of what it is to be on YouTube. And we
26:56 quickly discovered, that's really- that's a profound, deep human connection that you feel
27:02 somehow when you connect with somebody via web cam and you really only get it when
27:06 you do it, I guess.

27:08 Patricia [Speaking to DaleATL2]: You mentioned the word community. Do you think
27:09 that YouTube is a community?

27:12 DaleATL2: Uh, absolutely. Uh and- and an event like this cemented that in me if I had
27:16 any doubts whatsoever. I would equate it to the pen pals of old. But on steroids. Because
27:24 no longer are you only communicating on paper. You're communicating both visually
27:29 and auditorially. And you've got the sens- all the- well except for the sense of smell. And
27:34 touch. And that's what the touch is for. This is the touch and smell. You're getting all the
27:38 senses together.

27:39 [Image shows four people interacting with cameras at SouthTube in Georgia]

27:39 DaleATL2: If you've got video of this whole event, you have seen a cross
27:42 section of society that goes from race [image changes to show people standing in line to
27:45 receive SouthTube bag and meet-up materials], creed, religion, sexual orientation, you
27:48 name it, and it's all right here at this event. [Image changes to show YouTubers at a
barbeque. DaleATL2 walks over to someone and pats him on the shoulder.]

27:51 DaleATL2 [Voice over]: And that to me is the definition of community but better.

27:56 Patricia [Speaking to Susan]: How as your experience been on YouTube in general?

28:00 Susan: Ninety percent awesome, and ten percent deplorable, so.

28:08 Patricia: And what's behind the "deplorable" part?

28:10 Susan: People who have nothing better to do, than be cruel to others. And they're not
28:21 even ten percent of the population. They're I would say at most point five percent
28:28 of the YouTubian population. But it's amazing how the most horrible, deplorable,
28:39 hideous side of any society is extremely visible.

28:47 Patricia [Speaking to robtran]: How have you found YouTube as an environment for
28:50 posting your videos?

28:51 Robtran: Um, it started off as a lot of fun in August and early September of last year. And
28:56 then starting in mid-late September, um, for reasons I can't understand and I'm not gonna
29:02 try, I attracted the attention of a coterie of about twenty or thirty people, based in
29:07 Scotland and Belgium who hate me (laughs). Um, they make uh, video response-,
29:13 obscene video responses. They take my videos and- off of YouTube and mash them up.
29:18 For example, I made a- I made a video about anti-Semitism, which was of course *against*
29:23 it. And they- they took it, mashed it up so that I was saying things like "I hate Jews," and
29:29 titled it *Robtran Hates Jews*. And if you- see with YouTube if you type in "robtran," what
29:34 you see, before you see any of my videos, is one after another of these mash-up, hater
29:40 videos that these people produced. There's about thirty of them altogether. They even
29:44 formed a group called (gestures to make air quotes) "the blobtrain" um that is dedicated
29:48 to hating me, and harassing me (shrugs shoulders). I mean um basically my feeling about
29:54 YouTube is that YouTube is not a community in any sense of the term. Um, things-
29:58 events like this are fun to come to and hang out and see people that you've only seen on
30:01 YouTube which is the only reason I'm here. Um, and that's- that's fine but as far as a real

30:08 sense of community, um no. Absolutely not. And it's- people are here for themselves.
30:12 People are here to promote themselves and there's nothing wrong with that. It's not evil.
30:16 You know, I mean it's- it's the way of our system. But to kind of pretend that it's a
30:21 community when it's not is- is to me, the height of hypocrisy.
30:25 Patricia [Speaking to anakin1814]: What happened after uh we talked in Minneapolis?
30:27 Anakin1814: About two days after I got featured on the front page of YouTube.
30:32 Patricia: Congratulations!
30:33 Anakin1814: Thank you.
30:35 Patricia: Is that something you were happy about?
30:37 Anakin1814: Um, it was exciting at first. And then it turned into...this thing (shakes his
30:47 head). Where, my email box was flooded for two weeks. And everybody just hated on
30:56 me. Like two thousand hateful comments about killing my family and blah blah blah.
31:03 Um, originally it was bad. Um, it was too much. With no warning. Nothing.
31:10 Patricia [Speaking to Mike Street]: Have you ever had a problem with haters on your
31:12 page? On your YouTube videos?
31:15 Mike: Umm, not too much, no.
31:18 Patricia: You've heard about them?
31:19 Mike: Yeah, I've- I've been on some threads where I was like, wow I can't believe they
31:24 have posted stuff- and I think that goes back to the whole safety mechanism too. Like,
31:29 you know on my community I don't let- since I'm the community manager I don't let um
31:36 comments get that out of hand. Like if I see something that's racist, sexist, homophobic,
31:42 or something like that then I'll- I'm gonna remove that content. Or I'm gonna remove
31:46 that comment from the thread because I try to keep the tone, um on a positive level. You
31:52 know I let people give their own critique but when it crosses those borders, then I don't-
31:57 you know I don't let that happen. But on YouTube you know, it's pretty much a free-for-
32:00 all.
32:01 Anakin1814: In hindsight, all I saw was the bad. So now I can see the good. There were a
32:06 lot of good comments. A lot of people favorited the video, like 110 people favorited it.
32:12 Um, it was a positive message and that's what my channel's been about. So that was
32:19 cool, to have it represent me. A lot of people sent me *long* emails. And that was
32:27 overwhelming for people to reach out like I could help them. I'm just a guy, you know,
32:32 I'm just a guy. Uh, but it did touch me that they emailed me. So after the fact, after the
32:38 whole storm ended it was- it was cool. But at the time, it was too much.
32:44 Patricia: Did you make any new connections with anybody?
32:47 Anakin1814: Uh, a few new subscribers, um, not a lot. And it seems like they've already
32:53 gone away. So (shrugs shoulders), not really. I've made more connections going to
32:58 gatherings like this, to Minneapolis and this one (in Toronto).
33:01 Lemonette: It's not *all* a community. There are- are little groups and you- but you link
33:06 together and it's like- I was telling somebody the other day, it's like a web. Hey, it's a
33:10 world wide web! But you know I meet nalts, and nalts tells me about somebody and I
33:17 meet them, and it's like, you just connect, and that's what forms the community. Uh, not
33:24 everybody wants to join in. They can still have their say and- and their show can't get
33:29 canceled.
33:30 Patricia [Speaking to ZenArcher]: So you feel YouTube is a community?
33:33 ZenArcher: Absolutely.
33:33 Patricia: How is that?

33:34 ZenArcher: It is a community in every way that your city is a community. There are-
33:37 there are kids that are running around with skateboards jumping on park benches. It's at
33:41 YouTube. There is uh, political people, at YouTube. There are the Paris Hiltons and the
33:47 Jamie Kennedys that entertainment is their business and they're there. And none of it
33:53 *hurts* YouTube. It all *helps* YouTube because it is a community, just like the city that you
33:57 live in. So when you go out in the city and you see an old woman having trouble putting
34:02 groceries in her car, that's at YouTube. When you- when you see somebody that- that's
34:07 acting up and having a good time, that's at YouTube. It *is* a community. And- and there
34:12 are little circles, like in your community you have a group of friends, and somebody else
34:17 has their group of friends, and you have a friend that goes between, that happens at
34:20 YouTube. There are little circles. I don't have- I don't belong to any one of those circles
34:24 but I'm one who travels between those circles, and that's what community's all about.
34:30 Patricia [Speaking to SamProof]: Do you feel that you owe your subscribers anything in
34:33 particular?
34:33 [White writing in subtitle]: A subscriber is alerted at no cost when a video maker posts a
new video]
34:34 SamProof: Um, I mean yeah. I've- I've always tried to do whatever I can at least in the
34:42 way of like collaborating on their videos and like sending out other clips. I almost never
34:47 deny a request unless it's just not funny. Um, or I'm just too busy which is starting to get
34:52 more and more true but.
34:53 Patricia [Speaking to nbwulf]: Do you feel like you owe your subscribes anything in
34:56 particular?
34:57 Nbwulf: No. Honesty. I'd say you know, you know honesty, because I think that the
35:01 people, um you know that subscribe to you, especially when you're starting out, are
35:05 subscribing to you because they like you know the content and stuff that you've supplied
35:08 thus far. You know and so if you're just you know being honest and being yourself and
35:12 sharing your experiences you know and you know being natural, then they'll continue to
35:16 either tend to gravitate towards you or at least *stay* with you, the ones that already
35:19 subscribe.
35:20 [Image shows seals barking at Pier 39 in San Francisco. The subtitle in white writing
says: "As One" San Francisco]
35:27 Ryan [Speaking to Patricia]: I don't know what I'm doing.
35:28 Patricia [Speaking to Ryan]: You don't know what you're doing? Sure you do!
35:29 Eric [Waves to Patricia]: Hi!
35:30 Patricia: Hi!
35:31 Patricia [Speaking to Ryan]: The filming is going very well.
35:33 Ryan: This is- this is filler footage.
35:34 Patricia: This is filler?
35:34 Ryan: Yeah.
35:35 Patricia: I'm glad to know I can be filler for you.
35:36 Eric: So are you doing a project this time around?
35:37 Patricia: What's that?
35:38 Eric: Are you doing another project thing?
35:39 Patricia: I'm doing a documentary on YouTube.
35:41 Eric: The same- the same thing that you were doing while you were in L.A.?
35:43 Patricia: Exactly.

35:43 Eric: Same thing?
35:44 Patricia: Same thing.
35:44 Eric: Can I be a part of it this time? I don't know if I was.
35:45 Patricia: Of course! Of course!
35:46 Ryan: I think I was already.
35:47 Eric: Is it the same question that-
35:48 Patricia: [Speaking to Ryan] You know what? I think you were but I want you-
35:49 Ryan: Do you want me to do it again?
35:50 Patricia: -to do it again because I can't find your footage.
35:53 Ryan: Ahhh! Okay!
35:54 Patricia: So I think maybe we had technical difficulties-
35:55 Ryan: So I will be useful.
35:56 Patricia: -on that day. Due to, you know.
35:59 Ryan: I was like, she look- look she put everyone else's but where's *mine*?!
36:03 Patricia: Awww ohhh!
36:04 Patricia: Well I didn't put everybody's.
36:05 Ryan: Yeah, I know.
36:06 Patricia: Because you know YouTube has-
36:08 Ryan: Too many people.
36:08 Patricia: Well the thing is you do- you know you do twenty interviews and you have to
36:11 only pick a few. Plus-
36:13 Ryan: I had an hour and a half worth of stuff-
36:15 Patricia: Did you?
36:15 Ryan: -and I just, yeah-
36:16 Patricia: Did you make a video?
36:17 Ryan: Yeah. I made a montage. Cause it was *easier*.
36:20 Eric: So what's the question this time? Or is it the same, or like what do you think-
36:22 Patricia: Yeah, whatever people want to talk about.
36:23 Eric: Really? Oh!
36:24 Patricia: Like what do you want to talk about?
36:25 Eric: Um, well I did want to make a video response to the one you did, I think, no, was it
36:29 you? Yeah, the question about what do you think about your subscribers, or?
36:32 Patricia: Uh huh. Oh yeah. What do you- uh, do you owe your subscribers anything in
36:35 particular?
36:36 Eric: Yeah. Um, I owe them a big thank you. But I think- I think it's um, I don't really go
36:41 by subscribers, I go by the relationships you make and the people that comment on my
36:45 video and um. It's- it's a combination of using YouTube and Stickam and being closer
36:52 with the You- you know, more of an interaction. And that's the closest thing you can get
36:55 to being at a YouTube gathering. But um, this is like the top notch of actually going
37:00 further into uh making those relationships even stronger, and uh. But um I'm very
37:05 grateful for all the um, um, all the relationships. I've got friends that are young. I'm- I'm
37:12 twenty-six so I have like you know fifteen, sixteen all the way up until older. Um, I enjoy
37:17 it. Um, and the creativity and different people's discussions, vlogs, or whether they want
37:22 to do production types of stuff.
37:24 Patricia [Speaking to Ryan]: Do you participate on Stickam?
37:27 Ryan: Yes. I'm on Stickam every day (laughs).

37:29 Patricia: Oh yeah? More than YouTube?

37:31 Ryan: More than YouTube. Probably. Uh, it's- it's there and- because you're able to
37:36 *interact* with people. So it's kind of like YouTube. Everyone's stuck in a little box. In a
37:40 little square, or little rectangle. And um, you interact with them. And you can interact
37:45 with them "live" (gestures to use air quotes) because there's lag. But um, I mean, it's- it's
37:49 way more interactive than YouTube. And then also, you can uh ask critiques of- for your
37:55 videos, your new videos and stuff like that. You get instant feedback as uh- compared to
38:00 something you put up and you may not get anything for like two or three weeks or
38:02 something just depends.

38:04 Ryan: If you see my videos, I'm completely different in my videos as I am compared to-
38:07 in Stickam. I'm probably three times more vulgar and (laughs), like four times more loud,
38:14 and- and five times more attention whore-ish.

38:17 Patricia: In?

38:18 Ryan: In Stickam.

38:19 Patricia: Oh yeah? Why are you louder in Stickam?

38:22 Ryan: Cause that's how I am. I'm loud.

38:23 Susan: A lot of what goes on in my life does not hit my videos. But what's going on in
38:25 my life frequently hits the Stickam chat rooms. You know, I'm not a *persona* on my
38:35 videos. You get what I am. But I don't give everything on my videos either.

38:43 K80Blog [Speaking in her own video]: You know, in reality I don't act *like this*. I'm not
38:48 you know, this weir- well I *am* but amongst very, very close friends. And so, but when I
38:57 first meet people, I'm a shy person. I'm a *reserved* person. I'm kind of you know polite
39:04 (makes a sing song sound). I play the rules. I play the game.

39:08 [Image shows two YouTubers juggling at a meet-up in San Francisco. They embrace.]

39:20 Patricia [Speaking to K80Blog in Santa Monica]: Do you think that YouTube is kind of
39:22 over now, um, or is it still going strong?

39:26 K80Blog: Uhh, I think it's on its way out. I mean, you know, MySpace had its time. Uh,
39:35 Facebook might be on its way out as well. Twitter will be. You know, I mean that's
39:40 what's interesting like websites, they don't last very long. And um, yeah I think YouTube
39:46 is on its way out. I- I think it's because it became so corporate and so much about
39:52 advertising that I think a lot of people are turned off. And then maybe just the novelty of
39:58 it is kind of worn away.

40:00 Patricia: Are you still participating on YouTube?

40:03 K80Blog: Uhh, not like I used to, no.

40:06 Patricia: Do you stay in touch with friends you met on YouTube?

40:08 K80Blog: Yes, I do. I do. Uh, and that's what Twitter is good for, so.

40:13 Patricia [Speaking to nbwulf]: What is Twitter and why do you like it?

40:16 Nbwulf: Um, Twitter is a microblogging site. [While nbwulf speaks, white writing shows
40:18 examples of Twitter entries such as "Tired, tired Friday... Zzzzz."] And I enjoy it
40:19 because it's a very, very, easy convenient way to keep in touch with a lot of these folks
40:24 that you meet via the web. You know, where you don't see them day to day. And so you
40:28 know it's a very, very quick, you know, pick up my phone, I'm on my computer,
40:32 whatever, just drop a little, this is what's going on now. Here's a picture I just shot.
[Image shows several photographs posted by nbwulf, including one in which he puts his
hand to the camera as if to block his picture being taken, and another in which he is
proudly wearing a green jacket.]

40:36 You know just something quick and- and then you can move on with your daily life
40:40 versus having to spend a half hour, forty-five minutes, an hour, on a Facebook or some of
40:44 these other sites where you have to go through and update everything. And then when
40:47 you have time you can actually go back and review and comment. So the cool thing about
40:52 Twitter is sometimes in the mornings or at lunch or whenever I have like some down
40:57 time, I'll go through and read through my Twitter stream and you can feel like you can
41:01 catch up with all your friends. You catch up with what's going on with their lives, uh
41:04 good, bad, indifferent. Um, they got a job, they lost a job, had a kid, lost a grandparent,
41:10 whatever the case may be. Um, and you know it's almost like little reminders to reach out
41:13 and touch people and check in on them and say hi, and wish them a happy birthday, you
41:17 know something that simple, so.
41:19 K80Blog: Twitter is- it's like the Facebook update status, basically. It's just like a little
41:26 what are you doing at the moment in 140 characters or less. Uh, I'm on it cause I'm
41:33 keeping connected with the YouTube community. And uh, and yeah now I'm starting to
41:39 see like the other benefits to it. Like I just worked on a documentary and I'm kinda
41:44 promoting that and I'm using Twitter to let people know when screenings are and so it's
41:48 really good for that. And it's good to see uh when screenings are in different places than
41:55 I'm at. I can see how people responded to- to the movie, which is really exciting.
42:01 Patricia [Speaking to nbwulf]: Are you migrating to Twitter these days, or are you using
42:04 it sort of in addition to?
42:06 Nbwulf: Oh no, it's just addition to. It's addition to. I think that some people might *see* it
42:10 as a migration because of the lack of activity on YouTube, but it's not. It was just uh,
42:17 addition to.
42:18 Ryan: YouTube is still gonna go strong. But it's not gonna be mainly from user-
42:23 generated content. It's gonna be- it's- it's gotten more commercial, [White writing on
black screen show comments from creators, such as: "RATE!! COMMENT!!
SUBSCRIBE!!" and "Don't forget to subscribe at the end of this video!!!" and "Help me
beat the algorithm!!!!!!"] you've seen all the ads pop up a lot more. As a community-
42:27 based, kind of social media thing, YouTube is pretty much done. But um, as a place for
42:33 people to find interesting videos, and videos that may be promoted by YouTube, it's not
42:40 gone yet, But uh it may be. Someone is- is bound to make a service that is more user-
42:45 friendly. And when- whenever someone finds or adopts that area, people will move on.
42:54 It's like the rest of the internet. We had MySpace, now we have Facebook. No one's on
42:59 MySpace anymore, now we have Twitter. So, uh, it's just whoever gives the next best
43:03 step, that's what's gonna go on. That's just the way the internet is.
43:09 [Soft music plays. Image shows a white woman with long dark hair sitting in a chair. She
43:12 lights a candle. She faces the camera, holds the candle up, and smiles.]
43:36 [Image shows dark, cursive writing on a pale green background. The writing says: Best
wishes to you, Bob, in surgery and recovery...]
43:38 [Image then adds additional words at the bottom of the screen. The additional writing
says: And much love to Lisa.]
43:49 [Image shows people waving to the camera, two men in orange jump suits and a woman.
The woman is the YouTube celebrity, Olga Kay.]
43:51 Olga Kay [Waving to the camera. Image shows the words "Best Tube" San Diego]: Hi!!
43:52 Patricia: Hello!
43:53 Olga Kay: Good to see you again.

43:54 Patricia: Good to see you too. How's it going?
43:55 Olga Kay: Good.
43:56 Patricia [Speaking to ItalianStallionette]: What made you decide to do a meet-up today?
44:00 ItalianStallionette: Uh, three years ago, uh well not from this day but a couple of weeks
44:04 ago, three years ago I received my second kidney transplant, and it's the anniversary of it.
44:09 And so I came- I had my kidney transplant in San Diego so- I live out on the East Coast,
44:18 so I wanted to come back and celebrate the past three years and that I'm still here.
44:23 Patricia: Wow! (laughs) I wasn't anticipating that!
44:26 ItalianStallionette: (laughs) Yeah.
44:28 Patricia: Um, it seems like you've gotten some pretty positive reaction to putting it on.
44:32 ItalianStallionette: I hope so, I mean when I did it, I've been to other gatherings, but I
44:36 wanted this one to be um like a- more like a reunion, not advertising people. Just to play
44:44 and get along. Cause that's really what it's all about. So I thought that'd be kind of fun.
44:49 Yeah, I'm happy. Everybody seems happy and relaxed. I like that.
44:53 YouTube participant [Gathering people up to take a photograph]: You guys, you guys,
44:54 [inaudible] group photo. Hey guys were going to do a group photo. Yeah, come on.
45:04 Come on guys, let's get together! Before everybody leaves! Before it starts raining.
45:07 [Participants are assembled for the photo] YouTube participant: Best Tube, ready? On
45:09 three we'll say "Best Tube 2008." Okay? One, two, three!
45:14 YouTube participants assembled for the photograph: Best Tube 2008! Yeah!
45:19 YouTube participant [clapping]: That was pretty good. That was pretty good.
45:21 Patricia [Speaking to K80Blog]: If God forbid, something were to happen to you, what
45:23 would you want done with your YouTube page?
45:27 K80Blog: God! Um... I don't know, I guess just leave it as is. I guess maybe you know,
45:36 have someone I know post a video on there saying what happened maybe?
45:40 Patricia: But keep it-
45:41 K80Blog: But yeah it could stay. Yeah! I'd love it to stay, you know.
45:44 Patricia: Why would you love it to stay?
45:46 K80Blog: Uh, just to be- I don't know. Just cause it would- like I'd live on a little bit or
45:52 something. I don't know.
45:53 Thor [Speaking in Philadelphia]: I would probably like it to uh, be up just for a little
45:56 while and then take it down. I'm not anyone important. Who's going to sit there and cry
45:59 over me? I'm just another person in this world. It doesn't matter. I have a video already
46:03 set for it that- that my brother knows to upload if something happens to me. And after a
46:06 couple of weeks, the account goes away.
46:08 Patricia: So you've made a video?
46:09 Thor: Yes.
46:10 Patricia: And what- what is the video that your brother is set to upload?
46:12 Thor: The video just says that, you know if you're looking at this video now, something
46:15 happened to me. I died. Some how, some way, I died. And you know, thanks for
46:19 everything. I had a good time here. And- and you know there's not much I can say but
46:22 you know this- this- that's the way it is!
46:26 Nbwulf: I'd want it left up. Yeah, no, I'd want it left up. I think that you know if
46:30 something did happen to me, I'm kind of glad that I did get involved with YouTube
46:33 because there's all these videos and vlogs and things that I've made that my kids can see.
46:38 You know and it's like you know they can see another side of me where I was interacting

46:41 with my friends and interacting with the community and just talking about life. And you
46:44 know so they can see some of these videos that you know, I would say without YouTube
46:49 or a site like you know like YouTube or a video sharing site, I would never have shot in
46:52 the first place. You know so it's you know, similar to back in the day when people would
46:56 really write detailed diaries and then you have something to leave behind and people find
47:00 these later in life and you can really kind of learn more about the personality of a person
47:04 that you never really saw when you lived with them every single day. Um, so I'd want it-
47:09 I'd want it left up.

47:10 Patricia: [Speaking to PrincessDiana161] You would like for it to continue?
47:11 PrincessDiana161: Oh yeah, definitely!
47:12 Patricia: Why is that?
47:13 PrincessDiana161: Just for my granddaughter, you know. I would like her to continue to,
47:17 as she gets older I want her to be able to continue to see grandma making a fool of herself
47:20 on the internet.

47:22 Veronica: I would actually want someone to probably continue it and- well not even
47:28 continue it for a long period of *time* but I would want someone to post a video of how
47:32 their- people that know me to post videos on what they remember about me. And things
47:36 like that. And kind of it be archived that if people want to see because it has raw emotion
47:43 on it. And I don't think that you get to see that a lot. Like a lot of people don't want to
47:49 open up. And things like that. And I would want to know what people thought about
47:55 those few videos that I did post and what they did mean to people. So, if it meant
48:01 *anything* to anybody. Or if it really showed who I was (laughs).

48:04 PrincessDiana161: MySpace deletes accounts from people that are deceased. Which is a
48:09 terrible thing because uh recently my daughter's friend died in Iraq and her family the
48:16 only thing- his family, the only thing they had was the MySpace account to remember
48:20 him by as far as you know recent stuff that he had done. And as soon as he died they
48:25 deleted the account. Let's hope YouTube never does that, you know?
48:28 Patricia: Let's hope not.

48:30 Ryan: Um, I mean before I think I answered this that like I didn't care, it could just stay
48:34 up. But um, since I've had the whole I almost died twice this year (laughs) situation
48:42 happen um, I think I would like someone to first uh delete *most* of my videos, keep the
48:49 videos that they think are good, sentimental something like that. Um, of course I'd have
48:53 to get someone else though to know my password, and things like that for me, but um. I
48:58 mean it's- it's just like Facebook pages or uh YouTube pages of- where people have died,
49:03 it just kind of keeps living on it's- I would just like to keep- Because there's a lot of
49:09 frivolous videos on there and a lot of people do put frivolous videos on there. And it's
49:12 just me responding to people and things like that. But I would at least- I mean to- to know
49:17 who I am. To- to be that person who does like you know the- the social media thing. The-
49:23 the person who talks about the issues of their time and things like that. I would like *that*
49:28 preserved at least. So that other people would know what kind of a person I am even if it
49:32 is *edited* that way. I just want them to know what- what I believed in, what I was doing at
49:38 that time.

49:40 Susan: I would like it (sighs and pauses). That's a really good question because some of
49:48 my early videos, I shared my personal faith a great deal and I would definitely want those
49:54 on there. They're not there currently um, because a glitch happened and I lost all my

49:59 videos, but um. I shared my faith and I think that was very important. Those- those are
50:08 the best videos I've ever made. And I would want those out there. If I were to die, I
50:18 would really want the videos to remain. Not as a testimony to who I am, but as a member
50:29 of a community. There have been a few deaths in our community. Um, a couple that I
50:38 was very close to. One was freewingz and he died of a massive heart attack very
50:40 unexpectedly at the age of thirty-three. And I'm subscribed to him and he's subscribed to
50:45 me and there's no way on God's green earth I'll ever unsubscribe from him. And I visit
50:49 his page as a memorial. And so, not that I would necessarily want people visiting my
51:00 page, but I think that certain people I've grown closer to, might want to. So.
51:11 Patricia. Great. Thank you *so* much for participating.
51:13 Susan. Thank you.
51:14 Patricia: I really appreciate it.
51:15 ZenArcher: I- I have four thousand subscribers. That's not a lot, that's- that is a lot but
51:18 it's not a lot. I'm- I'm a nobody. But I am surprised and- and fascinated that people watch
51:25 me. And- and the number of young people that I have that watch. Because I didn't think
51:31 that would happen. And you know, we built this thing that we're using today. Guys my
51:38 age. We started that out, and to see it come here is- is amazing. And- and because I know
51:44 what this project is about I want to- I want to tell you, you know, if you are- if you're
51:50 young and you're getting into this, you have to understand that you are the architect of
51:54 the future. And what happens to this medium today, *you* control! And hopefully, when
52:02 you're *my* age, you can look back like I do now at the internet and say, "Oh my God, look
52:08 at what we've done," with a smile on your face, instead of being sorry for the ride.
52:14 OhCurt: Someday, we- we will get to see all the fruits of your hard labor-
52:18 Patricia: Yes.
52:19 OhCurt: in this documentary.
52:20 Patricia: So we'll see you on YouTube?
52:21 MusoSF: (waving) Yes.
52:22 Patricia: Good-bye.
52:23 MusoSF: Good-bye.
52:24 Patricia: Good-bye!
52:25 Nbwulf: (waving) Good-bye Patricia.
52:26 Patricia: Good-bye. See you around.
52:29 Patricia [Camera pans to OhCurt]: Good-bye!
52:30 OhCurt (waves good-bye)
52:33 [Title card]: Produced, Directed, and Edited by: Patricia G. Lange
52:38 [Voices of YouTubers gathering and talking fade in.]
52:40 [Title card]: For More Information Book: Thanks for Watching: An Anthropological
Study of Video Sharing on YouTube Website: patriciaglange.org YouTube Channel:
AnthroVlog
52:45 [Title card]: Special Thanks to All of the YouTubers Who Participated in this Study
52:49 [Title card]: Special Thanks to the Participants Who Shared their Videos and Photos for
this Documentary
52:52 [Title card]: Videos Cited (In Order of Appearance) My Year on YouTube Posted by
PrincessDiana161 Hollywood As One Gathering 2008 Posted by Eric Hull Life After
SouthTube3 Posted by lemonette I'm going to 7.7.7 Posted by: K80Blog

- 52:55 [Title card]: Videos Cited (In Order of Appearance) Y'all Watch This Posted by: lemonette Where's that Mooner??? Posted by Shortbus Mooner Hollywood As One Gathering 2008 Posted by Eric Hull Bitchin' Bout My Hair for like 5 Mins Posted by K80Blog
- 52:58 [Title card]: Videos Cited (In Order of Appearance) Do You Ever Posted by: nbwulf You People are CRAZY (and GREAT)!!! Thank you so much! Posted by: DaleATL2 Obama and Prop 8: High Hopes, Low Spirits Posted by: musoSF Feature Vlog Posted by: PrincessDiana161
- 53:02 [Title card]: Videos Cited (In Order of Appearance) Y'all Watch This Posted by: lemonette My YouTube Story Posted by: bnessel1973 Music: Kevin MacLeod (incompetech.com) I'm going to 7.7.7 Posted by: K80Blog Lighting a candle for Lisa and Bob Posted by OHdulcenea Music: Kevin MacLeod (incompetech.com)
- 53:05 [Title card]: Special Thanks Henry Jenkins Michael Wesch
- 53:08 [Title card]: Special Thanks The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation The Institute for Multimedia Literacy California College of the Arts The Ontario Science Centre
- 53:11 [Title card]: Special Thanks Andrew Lange Catherine Lange Alexander Lange Jay & Lilia Gonzalez Leah & Chris Jarlsberg J. Michael Gonzalez
- 53:15 [Title card]: Special Thanks Mizuko Ito Peter Lyman Heather A. Horst Jean Burgess Joshua Green Howard Rheingold Wesley Shrum The Digital Youth Team
- 53:18 [Title card]: Special Thanks Virginia Kuhn Holly Willis Nancy Lutkehaus Jenny Cool Steve Anderson Gabriel Peters-Lazaro Mike Jones DJ Johnson Willy Paredes Chris Wittenberg Stacy Patterson
- 53:21 [Title card]: Special Thanks Conrad Kottak Bruce Mannheim Ruth Behar Jan English-Lueck Chuck Darrah Sally Rayn Mindy Faber Adam Fish Vanessa Diaz
- 53:23 YouTube Participant: I just happened to have seen some friends online where you were...
- 53:24 [Title card]: Copyright 2020 Patricia G. Lange All rights Reserved