# STUDENTS ASK THE QUESTIONS: Sociology ADT with Student Host Ajana Orozco & Jean-Pierre Gatillon

# 00:00:00 **Ajana**

# That's why I like sociology because your major doesn't define your career. There's a lot of things you can do with it. So, you don't have to go for a vocation, you could go for the education, and that leads to so much more with each level that you do.

# 

# 00:00:16 **Christina**

# Hi, I'm Christina Barsi.

# 

# 00:00:19 **Sun**

# And I'm Sun Ezzell, and you're listening to the Magic Mountie Podcast.

# 

# 00:00:23 **Christina**

# Our mission is to find ways to keep your ear to the ground, so to speak - by bringing to you the activities and events you may not have time to attend, the resources on campus you might want to know more about, the interesting things your colleagues are creating, and the many ways we can continue to better help and guide our students.

# 

# 00:00:40 **Sun**

# We bring to you the voices of Mt. SAC, from the classroom to completion.

# 

# 00:00:44 **Speaker 1**

# And I know I'm going to achieve my goals, and I know people here are going to help me to do it.

# 

# 00:00:48 **Speaker 2**

# She is a sociology major, and she's transferring to Cal Poly Pomona! Psychology major, English major ...

# 

# 00:00:48 **Sun**

# From transforming part-time into full-time-

# 

# 00:00:57 **Speaker 1**

# I really liked the time that we spent with Julie about how to write a CV and a cover letter.

# 

# 00:01:04 **Christina**

# Or just finding time to soak in the campus.

# 

# 00:01:07 **Speaker 1**

# To think of the natural environment around us as a library.

# 

# 00:01:11 **Christina**

# Want to keep you informed and connected to all things Mt. SAC. But most importantly, we want to keep you connected with each other. I'm Christina Barsi, Mt. SAC alumni, and producer of this podcast.

# 

# 00:01:22 **Sun**

# And I'm Sun Ezzell, Learning Assistance Faculty and Professional Learning Academy Coordinator.

# 

# 00:01:27 **Christina**

# And this is the Magic Mountie Podcast.

# 

# 00:01:28 **Christina**

# If you've ever wondered about sociology as a major and what that pathway might look like, then our guest host, Ajana Orozco, and Mt. SAC sociology Professor, Jean-Pierre Gatillon, have a candid, honest, and information-packed conversation about what that might look like.

# 

# 00:01:49 **Christina**

# Ajana is a Mt. SAC alumni who received her AA in sociology, and is now a pre-law student at UCLA. She talks with her former sociology professor, JP, about their own moments that sparked their passions for this discipline, how they're using it today, how it changed their lives and perspectives for the better. And of course, the practical things you need to know about classes to take and how to apply a degree in sociology in the real world. Here is a Ajana and JP.

# 

# 00:02:24 **Ajana**

# Welcome back Mounties. My name is Ajana Orozco. My pronouns are she, her. I'm a first-generation transgender Chiricahua Apache Mexican Filipino. I'm also an alumni of Mt. SAC where I majored in art history, humanities, and sociology.

# 

# 00:02:39 **Ajana**

# I'm currently a pre-law student at UCLA, majoring in gender studies and minoring in LGBTQ studies. On today's Magic Mountie Podcast, I'm here in conversation with Professor Jean-Pierre Gatillon. Welcome, Professor Gatillon.

# 

# 00:02:55 **Ajana**

# We know each other because I was a student worker for the sociology department and then became one of your students. I'm so excited to be sharing space with you on this podcast, and learn a little bit more about your journey as a sociologist. So, can you introduce yourself to the listeners and a little bit about your background and your journey.

# 

# 00:03:17 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Thank you so much, Ajana, for being here today. Hi listeners ... by the way, I'm super proud of you for your journey. Now, you're at UCLA, so congratulations. Pre-law, I knew you can do it.

# 

# 00:03:27 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# My name is Jean-Pierre Gatillon. My pronouns are he, his, him. I'm a first-generation college student now turn professor, who is Latinx and part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

# 

# 00:03:29 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# I started my higher educational journey at California State University Fullerton, where I graduated cum-lording in sociology and anthropology with a psychology minor. I also earned my master's degree in sociology at Cal State Fullerton as well. So,

# 

# 00:03:54 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# I emphasize with students who are first-generation and come from different backgrounds, because not that long ago, I was a student. So, I'm living my dream here at Mt. SAC teaching.

# 

# 00:04:03 **Ajana**

# Nice. Usually, we address each other like professor and student, but because I know you on a different level, I'm not sure if you don't mind me calling you, JP, because that's usually-

# 

# 00:04:14 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Of course.

# 

# 00:04:14 **Ajana**

# Because it seems kind of weird since we're kind of more friends to be calling you Professor. So, why did you choose sociology as a career path?

# 

# 00:04:25 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# I chose sociology as my career path because I truly fell in love with the discipline after taking my very first sociology course, which was titled social inequality with Dr. Michael Perez at Cal State Fullerton. That course sparked my sociological imagination and this concept refers to the capacity to shift from one perspective to another.

# 

# 00:04:45 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# And it allows one to look beyond our own worldview and to analyze how society and social behavior are shaped and constrained by the social structures and the culture in which we are exposed. So, that was my aha moment. I honestly, didn't know what I was doing as an undergraduate student. So, when I took my very first sociology course, that's when everything sparked and I don't look back. Literally, it changed my life.

# 

# 00:05:08 **Ajana**

# That's great. I changed mine when I was in your class. So, like when I was a student at Mt. SAC, I got to witness your journey to becoming a full-time professor at Mt. SAC. And can you tell me and the listeners how your experience has been, and maybe what hurdles did you face on your journey to becoming a full-time professor at Mt. SAC.

# 

# 00:05:30 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Throughout my own educational journey and chosen career path, I learned that it is very important to advocate for yourself. I can't stress this enough for just even when you're a student and also, in your professional career. So, I always emphasize this to my students.

# 

# 00:05:42 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# It's really important to advocate for yourselves because I mean, being, first-generation, it's sometimes kind of hard to speak up. I'm naturally introverted by nature. And I swear a couple of years ago when I was an undergraduate student, that first sociology, I was like, wait a minute, I can see myself pursuing this as a profession, but I'm actually naturally shy. So, how do I navigate this?

# 

# 00:06:05 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# And then it's always with time. So, you practice and seek out opportunities for growth. So, don't hesitate to speak up and advocate for yourself during your own educational and career journey.

# 

# 00:06:18 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# This advice also informs my chosen career path. Do your own research and do not be afraid to connect with professionals in your respective fields of study. For example, a few months before I graduated with my master's degree in sociology, I started sending out my curriculum vitae, CV. And now this refers to an academic resume.

# 

# 00:06:35 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, I knew I was coming around the corner. My graduation date was May 27th, 2016. I was like I need to start thinking about profession, teaching. So, I knew for a fact that I wanted to teach. So, I was sending out my CV left and right before I graduated.

# 

# 00:06:51 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, Mt. SAC was the first college which offered me my first adjunct position, teaching sociology. So, my dream came true. I landed my couple of classes here at Mt. SAC. And a couple of semesters afterward, I also started teaching at Riverside City College.

# 

# 00:07:08 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# And something to consider if students are interested in pursuing education as a career option, whether it be in sociology or other disciplines, is you have to be mindful that teaching positions, whether they're part-time or full-time, they're often very competitive; start sending out your CVs left and right, like I said earlier, that's really important.

# 

# 00:07:26 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# I am actually really grateful to have had started my teaching career here at Mt. SAC a few weeks after graduation. Like I said earlier, I graduated May 27th, 2016, and I started teaching my very first sociology classes. It actually had three different course preps. So, that was exciting in itself because I was actually preparing for my courses during graduate school.

# 

# 00:07:47 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, for me, I'm really fortunate that my transition to teaching was seamless. And I started teaching that August of 2016 and haven't looked back. I honestly can say, like from the bottom of my heart, this is so transformative. And I love teaching and being here. It doesn't feel like I'm working - I'm living my dream, possibly.

# 

# 00:08:07 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, I encourage all students to pursue their passion. It's beautiful when you find something that sparks and speaks to you.

# 

# 00:08:13 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Now, as previously mentioned, teaching positions are competitive. So, I prepared myself early on before I graduated, like I said, sending out CVs, but also, while I'm at Mt. SAC, my very first semester, I capitalized on the various opportunities offered by the professional development, POD.

# 

# 00:08:31 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Honestly, they're amazing. They offer various sessions and courses to sort of refine your pedagogy, and this refers to method and practice of teaching. And also, to help you with funding for travel for conferences. And also, I can say actually, I've grown as an instructor by participating in various sessions.

# 

# 00:08:52 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, for example, Joan Sholars, the former FA President, also Judy Laverty is from communications department. They both held their own "how to land your full-time position." And I attended both of their sessions and honestly, look where I'm at now.

# 

# 00:09:07 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, I'm actually indebted to POD and Mt. SAC family, because they offer so many opportunities for everyone to enrich their careers. And I'm super grateful. So, once again, you can sort of navigate - and I don't necessarily call them hurdles. I think it's chance for growth. So, if you find opportunities, whether it be at your school, Mt. SAC, or for you, Ajana, at UCLA - seek out those students support services.

# 

# 00:09:30 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# And lastly, the final advice I can share with students is to make sure you build rapport with your professors or mentors in your respective fields of study and chosen career path, because you'll need mentors to write you letters of recommendations for graduate school, for law school.

# 

# 00:09:47 **Ajana**

# That's great. I liked how you mentioned the CV because when I was your student, you always would bring that up. And did I listen? No. I'm here now at UCLA. And I didn't think I would be as involved because I too, was an introvert - was - I guess, I still am.

# 

# 00:10:05 **Ajana**

# But learning to come out of that shell at these times that you need to, and I've spoken in many different events, just like I did at Mt. SAC. And to have you JP as somebody who helped push me into those spaces, or I guess, not really push me - but hold my hand along my journey into these spaces of being uncomfortable as an introvert.

# 

# 00:10:29 **Ajana**

# And that CV is really important because now that I'm being asked to produce one, I'm like, oh my God, there's so much stuff on there that is going to take me like weeks in order to fill one out. So, I too, can also go off of that as that's really important to keep your CV updated as you move through academia, right?

# 

# 00:10:52 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# And remember, don't fret. If you feel like you're stuck and you need clarification, go to the career center, they'll help. So, advocate for yourself. I know you do.

# 

# 00:11:03 **Ajana**

# And yeah, that's another thing that I do know and I've learned from you as well, is that get to know the professors. Yeah, because most people, they're afraid to go and ask professors questions or hey, you need help. And also, asking for help can sometimes be one of the hardest things to do, but it's one of the most important things to do.

# 

# 00:11:25 **Ajana**

# Like the one thing I've learned from being in the sociology department as a student worker and as a student, is professors at Mt. SAC are there to help you. They're there to help you succeed. Not there to participate in any kind of failure that maybe you may think that's going on.

# 

# 00:11:43 **Ajana**

# So, I also do understand when you say, get to know your professors and faculty, staff, because it's just amazing. You need those to help write your letters of recommendations or anything that you need.

# 

# 00:11:57 **Ajana**

# So, is there something that a student who is interested in sociology should prepare for before taking classes in sociology?

# 

# 00:12:06 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Come with an open mind. So, during my first class meeting in all my courses of each term, I share with students that some of the subject matter in sociology courses can get somewhat controversial, but nonetheless, we will hold important and respectful class discussions throughout the semester about sensitive topics.

# 

# 00:12:22 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# I think it's really important to humanize - oftentimes, we talk about marginalized experiences and social problems, but I think it's really important to approach these sensitive topics with an open mind and open heart. So, I try to emphasize that day one with my students.

# 

# 00:12:37 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Therefore, I encourage all my students to approach taking sociology classes with an open mind and to make sure they practice using their sociological imagination. And once again, this concept refers to the standpoint that highlights how society influences the experiences we have and the choices we make.

# 

# 00:12:53 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Oftentimes, it's kind of hard navigating US society sometimes for some students because oftentimes, our culture tells us it's individual experiences. So, sometimes, students tend to grapple with looking beyond our own worldview. So, that's what sociology courses are for. And I think it's a wonderful opportunity for students to sort of widen their worldview.

# 

# 00:13:16 **Ajana**

# So, JP, you've mentioned like coming into sociology with an open mind, and that was really hard to do for me at first because I had to unlearn a lot of things that I've learned being from a marginalized community, and always feeling like everything's against me. And then having to learn things through the sociological lens was sometimes really difficult, but that's always important, like when you say, come in with an open mind.

# 

# 00:13:48 **Ajana**

# So, maybe if you could explain a little bit about what sociology is, so that way some of the listeners can kind of understand what we mean more about unlearn ... or what I mean about unlearning to re-learn.

# 

# 00:14:03 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Of course. Sociology introduces students to the scientific study of human interactions, relations, and social structures, which emphasizes the interaction between personality, culture, and society. So, it's a social science that allows us to sort of unpack human behavior in the society and culture in which we live. So, that's sociology in a nutshell.

# 

# 00:14:23 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# And Ajana, like you were saying, oftentimes, it's hard for individuals to first come to realize to open up the sociological imagination because oftentimes, depending on the society in which we live, we're told, okay, your culture is ... typically, could fall from the shoulders of individuals. At least, in the United States context, our society, our culture, it prides itself in individualism.

# 

# 00:14:50 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, oftentimes, it's hard for individuals to sort of break away from that in discussions where we're talking about marginalized experiences and looking beyond whether it be marginalized groups or dominant groups. So, looking at larger structures. And so, oftentimes, that's really difficult to navigate for some students.

# 

# 00:15:07 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, that's why I tell all my students in each class open heart, open mind, let's talk about this, and just humanize one another because oftentimes, sadly, we're not humanized.

# 

# 00:15:18 **Ajana**

# Yeah, and so, what are some of the things a student that wants to major in sociology, what will they be studying and what type of classes can they take? I mean, there's a whole bunch and it's broad, right? But some of the major things that people will study,

# 

# 00:15:36 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Sure. The discipline of sociology is broad like you said, Ajana, which allows students to take courses in several different areas of specialization within the field of sociology, such as marriage and family, race and ethnic relations, gender and society. And here at Mt. SAC, gender and sex roles, criminology, sociology of religion, introduction to research methods, statistics, child development, Asian communities, and much more.

# 

# 00:16:00 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Moreover, the sociology department also offers two interdisciplinary courses; interdisciplinary, meaning more than two disciplines. The first one is SOC 110, and this is introduction to social justice and SOC 130, which is our introduction to LGBTQ+ studies. And these courses allow students who are interested in majoring, not just in sociology, but also in social justice studies, navigate different topical areas within the bridging field of sociology and social justice.

# 

# 00:16:30 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Now, something to consider is not all colleges and universities have the same course offerings. So, please be mindful when you're planning on transferring out, to research the schools you want to actually possibly attend, and look at the course catalog; what types of sociology courses do they offer - because not all schools offer the same courses. This is something really important to consider.

# 

# 00:16:52 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# And also, if you're pursuing graduate school in sociology, you have to be mindful not all professors have the same specialization. So, if you're really interested in gender, find a school that works for you and look to see if there are sociologists who specialize in your area of expertise.

# 

# 00:17:09 **Ajana**

# I like how you say check out the course catalog because that's what I did at Mt. SAC. And also like when I was planning to transfer to see what university I wanted to transfer to, and what classes they offered. And once I finished my AA and followed that gets the IGETC plan at Mt. SAC - when I transferred, I feel like a kid in a candy store because there's so many classes and they're just so interesting and amazing.

# 

# 00:17:35 **Ajana**

# And some of the classes where I thought, "Am I really going to like that class?" Turns out to be one of my favorite classes. So, I'm on with that to like explore those options. And it's really amazing.

# 

# 00:17:48 **Ajana**

# And so like when somebody graduates or gets a degree in sociology, what's the job market like for someone with a sociology degree, like from starting from associate's degree to a PhD?

# 

# 00:18:05 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Sociology is growing in demand since it affords students flexibility in choosing the career path that aligns with their own interests. So, off the bat, if students are interested in entry-level positions - so, for example, like community outreach or within corrections of social services, there are entry-level positions.

# 

# 00:18:21 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Now, if you are interested in pursuing research and possibly teaching, you need at least a minimum of a master's degree to teach other two-year colleges. Now, if you're interested in teaching whether a public or private four-year university, the requirements for tenure track positions, there are doctorate degrees.

# 

# 00:18:40 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, it ultimately depends on what students want to do in pursuing sociology in the workplace. Students can find careers in various sectors, including community, human and social services, market research, education, criminal justice, business management, and among others. What's more, there's a shift toward community-based in data-driven policies with a focus on minority-based experiences.

# 

# 00:19:05 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Sociology introduces students to the scientific study of human relations and social structures, which emphasizes the interaction between personality, culture, and society. So, sociology is highly marketable as a standalone major, but also is perfect as a double major.

# 

# 00:19:18 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# And once again, for entry students who hold associate's degrees, they can find entry-level position, such as group home counselors, entry-level positions within corrections and law enforcement, case management, working with vulnerable populations, for example, foster care, addiction - also the non-profit sector.

# 

# 00:19:37 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Now, with the bachelor's degree, there are other entry-level positions students can pursue. For example, within corrections, community outreach, non-profits, and social services. With a master's degree, there's even more specialization career path options.

# 

# 00:19:52 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Like I said earlier, education is really important. If you want to teach, you have to have a minimum of a master's degree for a two-year college, and then at least a doctorate degree, if you want to land a full-time tenure track job at a four-year college, public or private college or university.

# 

# 00:20:08 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# And lastly, for a doctorate degree, students who hold doctorate degrees in sociology, university teaching, you could work within government agencies, research, social policy - the sky's the limit.

# 

# 00:20:20 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, my tip, I can share with students is start researching possible career options that work best for you and that spark your interest.

# 

# 00:20:28 **Ajana**

# That's why I like sociology because your major doesn't define your career. There's a lot of things you can do with it. So, you don't have to go for a vocation, you could go for the education, and that leads to so much more with each level that you do. So, out of all the disciplines in sociology, why did you choose the discipline that you chose

# 

# 00:20:51 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Before I answer this question, I'd like to go back and revisit because ... do you care sharing with our listeners, Ajana, that you're a pre-law student, and you're just graduating from UCLA. Can you sort of speak on your experiences because you're a triple major and you used sociology. Do you think majoring in sociology is going to help you when you eventually start your law career in law school?

# 

# 00:21:13 **Ajana**

# Yes, it has. I know that if I didn't have the foundation that I got from Mt. SAC - your criminology class, for instance, that was really an eye-opener for myself because I'm a survivor of hate crime bashing, homelessness from a transphobic mom and so many things throughout society.

# 

# 00:21:37 **Ajana**

# And yeah, having a little bit more understanding of society, how society has created and enforced people to behave in the way they have against other people. So, it helps me to build that foundation. I'm not saying that these people are right for what they did, but it also helps me to have a better understanding that it wasn't just individual as much as it is like a whole community or the society that people grow up in.

# 

# 00:22:12 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Thank you so much, Ajana, for sharing your story with us. Now, hands down, I actually fell in love with the discipline of sociology because it allowed me to foster my sociological imagination. And I aim to do the same thing with my students because once that the light bulb turns on, it doesn't go off.

# 

# 00:22:27 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Majoring in sociology has changed my life for the better. Education is truly transformative. And my chosen academic journey and career path allows me to share my sociological knowledge and passion with students. Sociology introduced me into the scientific study of human relations and social structures, which emphasizes the interaction between personality, culture, and society. Few fields have such broad scope and relevance.

# 

# 00:22:51 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Sociology allows students to explore topics such as racial and ethnic groups, social class, gender roles, law, policy, human trafficking, violent social movements, global inequalities, human rights, pop culture, social norms, deviance, mate selection, sexuality, family dynamics, and much more. So, this is why I fell in love with the discipline. It is so broad, yet you can personalize it to your own experiences and your own interests.

# 

# 00:23:20 **Ajana**

# That's one thing that I've learned like going through like even majoring in gender studies here at UCLA. Like somehow that term can be confusing. Because it's not really gender, based on gender. UCLA teaches with using a critical race theory. So, it's more intersectionality, is like what you were talking about.

# 

# 00:23:40 **Ajana**

# So, every class that I've taken here at UCLA has incorporated different intersectionalities of, of course, gender, but there's also race, sexuality, class, social class, religion, just so many different things. And being able to view the world through that lens and have that versus just looking at it one way and to really critically analyze things.

# 

# 00:24:05 **Ajana**

# Like sitting in your class as a student, and your criminology class, like I mentioned before, when finally, your mind opens up, like when you say come with an open mind and it gets like that, what is it like when you're in the classroom as the professor?

# 

# 00:24:24 **Ajana**

# And I remember sitting in the class and taking your class and like so worried about getting an A, because I wanted to get an A, because not only did I know you like as a friend, but also being a student in your class. And what is it like when you see your students have that aha moment of your teaching?

# 

# 00:24:44 **Ajana**

# Like the class used to be quiet, but then there was this one assignment that we had to do, then all of a sudden, everybody, the majority of the students had the aha moment and everything clicked. And then it became a whole huge conversation in the room and the whole environment changed. What is that like for you sitting at the professor and looking at all of us.

# 

# 00:25:06 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# I got like a physical reaction. I literally got goosebumps because when that actually happens in the classrooms, it's a beautiful experience because as you know, Ajana, like for my classrooms, I don't call on students. I invite conversations because like I was that one student ... I remember, I would sit in the back of the classroom and then I would like purposely not try to look eye contact because I want to be called. So, I try to invite conversation.

# 

# 00:25:33 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, when I see students who I sort of empathize with, come out of their shelves and share their experience, it's truly rewarding because part of education is growth. And we all are different parts in life and I'm still introverted, but I feel more comfortable in my own skin. So, it's a beautiful experience and beautiful to see students coming out of their shell when they feel comfortable to speak and share their experiences.

# 

# 00:25:57 **Ajana**

# Yeah, so, how has your view of the world changed once you started looking through that sociological lens?

# 

# 00:26:03 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# As previously mentioned, studying sociology and now teaching sociology, has truly made me a better person all around. Like I'm a better communicator, I'm able to actually speak because I was ... I share the story with my students. The last class I took as an undergraduate was public speaking because I was definitely afraid of public speaking, but look where I'm at now.

# 

# 00:26:25 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, part of the process is sort of getting out of your comfort zone and just with practice. And then oftentimes, I tell students, "Hey, don't worry." When we have class discussions and presentations, "I tell them I'm going assess you on the content." So, whether you understand this sociological material, not on delivery. So, that sort of eases, and some students were like hesitant about public speaking. I try to scaffold my assignments to make students feel comfortable.

# 

# 00:26:57 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# It also allows me to analyze the interplay between personality, culture, and society, domestically and abroad. And like, Ajana, you were saying, intersectionality is so important, specifically when we're looking at social problems here in the United States and abroad. There's a really important theoretical perspective, as well as the other sociological theories.

# 

# 00:27:15 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Sociology for me, can function as a transformative tool for individuals, culture and wider society to make our social world more equitable for all. This is really important for me and this part of the passion that I fell in love with sociology, is I can do my part to make our social world a better place through education. And it transformed my life, and it's great to see students - now, I've been teaching almost five years now, and then I get emails from students like, "Hey, your class, I completely changed my studies from fashion design or nursing and psychology to sociology."

# 

# 00:27:49 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, it's great to see how like just being exposed to sociology courses can change students' lives because they can see the utility of sociology. Because really, we're living in sort of socially turbulent times, oftentimes, domestically and abroad. And it's really important for students to get like a solid foundation in social sciences and sociology because we are global citizens and we can do our part to make our world a better place for all.

# 

# 00:28:17 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# So, this is why I teach sociology and I'll never look back because I'm also living my dream. And I'm fortunate to be here with you sharing this space, Ajana.

# 

# 00:28:26 **Ajana**

# You're one of the most inspiring people I've met through academia and we share a lot of similarities. We share our stories with each other; each being an introvert and also not really good at public speaking. I mean, you probably remember back in Mt. SAC when I wasn't very comfortable at public speaking.

# 

# 00:28:49 **Ajana**

# Now, look at all the amazing events I've been speaking at and venues I've been partaking in and student panels, and just some amazing stages. And so, I just think that you are one of the most inspiring people and you've inspired me and helped me to see the world through that sociological lens.

# 

# 00:29:09 **Ajana**

# And I'm 54. And when I started at Mt. SAC, I was, I don't know, 51, I think I was. And so I had to go 51 years of not looking at life through that lens, but once I did, it's just been an amazing journey. And it helped me also to feel more comfortable in my skin and to exist in society because of all the things that I've learned through your classes and Mt. SAC and here at UCLA.

# 

# 00:29:39 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Thank you so much, Ajana, for sharing that because like I said ... like you said perfectly; sociology has changed both of our lives for the better. And we're still introverted, but hey, with practice, we get better. And that's what I tell my students. So, I'm looking at you, I'm proud of you, Ajana, for literally - you're doing so many things at Mt. SAC and at UCLA, and I know you're going to get your law degree soon and represent. It's beautiful.

# 

# 00:30:03 **Professor Jean-Pierre**

# Thank you so much for sharing the space with me, Ajana. To the Mt. SAC podcast organizers; Barsi, Sun, Patricia, and Tracy, thank you so much for inviting me and allowing me to share my story with you and our listeners. Thank you so much, Ajana.

# 

# 00:30:19 **Ajana**

# Thank you.

# 

# 00:30:22 **Christina**

# Transferring from Mt. SAC to university to earn your bachelor's degree has countless benefits and opens the door to many opportunities. Learn how to do so with an associates of arts or associate of science transfer degree like we highlighted in this episode, by using transfer resources such as the counseling department or the transfer center.

# 

# 00:30:41 **Christina**

# Just go to mtsac.edu/counseling or mtsac.edu/transfer.

# 

# 00:30:47 **Christina**

# Thank you for listening to the Magic Mountie Podcast. And don't forget to share your favorite episodes.

# 