

2020 Wuhan COVID-19 Lockdown Oral Histories

Lucy Interview

May 15, 2021

Virtual Meeting

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Lucy Interview

BROWNING: Okay. All right. So I'm recording now. And so let me read this thing. So, all right, my name is Robert Browning working in conjunction with the Reuther Library at Wayne State University. Today's date is May 15, 2021. This interview is with Lucy about her experience of living through the COVID lockdown in Wuhan, China in early 2020. Lucy is located in Wuhan. This interview is being recorded remotely and will be housed at the Reuther Library, which is part of Wayne State University.

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All right, so first question I ask is, are you associated with Wayne State University in any way?

LUCY: No, I'm not.

BROWNING: Okay. Are you originally from Wuhan?

LUCY: Yes, I am. I'm currently living in Wuhan as well.

BROWNING: Okay. And where in Wuhan are you located? Which district? [00:02:00]

LUCY: I'm located in Hongshan District, which is part of Wuchang right now.

BROWNING: Okay. And could I ask what do you do for a living? What's your job?

LUCY: My job. I work in the education industry, at a training center. It's not in the school system, but it's an extra curriculum system.

BROWNING: Kind of like a private—

LUCY: Private education company. Yes.

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BROWNING: Okay. So I want to go back to late 2019 or early 2020 before the lockdown began and ask you, what you were doing before the lockdown? [00:03:00]

LUCY: Um-hm. Okay.

BROWNING: What were you doing the days before the lockdown?

LUCY: At that time, before the lockdown, we're slowly approaching Spring Festival, which is a traditional Chinese vacation for spring. Two days before the lockdown, I remember the lockdown was January twenty-fourth, and before the lockdown our company held an annual gala at a big giant mall on January twenty-first. I was feeling a little bit sick because the weather was not so great, but I was not having any cold or fever. [00:03:59] While I was on my way back, I was walking past a pharmacy, which was full of people. I was just checking out what's going on because normally there's not a lot of people in front of the pharmacy. People were waiting in line to buy some medicine and also alcohol wipes and things like that. And then the people working at the pharmacy were suggesting that I get some as well. So I got lucky, I bought some masks, alcohol wipes and also some pills. In case, you know, I got a fever or cold. I went back home. I was planning a trip for January twenty-ninth. [00:05:00] Normally I'm not very sensitive with the news, then after the pharmacy situation I started to read the news and, of course, I heard about the COVID situation before the twenty-first. I was feeling, like, I didn't take it too seriously during that time.

BROWNING: Okay.

LUCY: Yeah, so we were planning an overseas trip on January twenty-ninth and then we started looking at our schedule. We were thinking about, maybe, it's not a good idea to go for a trip. So I stayed at home on the twenty-second and twenty-third. We started to buy a lot of groceries. [00:06:01] On the twenty-fourth, we saw the news online about China going into a lockdown. So it's a dramatic transition from our company's gala that gathered together a lot of people and then going back home. And, you know, the pharmacy situation where a lot of people go to buy masks and alcohol wipes. So I stayed at home, because it's Spring Festival and after the gala,

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our company said, Everybody, you can just chill and relax, because the Spring Festival is coming. And, also, because of the COVID they didn't ask us to come back to work. [00:07:02] They just say, Okay, after the annual gala, you guys can stay at home, or things like that. So things started to get serious before the lockdown, just two or three days before the lockdown.

BROWNING: Right. So you say that you're not very sensitive about the news or don't pay attention to the news closely. So could I just ask you, do you remember when you first heard about COVID? Do you remember?

LUCY: Oh, so we have a family WeChat group, right? So we have older people in my family. They shared news in the group chat and my sister actually shared news in the group chat in early January. [00:08:07] I don't remember the exact date, but I checked the history of the WeChat messages and it is actually after New Year's Day. She started to say, Everybody pay attention, things like that. Because she reads news pretty frequently and she's very sensitive with, you know, the flu and any situation like that. Because she cares about herself and my parents. But I did not pay attention [to the news], so after the situation we actually talked about it. She said, I reminded you guys a long time ago. Because she lives with my parents. That's why she stocked up on masks. And she stocked up on the alcohol wipes a long time ago. [00:09:01] In early January, she did that already.

BROWNING: Wow.

LUCY: Yeah, I don't have the exact date, but I can be sure it's early January. Yes. We talked about it recently.

BROWNING: Okay. So when the lockdown began, what were the immediate challenges for you?

LUCY: The first thing was the family reunion. Because my house is a ten-to-fifteen-minute drive from my parents' house. We have the lockdown, but we were being very cautious, so we don't

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spend time together during the Spring Festival. [00:10:07] It was supposed to be a time that we were gathered together, having good meals and a good time for family.

BROWNING: Right.

LUCY: But the immediate challenge for me, I don't really have any immediate challenges, except for the family reunion plan. Because, after the lockdown, we can still go to the grocery stores nearby. It's, like, the lockdown started on January twenty-fourth, which is when you are not allowed to go outside of Wuhan, but people in the city can still travel a little bit until the Spring Festival—until after Chinese New Year's Eve. [00:11:07] Yeah, New Year's Eve. So it's actually pretty funny because we went to the Alibaba supermarket, which is called Hema Market. We went there to buy a lot of groceries, because my husband was, like, We need to stock up. Shortly, there won't be enough things, you know, enough food and enough groceries for us, if Wuhan is going to lockdown. So we went to the supermarket and we bought an American beer called Corona beer.

BROWNING: Right.

LUCY: Yeah. At that time, it was called Coronavirus, right? So our plan is off. [00:12:02] We could not travel overseas and then we were just buying a lot of things online. It can be delivered easily, before the Spring Festival—even after Spring Festival. The lockdown got serious in early February. Because [the number of] cases were piling up. Online, the data is getting serious. And, you know, in Chinese communities, there are households that have big apartment buildings that are very well managed, but there are also neighborhoods that have no community management, either. [00:13:05] So, after Spring Festival, people just locked down the gate. We only have one entry and one exit in my community. So we were trying to go out to buy groceries, but on every street block there is a person who sits there and ask you, Are you going anywhere? Do you have any papers to prove that you need to go out for an emergency? Because you can order things online to get delivered and, also, most of the communities had a leader who gets a group of people to buy things together and then distributes it when it arrives.

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[00:14:11] Because we have a WeChat group, people just have a little mini program forwarded into the WeChat group and you can select the things you want. Then there is a group leader, who is buying it for you, and then it will be delivered to the community and they will distribute it. When they distribute the groceries, people will keep at least one meter distance between each other.

BROWNING: Right, that must have made the lines long.

LUCY: Yeah, uh, actually there are different time slots provided so you can come at a certain time. [00:15:01] For example, Building One, Two and Three can come out from 11am to 12pm. And then, Building Three, Four and Five, you can get your groceries from two to three.

BROWNING: Okay. Interesting. And which floor of your building do you live on?

LUCY: I live on the second floor.

BROWNING: Okay, so it's not that high.

LUCY: It's not high at all, yeah. And we have a parking lot. At first, we are not allowed to go out. And, during the first few days, I still walked my dog in the community. But, later on, I just went to the parking lot, you know, because there's less people. [00:16:02] There's no people in the parking lot because there's two floors of the parking lot. We went to the second floor of the parking lot. There's no cars. Nothing there. I just walked my dog there for safety.

BROWNING: Right. So you couldn't walk your dog outside? You walked it in the parking lot.

LUCY: Yeah, I could walk it outside in the community. Yes.

BROWNING: Okay, okay. I see.

LUCY: Yeah, not outside.

BROWNING: Okay, I see. Could I ask you, what kind of feelings did you have during the lockdown?

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LUCY: It's quite complicated. There were different stages of the lockdown. [00:17:01] For the first few days, I didn't realize how serious it was. I just realized, Oh, I can actually enjoy my holiday at home. I don't need to be social with different people. I just felt frustrated that it's such a big move from the government that they're going to lockdown the whole city. I did not understand that at first. I did not know how serious it was. So I was, like, Why are they not allowing people to go out of Wuhan? Can they, actually, you know, control the situation by locking down Wuhan? And then after the community lockdown people cannot easily go out or come back in. I felt like I stayed in my house for long enough that I just really want to go out. [00:18:13] I was frustrated. I was upset with myself because I didn't know what to do with myself. I could not bring myself to watch TV shows or read a book because I just feel really, really frustrated and anxious. Not because of the lockdown, but it's because of the whole situation going on. Like, Why is this happening? It's such a serious situation for the world, for people in Wuhan. I heard that my friend's father-in-law was sick. [00:19:05] He had a fever, but at that time it's really hard to define whether he had COVID or not, because in the early stage the hospitals don't have enough materials to test for COVID.

BROWNING: Right.

LUCY: Yeah, so I was worrying with her. Because she was pregnant and she was living with her husband and also her husbands' parents. I was worried about her and, also, I was worried about my parents and my sister because my parents are old. Sometimes they went out to get the Groupon stuff from their community. [00:20:00] I worried about my dad, whether he has close contact with other people, because he's a chatty person, you know? Things like that, yeah.

BROWNING: How old are your parents, may I ask?

LUCY: My parents are sixty-five and sixty-three.

BROWNING: Okay.

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LUCY: Yeah.

BROWNING: Apart from your friend's father-in-law, did anybody in your family get sick?

LUCY: No, no.

BROWNING: Okay.

LUCY: All my family were pretty healthy during and after the whole COVID situation.

BROWNING: Well, that's good. Can I ask you, what did you miss most during the lockdown?

[00:21:03]

LUCY: Um, what did I miss most during the lockdown? Okay, so it's kind of weird to get groceries, right? Sometimes you need to get Groupon and sometimes you need to order online. But there is a very intense period, you couldn't get things ordered online. Because, at that time, the community doesn't allow too many delivery guys to get in and out. And also for groceries, like, I miss drinking coffee every day. [00:22:00] Then, right now, when I recall it, I learned how to order food within thirty seconds online. (laughs) Let me describe the whole situation, okay?

BROWNING: Uh-huh.

LUCY: So there is an Alibaba supermarket called Hema, right? And, at that time, you can order Hema every day. They will deliver it within 30 minutes and the first delivery of the day is free. And, at that time, it was six RMB for delivery, which is quite cheap as well. But, during COVID-19, they are short staffed—short of delivery guys, right? [00:22:59] So they would take limited orders every day. I like fresh food and fresh vegetables, so every day at ten o'clock, they opened the online orders. Within 30 seconds, they close it, because they only have so many orders they can take. Maybe, for example, thirty orders or one hundred orders. They limited the orders.

BROWNING: Right, it would sell out.

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LUCY: Yeah, yeah. And also, they don't have enough delivery guys to deliver to the community. Because in the front of the community, there was a giant place for people to put their grocery orders over there and we just went to collect it. We don't need to have contact with the delivery people. [00:24:07] They would deliver it and they will call us to get it.

So back to the story about the order, you needed to order it within thirty seconds. So I trained myself to order things that I want. At first, for a few days, I just add everything to the cart, right? And then I try to order it within thirty seconds, I get it. Before you could add things to the cart and then when it's ten o'clock you just pay it, right? But after a few days, there were too many orders to take, so they limit it again based on what I said before. So you cannot add things to the cart. [00:25:04] You can only start to add things in the cart right at ten o'clock. They will give you thirty seconds to check out.

BROWNING: Wow.

LUCY: Yeah, maybe even less than thirty seconds. So the most exciting moment for me and every day I trained myself to get something from that online app.

BROWNING: Right, it was like you had to turn it into a game to kind of keep yourself busy.

LUCY: Yes, and I also shared with my friends how I did it. I took a video and forwarded it to them and they got the order. It made me happy that they learned how to get things from that supermarket. [00:26:04]

BROWNING: Right, amazing.

LUCY: (laughs) Yeah.

BROWNING: So, going back to the lockdown, how did you occupy your time? How did you keep yourself busy?

LUCY: So I spent a lot of time with my dog. And also every day we got on the computer. We cooked. We tried to cook a lot of food. Because normally it's so easy to order takeout or

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delivery with a very good price in China. And so, during that time [of the lockdown], we'll just start to learn how to cook a good meal. [00:27:02] We just followed so many online recipes and made a lot of food every day. And spend a lot of time with my dog. My dog sleeps every day, but he needs attention all of the time, so we played a lot of games with him as well during. And we watched movies and videos. And sometimes I just laid down to stare at the ceiling. Most of the time, like, when I don't have anything to do. I couldn't bring myself to actually doing any work or reading or things like that. I just laid down and look at the ceiling and then fell asleep, yeah.

BROWNING: Okay, so a lot of sleeping.

LUCY: (laughs) A lot of sleeping and, yes, food, sleeping and also playing with my dog.

[00:28:00]

BROWNING: Okay, um, it's not that funny, but it's understandable. I mean, it's kind of the same thing we experienced in America a little bit. But I also want to get into your work situation. Can you tell me how did COVID affect your work situation?

LUCY: Yes, so I mentioned that after January twenty-second, we had two weeks for the Spring Festival holiday and we were supposed to go back to work on February eighth. [00:29:01] But because of the COVID situation, our company emailed everybody that we need to wait for the government announcement. We can start to work at home. Actually, I forgot to mention that we started to work at home in February, because I worked at a training center so all of the classes were face to face classes. Our teachers are [from] all over, from different places. We just tried to organize them together to have online classes with our students. I forgot that I have to work during that time as well and we have a lot of meetings to discuss how do we move the classes online? [00:30:00] What are the potential concerns that parents will have? You know, what are the concerns that we should consider? And, also, what were parents going to be like? Are they going to cooperate with us? Or they're going to be like, No, I don't want to have online classes, things like that. So we started to offer two hours of class online every week to our

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students. And, at that time, parents were not very happy, because the schools were offering online classes as well. So students had too much screen time and Chinese parents don't like that.

BROWNING: Right.

LUCY: Chinese parents don't like [too much] screen time for the kids, because they're trying to control them from not playing with the iPad, you know, games like that. [00:31:00] And then when there is too much screen time, the parents are gathering together. You know, having a lot of discussions with the school and have discussions online. And also they don't want [their children] to take the training center online classes, either. That's the first stage, parents are angry. And then, later on, they realize the situation because COVID is getting serious. You know, their kids need to study, and they accept the fact that they need to take a lot of online classes. So we offer three hours of classes online during that time for our students every week. So every week, we still have the regular working load. It's relatively easier than the normal time because we don't have students coming in. [00:32:03] We just offer classes online, which is easier for us, but also a challenge for our teachers is to teach things online.

BROWNING: How to do it and stuff?

LUCY: Yeah, yeah, most of the teachers don't have experience teaching online. You know, if kids turn off their camera, or if their kids ignore [them] and do not participate? You really cannot control anything. Yeah, so that's the time at my workplace. And another situation is because the company was still offering online classes, but we didn't have enough new enrollments, right? So there's not enough cash flow for the company. [00:33:01] So a lot of the employees received a government minimum payment during that time, from February to April. At least three months, I think, people get a minimum wage from the government. But because the government suggested a minimum wage for each company. Because they don't have enough cash flow, they didn't know whether they were going to survive after COVID. So they talked to

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their employees to tell them that they want to provide a minimum wage and we need to survive all of this together. [00:34:01]

BROWNING: Right. So, obviously, you got paid less, right?

LUCY: Yes, yes. We got paid very, very—

Pause in recording

BROWNING: You there?

LUCY: Yes. Sorry. We got paid less than before.

BROWNING: Okay. [00:35:00] We might come back to the work situation a little later here. I want to go back to your community and the lockdown? Just got a couple questions about that.

LUCY: Okay.

BROWNING: Did everyone cooperate with the rules, the procedures and guidelines? Were there ever any issues with people making trouble or having problems or anything like that?

LUCY: Most people were very cooperative, but there are also people who don't want to cooperate. They would lash out. In the community WeChat group, they would be complaining and, you know, back and forth. Every day there are people like that, but I don't know what extreme things they did, but during that time everyone was kind of crazy. [00:36:08]

BROWNING: Yeah.

LUCY: So, I guess, there were people who fought with the guard in the community and also there were people who [were] complaining about the community management in the group chat and things like that. But mostly, behavior wise, they're very cooperative. Generally, from my personal opinion, yeah, when I lived in my community because we have the basic supplies, food for everybody and they are supplied from the community as well. The community helped manage the supply. So they got the basic stuff and for other emotional things, people need to

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deal with it themselves or they have conflict with the community. [00:37:05] They tried to sort it out during that time.

BROWNING: Okay. When you say fight, do you mean physical fight or just argue?

LUCY: Argue, yeah.

BROWNING: Argue, okay, okay. All right. So did anybody in your community get sick that you know of?

LUCY: Yes. So for our building nobody got sick, but I heard in our community WeChat groups, they report the situation of how many people got sick in our community and what they have done about that situation. [00:37:59] Normally, they will connect with the government and ask the government and community management to put things together. Like, drive a car to pick them up to send them to the hospital. So if there's new or increasing cases, or anyone had a fever, they would report it. So we have a community, right? But we have our neighborhood, which was managed by the government. So our small community manager would report our case to the big community manager at the government. They would arrange people to deal with the situation, deal with the cases. [00:39:00] And they also have gathered people who are volunteers who wanted to drive a car during that time to different hospitals, things like that.

BROWNING: Okay, interesting. Okay, so we'll move on. I thought there was something that I might want to ask you, but it might come back to me. Oh, this is what I wanted to ask you, I know that during the lockdown it was often extended, right? They would say, Well, we will lockdown for two weeks and then after two weeks, they would say, Well, it's another two weeks, right? [00:40:06]

LUCY: Um-hm.

BROWNING: So it was frequently extended. How did that make you feel when it was frequently extended?

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LUCY: Actually, it makes me really angry at that moment. Because we were thinking about, Oh, we can finally go out, right? Then later on, we saw—let me think about it. Okay. So, um, at first, we can go out after how many days? And then later on, when we found out we cannot, we were just angry and frustrated. [00:41:01] And then I also complained in the WeChat group of our community and normally they don't give us specific answers for the reason why and they just say, That's the announcement we got from the government or the community management, things like that. But we also watched TV and saw things on Weibo, or WeChat, and know the situation is not getting better. So we were trying to just control ourselves during that time.

Yeah, and so when we finally get the notice that people who need to work can go out, but they were still managing the people who cannot go out, you know? [00:42:02] Most people, normally, the company applies for approval from the government, right? If the government had proof that your company can start to operate, then the company would provide you a document. You can show it to the guards of the community so that you can go out. In early April, I got the paper, so I can go out, but I don't need to actually go to work every day. Maybe, two days out of a week, just went to the office to check it out. I think it's middle April, not early April, I started to go out. [00:43:00] I could get groceries, but most of the places were not open. For example, coffee shops or cafeterias are mostly not open. So when I go out, there are not enough taxis, either, but the public transportation was running. So that was when you can actually go out for a walk.

BROWNING: Right.

LUCY: Go to East Lake for a walk. That's my daily routine. Because I got the paper from the company. I can actually go out. Then I took my family with me to go out for a walk. That makes my life easier during that time. But there aren't a lot of people in the streets because, you know, Wuhan is a big city. Normally, the district that I live is a university town. [00:44:02] There's so many universities. Normally, there are so many people. It's very crowded. And then when we drive out, we didn't see anybody. It was kind of scary.

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BROWNING: Yeah. This is just after the lockdown ended, right?

LUCY: Yes, yes. Because the university students cannot come back, even after the lockdown. You can see there are some cars on the road. But if there's no university students, the businesses are not open and all the malls and also the small shops near the university are completely dead. [00:44:54] It's scary to see that because people who lived in Wuhan for years, see things like that would be, like, I'm worried about Wuhan. What's going on? Will people be able to return back to normal life? You know, usually the malls are the places I like to go to and also the places we want to usually eat. Will it still be there after students return back? So it's a lot of worries and also little things in our daily life become really important at that the moment.

BROWNING: So to just back up a little bit in time, I think from what I know is around the middle of March or maybe even late March that the lockdown began to be relaxed. [00:46:04] A little slowly, at first, I guess. When things started to feel more relaxed, how did you feel? What were you thinking at that time?

LUCY: Things started to feel more relaxed from May sixth.

BROWNING: Oh, May sixth?

LUCY: Yeah. May sixth is actually when everybody can return back to work in my company. We actually start work then. We feel we've gone through so much emotionally, but we also feel proud as well because the people who worked in the medical system are very brave during that time. [00:47:09] We heard a lot of stories. And also China built a hospital within a week. Maybe in 10 days. Normally, I don't get moved get moved easily, but that's such a big thing that happened. I feel really proud of what we have done, especially [the] people in Wuhan. Of course, there are people who don't cooperate. But mostly, we survived. And I start to return to work more frequently. Everything's back to normal. We just wear masks every day. [00:47:58] And then we have a very good system of scanning QR codes, then people let you in and you show the QR code. Then [if you have a] green code, which means that you're healthy. And then the company organized the COVID test before everybody went back to work and after you test

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negative, then you can be safe. So you're safe to enter and exit during that time. So May sixth is when most people in Wuhan are free and then they can go out as well.

BROWNING: Okay, so that's something that I didn't really know. I always thought the lockdown was declared over April eighth and everything kind of opened up fairly quickly after that, but it seems it was a little bit slower than I thought. [00:49:12] At least, a little bit slower. So one quick question about the lockdown ending. When you heard that it was going to end, what's the first thing you did when you heard that news? Do you remember?

LUCY: I'm sorry. Can you repeat the question?

BROWNING: When you first heard that the lockdown would end, what was the first thing you did? [00:49:58] Do you remember the first thing you did when you heard the news about the lockdown ending?

LUCY: Um, I don't remember right now. The first thing I did after I heard the lockdown was ending? Um, yeah I think what I did is, what I mentioned, I took a ride to East Lake with my dog. We had a long walk during that day. Yeah, but I was very, very happy.

BROWNING: Yeah, of course. Okay, I can imagine. [00:50:59] All right, so just a few more questions, okay? Then we'll start to wrap up, start to finish here.

LUCY: Okay.

BROWNING: In your mind, how have things changed since the lockdown? For you, for your family, for Wuhan? Whatever you wish to speak about.

LUCY: Um, so I read a lot of news about, you know, people saying China doesn't respect people's privacy. A lockdown is such a harsh move, but I am still very positive about this. [00:52:02] I'm still very proud of what the Chinese government did, personally, because it's really effective. And people are really going back to normal after everything happened. So there were negative views online. There were negative views all over different places in the world,

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but I still think what the Chinese government did was the right thing. And, at that moment, we really knew what to do and we did the right thing and people who are living here are very cooperative, even from the people who are outside of China. They're not Chinese. They lived here during the lockdown. They have positive views about that. [00:53:02]

So I started to think about people differently. There's no right or wrong. People from different cultures have different reactions after different situations. But after COVID, this is a culture I live in and I am okay with that. And it worked out for me, at least for this situation. Like, I need to cooperate. I appreciate life more as well, you know? Normally, I don't feel excited to drink Starbucks, but after a few months, I drink Starbucks. After COVID there are so many little things that make me happy, because I started to appreciate that. [00:54:05] And also I realize how important health is. Health is really important and my family, too. You know, they start to started to exercise and I start to eat very healthy. Just trying to live in a healthier style.

BROWNING: Right, understandable, I think many people are like that around the world, actually.

LUCY: Um-hm, yeah.

BROWNING: All right, so I guess the last question for you is, how do you feel about the future? [00:55:00]

LUCY: Um, I think the future is very bright. Because right now everything is back to normal, especially my work and also the people who live in Wuhan. But I would like to try to live outside of Wuhan, because that's something that changed as well. I don't need to be stuck in Wuhan. You know, Wuhan is a good place, but I want to see a different part of China. Maybe I will move to other places in China to experience a different culture. Also there is not much difference about what influenced me after the lockdown. Because Wuhan, where I am, is back to normal right now. [00:56:03] We experienced it and we got over it, and then we live like how it used to be, but we just wear masks all of the time. That's the only thing.

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BROWNING: Yeah, same here. Okay, is there anything else that you wish to share?

LUCY: I would like to add a little bit more because, remember, I said I was frustrated and anxious, right?

BROWNING: Um-hm.

LUCY: I still can walk my dogs in the parking lot for the first few days of the lockdown. I can describe why I was very anxious.

BROWNING: Yeah.

LUCY: Because I feel like everywhere is not safe. [00:57:03] It's not safe anywhere because of COVID. So when I got home, I wiped my shoes with alcohol wipes and spray my whole body, which is crazy to think about right now. But, at that time, I feel really safe to do that. So every day after I walked my dog, I washed his feet with soap and I sprayed alcohol everywhere in the house. Yeah. And also I wiped my shoes with alcohol wipes as well. Just making sure the house was, quote, clean. [00:58:00]

BROWNING: So you did a lot of cleaning?

LUCY: Yes, yes.

BROWNING: Yeah, okay. I guess I have to ask, did you feel that your dog had an idea that something was wrong? That something was different during the lockdown?

LUCY: Um, yeah, because he did not have as many walks as he was supposed to have every day.

BROWNING: Right, yeah. So that explains why he was maybe restless like the humans, I guess? [00:58:59]

LUCY: Yes, yes, yes. He just wants attention all the time.

BROWNING: Yeah.

Lucy Interview

LUCY: And he wants a lot of food at that time as well.

BROWNING: Yeah, well, that's a dog for you. That's for sure.

LUCY: Um-hm, um-hm.

BROWNING: Okay, I guess that that's all I have for you, but I should say thank you for doing this and I really do appreciate it, okay?

LUCY: Yes, of course. My pleasure.

Pause in recording

LUCY: There's one more thing I want to mention. How the Chinese government helped companies or—

BROWNING: —Yes, please—

LUCY: To get the economy back. Because after COVID, you know, there were so many shopping malls and restaurants were kind of in a bad situation, right? So the government tried to stimulate the economy. [01:00:03] So they would distribute coupons to restaurants and shopping malls for a long time until September or October. Every week they gave out coupons and people have to go on WeChat or Alipay to get the coupon. Then, they can actually use it. It's a very large discount. If you want to buy, for example, a 300 RMB coat and then with that coupon you can get 80 RMB off. Then the shopping mall themselves had discounts as well. So they were trying to stimulate consumption and then they can get, you know, the economy back. [01:01:01]

BROWNING: Right, so do you think that this helped the situation?

LUCY: Yes, yes. Yeah, totally. Yeah, because all my friends tried to get coupons. Because you got to go to restaurants. You got to go to shopping malls.

BROWNING: Right.

Lucy Interview

LUCY: Yeah, and then people just get the coupons all the time to go to malls and restaurants, even grocery stores.

BROWNING: Even grocery stores.

LUCY: Yes.

BROWNING: Do you have any idea how much that was all worth? Like for an individual?

LUCY: For the government they must distribute, at least, billions. Yeah, I think so. [01:02:00]

BROWNING: Yeah. Do you have any idea how much you received or anything like that?

LUCY: How much I received? I think I received one thousand in total.

BROWNING: One thousand in total?

LUCY: Yeah, because, normally, I got the restaurant ones. I didn't shop that much during that time. Also, for groceries. For groceries, they normally distributed twenty RMB or fifty RMB. For malls, they distributed eighty RMB ones. And for restaurants, they normally have fifty RMB.

BROWNING: Interesting, that that's definitely different from America. You know, we just received a couple checks. (Both laugh) [01:03:00]

LUCY: I know, I know. It's very different.

BROWNING: All right, I guess that's all I have. So, unless you have anything else?

LUCY: Um, I pretty much covered all the information I want to share. Yeah.

BROWNING: Okay. All right. So I'm going to stop recording and then there's just a couple things that I need to tell you.

LUCY: Okay.

Lucy Interview

BROWNING: Then then we're completely finished.

LUCY: Okay, no problem.

End of interview