**Safety-oriented On-road Practices of Adult Bicycle Riders in Brooklyn, New York USA**

**Interview Questions**

**#2 (Park Slope), recruited July 14, interviewed July 26, 2018.**

**T0111E01.mp3**

*Background Questions:*

1. What is your age? (Were you born prior to this month and day in the year 2000?)

**34**

1. What is your race or ethnicity?

**Caucasian**

1. What is your gender?

**Female**

1. What is the highest level of education that you completed?

**Associates degree**

1. How long (in months or years) have you been riding bicycles?

**Well, I started – you know, I biked when I was younger and then I stopped. And -- I think I have been biking – definitely biking here since 2013 – and I did some biking a little bit before, but not – I don’t think it’s really – not that much.**

1. How long (in months or years) have you been riding bicycles in Brooklyn?

**So, Brooklyn: since June -- Like, I guess, 5 years.**.

1. Compared to most other bicycle riders you have observed, are you more careful, less careful, or about the same?

**I would say probably more careful.**

1. Have you been in any bicycle crashes that involved other vehicles or pedestrians?

**No.**

During the past 12 months…..

1. What have been the main reasons or purposes for going bicycle riding? (Commute? Errands? Transportation to other locations? Exercise? Recreation? Part of your job? Other?)

**I would say, commute.**

1. On average, how frequently have you ridden your bicycle?

**Actually I took a break over the winter, so it’s hard to tell. Like, because in, like, summer/fall/spring, I bike – I don’t know -- maybe, like, 3 times a week? 4 times a week?**

1. On average, how long (in minutes) did you ride each time you go bicycling?

**Probably 20 to 30 minutes.**

1. How much of your bicycle riding took place when there was a lot of motor vehicle traffic?

**I would say, maybe half of it.**

1. How much of your bicycle riding took place in darkness or low light conditions such as dusk?

**Not so much - I mean, like, -- sometimes -- because I use it also to go places, so sometimes I will bike early in the morning or at night – but not that much.**

[f/u Q: Let me go back, if I may, to an earlier question where I asked you: Compared to other bicycle riders you have observed, are you more careful, less careful, or about the same? And you answered that you feel you’re more careful. Can you talk a little bit more about why you feel you’re more careful than others?]

**Well, I think it’s because – probably usually because I have anxiety – every time I bike, I always think, like, you know, something could happen – I am always, like, super aware of doors and people crossing streets and cars not – like, turning without -- because these things happen so many times – like, it has happened to me also so many times, that I’m always, like, extra very focused, I guess. And, you know, I am very worried about holes on the street too and that I might fall off my bike, so I’m just, like -- because I have all this in mind, I am always, like, super alert, I guess.**

*Primary study questions:*

1. From the perspective of safety, what is it like to go bicycle riding in the streets of Brooklyn?

**I don’t know – It’s not -- I think it depends on where you bike – some places have, like, you know, bike lanes or that are pretty smaller streets that I feel pretty safe on. But biking on, like, shared streets – you know, for example, in Park Slope there are streets like 7th Avenue, where you share the bike line with the cars, and this is not safe at all. And – you know, like, riding on the avenues is not safe, crossing the avenues is not safe, I mean, I don’t feel safe, and I avoid that as much as possible. So I don’t think it’s that safe.**

1. For a bicycle rider in Brooklyn, what are the most common dangers or hazards that confront a bicycle rider? Are there particular things you do while riding to avoid them?

**Definitely cars – I just – yeah – like, cars, and, like, the conditions of the street, like the potholes and stuff, and people, like, yeah, that – and double – like, the double-parking, that I have to, like, go on the street in cars – so, to avoid that, I think, I just don’t bike too fast. Like, I bike, I think, like, fast, but I also, like – I kind of, like, anticipate that if I have a conflict, like, either on my turn or they might change lanes without looking, you know, without, like, caring that I am there. Or – I always -- I also, like – or about people opening doors, so I always bike, like, about a meter away from the cars to leave, like, some room so that if there is any door that opens I am not going to just head straight in there. Yeah, I think those are the thing I think most about. And people – I mean, like, you know, if I come to, like, a light, a cross street and – you know– even if I have the light, if there are people I usually -- I’m usually careful, I slow down because I know they will cross anyway – so, yeah – I try to, like, watch out for all those things and not go through, like, light that fast because I know people – yeah.**

1. Are there dangers or hazards that are difficult or impossible for a bicycle rider to see and react to? Are there particular things you do while riding to avoid them?

**Well, sometimes, like, holes on the street, you know, like, in the bike lanes and stuff – when you have, like, gigantic hole and you just come and – you know -- because it – I, you know -- I have to pay attention to so many things around me, that sometimes I’m just like -- if it’s a street that I don’t know ---- you know, like – you might just end up riding in a big hole and it’s just, like -- then – Yeah, and I feel also it’s, like, other people’s vehicles, like, you know, the car drivers or people who cross the street, those are, like – like, it’s not -- I don’t know, if you’re very careful, sometimes it just happens that you get caught into, like, a situation where people just cut right in front, like, cut in front of you and – and -- so, yeah – I mean, I guess I have been lucky that nothing has happened, I know so many people that, you know, have, like, crashed and stuff.**

[f/u Q: Are there any things that you do to try to prevent that from happening?]

**Well, I guess I just – yeah – I just -- I think, when there are, like, lots of people around me and lots of traffic, I just go, like, pretty slow – I mean, not slow, but I – yeah, I try, like, to anticipate, so if there is anything, I can, like, hit my brakes and not crash, or hit anyone.**

1. Please describe things you have seen other bicycle riders do that you consider to be dangerous.

**So, running through lights, like, going through red lights without slowing down at all. I think it’s insane. Or, like, going through traffic – yeah -- just, yeah that’s – I always – like, that always gives me – just seems insane, you know, going -- when there’s lots of cars, just going, like, super-fast. Or like going – you know, doing, like – going from, you know, one side to the other side of the street, going -- Also, like, one thing -- I think it’s more annoying than dangerous, although it can be dangerous: is like, when there is a bike lane and you bike on the bike lane and they bike on the other side, and then the cars will have to go in the middle, and then you have to, like, squeeze in between cars because there’s not enough room for everyone. So I think that’s also kind of dangerous, you know -- also annoying that there is – like, if there’s a bike lane, use the bike lane.**

[f/u Q: So, to make sure I understand: So you’re talking about riders who ride in the street, even though there’s a bike lane that they could use?]

**Yeah. Yeah, because then, like, when the car tries to go in the middle, like, you have to squeeze against the cars that are parked along the side -- because there’s not enough room for everyone, like, the two bikes plus the car.**

1. If it were your job to teach other adult bicyclists how to stay safe while riding in the streets of Brooklyn, what particular instructions would you give them?

**I think I would say to – actually, I have said to, like, friends who have gone biking, that: use the bike lanes as much as possible, like, even if you have to go a few -- like, 2 blocks up to get on the bike lane—even if they have to ride for awhile on that street, do that. Like, go on your own pace -- at your own pace, don’t care about cars that, you know, horn at you or people that yell at you, like, just do your own thing and – yeah, just watch for people and cars. Yeah – yeah, I think that’s – yeah.**

1. Imagine for a moment that, right now, you are riding on a Brooklyn street along with other traffic. Tell me all the different things you are doing to keep yourself safe and avoid a crash or collision as you ride.

**So, what I do is -- If there is a bike lane I am definitely in the bike lane and if it’s a shared bike lane, I usually -- or if I’m on a street that doesn’t have a bike lane, I usually stay about a meter away from the cars that are parked, so that if there is anyone, like, coming out of a car or coming in between cars, I’m not, like -- I have some room to do something or to see them, I have an extra second or whatever to see them come out or open the door. Also, I think -- I go at my own pace, and if someone really wants to go by me, they will have to wait until there is room to do it – or if I know that I’m -- like, it is safe enough to, like, you know, move towards the right to give someone the space I will do it, but if it’s just going from one light to the other I usually let them, you know, it’s like, whatever – if there’s traffic, I’m not, like, squeezing myself, because I really don’t like doing that, because you’re not – you’re being squeezed between, like, the car that is passing me by and the car that is parked, and sometimes, like, they give you very very little room. And, I don’t know -- I think that it is always, like – to me it’s always a little scary.**

[So that I understand – tell me what you do in those situations?]

**So I stay about, like, a meter away from the cars that are parked, and if the car, like, wants to go by me, I usually – like, if I feel like it’s safe to go to the right to give them more room to go by me, I will do it, but if I feel that it is not safe or if there is a red light just at the end of the street, I usually, like, stay where I am, and – if they get mad, they get mad – that’s their problem, not my problem. Yeah, and then I just say -- I don’t bike fast, I slow down at every light and, you know, things like that, because -- just to make sure that – you know, like [?] people will, I know, will cut if they want to turn right, so I usually just slow down and let them go, because -- yeah. Yeah, I think that is usually what I do.**

1. Now I would like to throw out a few words or phrases and ask you if they trigger any additional thoughts about how to ride safely:

* Intersections

**Dangerous.**

[Any additional thought about how to ride safely around intersections?]

**I would definitely, like, slow down – like, I go near to a stop – I mean, not when it’s a green green light – Like, I -- you know, I kind of, like, analyze the -- you know, how it’s going there and if I feel like it’s safe I will, you know, keep on going on my own pace, but if I feel like it’s really, like, traffic or people I usually slow down. And it’s, like -- I do, like, go through red lights, but I always, like, stop, you know, I come to, like, a almost, like, stop and then I go (?) -- if there is, like, no cars coming at all I will cross. Yeah -- and then I go.**

* Traffic signs and signals

**I don’t know about that.**

* Right-of-way

**I don’t trust it.**

[In order to ride safely, is there something that you do with respect to right-of-way?]

**I just don’t trust others to respect my right-of-way so I act like if I did not have it. So I – yeah, because -- I feel like, as a biker, like, people don’t really take you seriously, like, pedestrians, because you’re not a car, will cut in front of you and cars will cut in front of you because you are just a bike. So – yeah.**

* Pedestrians

**Dangerous.**

[So, what to do to ride safely around pedestrians?]

**I use my bell as much as possible – and the hand, yeah.**

{I’m sorry, I didn’t --]

**I use my bell a lot when there are a lot of pedestrians, because they don’t pay attention. And I don’t ride too fast.**

* Speed

**I don’t know -- I don’t know what to say here.**

* Respect

**There’s not a lot – for each other. People that are on the street**

[Do your feelings about respect affect the way you ride in order to ride safely?]

**Yeah, I think it comes to, like, what I was just saying about – people who don’t take me, like, seriously because I’m on my bike, and so, they feel like they don’t really respect. And – I mean, I can understand that sometimes people do feel that way because they’ve seen and heard so many things about bikers that – you know, I’m not scared to bike [?] -- And they kind of, like, will treat you – like, I have had people, like, yell at me for doing something and then they’ll say -- you can tell that they were, like, so angry at bikers in general. So – yeah.**

* Trucks, buses

**Dangerous.**

[How to ride safely around them?]

**Actually, you know – I think – trucks, I wish they were not there in the City. Because they’re just – I don’t know – often it’s, like, lots of people who are not – when they’re, like, big big trucks, we have people who do not live here. And I’ve heard -- I have had a few friends who were killed by trucks.** [Oh!] **Yeah.**  [I’m sorry about that] **Thank you. Buses, I feel they – [?] Most of the time I’m -- when they see me coming, they will let me go first, [?] because they stop every few streets they will stop and let me go so then I can go. So I kind of like see, you know – like, see things and analyze, you know, their behavior and so then I can adapt mine to theirs, like, so I know if I can speed up so I can just, like, pass them and never have to deal again with it, or if I can, like, ride along. Yeah, I think it depends also on, like, the street and if there is a bike lane or not and things like that.**

* Parked cars

**Dangerous.**

[I know you talked about, before, what you do: leaving a meter of distance. Is there anything else that you want to say about riding safely around parked cars?]

**Kind of, like, keep an eye on it. You know, just like -- If you see, if I see, like, the brake light on or the door, like, half open or, like, cracked open or, like, if the window is open, I know there is someone in the car who might open the door, or if I see a pedestrian, like, right by the car, then I can, you know, imagine that he will come in and out of the car. So it’s just, yeah – just, like, paying attention, I guess.**

* “Taking the lane”

**I don’t know what that means.**

(Gave a definition.) [How do you think taking the lane relates to riding safely?]

**Well – I think it’s just – I mean -- I think it depends on the traffic conditions – if it’s slow traffic, I don’t think it’s a big deal. But if there is, like, not much traffic, I was, like -- why would you do that? You know -- especially if you don’t bike fast, you’re, like, definitely slower than a car, then I just understand, like, why you would do something like that.**

* Pet peeves

**Can you remind me what that means? I’ve heard this before, but I can’t remember.**

[Yeah – it’s an expression that means just something that particularly bothers you as an individual – are there any pet peeves that you have that relate to riding bicycles safely?]

**I think probably the -- mostly, like -- Respect – you know, what I said about that, like: that people don’t care. And – yeah, I think that I get annoyed sometimes by that. I’m just, like -- You can see that I am here, and, like, why are you pretending that I am not there? You know, it’s just that -- I think that is actually the thing that annoys me the most because sometimes they can put me and them in, like, dangerous situations just because they pretend that I’m not there.**

1. Please feel free to offer any other thoughts about the topics we have discussed

today.

[around 24:00 – extended response, not sure of relevance to study]

**I think it would be a lot safer for the rest of us if there were less cars. Less cars and more bike lanes and protected bike lanes. And everywhere, not just in fancy neighborhoods – if you go to East Brooklyn or Bushwick, it’s really dangerous – really big avenues, it’s dangerous. It is very scary to bike in those areas.**

[ Q for clarification: Wide busy streets that could have bike lanes but don’t?] **yes – like Atlantic Avenue I have biked on that and it’s huge, the cars go really fast.**

**I want to see more bikes, more people on bikes. I think it would be really nice to promote more like Amsterdam, more like a tourist thing.**

Thank you very much for participating in this research study and especially for taking the time and effort to complete this interview with me.