

Cohabitant: The Design, Implementation, and Evaluation of a Virtual Reality Application for Interfaith Learning and Empathy Building

Interview Guide

1. Can you give us an idea of your religious affiliation? [Note: take notes of how they self identify their religious affiliation]
2. [Similarity between groups] Could you explain the similarity between the two scenes? Could you explain if and how you give attention to the similarities of religious practices with your friends from other religions? How do you feel after you have known about the similarities? If you found anything surprising and you have learned for the first time from these immersions, could you tell us about that? How has it impacted your enthusiasm about other religions?
3. [Anxiety in intergroup contact] When you are curious about aspects of other religions, how do you approach conversations with people about your questions? Can you share your experiences discussing religious topics with others? In virtual reality scenarios involving followers of other religions, how would you describe your role-playing interactions?
4. [Empathy/perspective taking] After virtually experiencing a typical day of celebration in two different religions, could you describe your overall impressions? What, if anything, did you learn about other religions from the VR experiences? Are there aspects of these religions you're curious to explore further? How might you go about learning more from other sources [if they do not understand, give them hints, such as friends, books, and internet, etc]?
5. [Quality of Contact] Could you describe your experience with learning and interacting with various objects in the VR scenes? Are there any changes or additions you think could improve your learning experience in the VR scenes? Please explain your thoughts. How would you adapt these scenes if you were to use it as an educational tool for friends unfamiliar with your religion?
6. [How others think/feel/know about them] Have you had interactions with friends of other faiths that led to discussions about your religion or culture? What were those conversations like? In what ways have you engaged in conversations about your religion or culture? Are there specific approaches you find effective that could be adapted to the VR scenes?
7. [Embodied Feelings] Point to different moments of the VR scenes and ask questions about how they feel about that. For example, referring to standing and observing people praying in the Muslim scene, ask: have you ever been to such a prayer? Could you explain your feeling while you were standing? How did it feel when you listened to the Quran? Referring to the Chorus in the Christian scene, ask: similar types of questions.

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8. [Previous connections] How did your previous knowledge affect your experience with the VR scenes? Are there any specific examples from the VR scenes you could share about this?