

Interview Notes

Interview with Isabel Scarborough, Doctoral Candidate in Anthropology

Interview conducted April 23rd, 2010

Conducting the interview I couldn't help but be nervous. I didn't want anything to go wrong or to have awkward silences, so I was taking extreme caution to be on my toes and ready to come in with a question when she paused. Turns out that I didn't have to worry as she talked very freely and comfortably. I had prepared over 20 questions and only had to ask about 10 because as she talked she answered my questions so I didn't even have to ask them. The interview was conducted in a room off of her advisor's office and I was first worried about it being so bare and without carpet, but as I listened to the recording right after it sounded just fine. My interviewee is an anthropologist so she has conducted plenty of interviews herself throughout her research and fieldwork. She seemed very calm and knew to clarify statements before I even had to ask for better details. She was also very calm and held great eye contact. Throughout the interview I worked hard to not agree with things out loud because I found that annoying in interviews we listened to in class. I feel I succeeded, but I felt awkward constantly smiling and nodding my head without agreeing out loud to keep the conversation going.

Before the interview I had set up the recorder to make sure it was working correctly and checked the battery life at that point. It was full and the memory card was empty, but about 2/3 through the interview I checked the recorder and I only had one bar left of battery and 35 minutes left of memory. My interviewee was in the middle of a story and I felt unprofessional stopping and panicking, so I decided to let it be and it turned out all right. A few minutes later her cell phone went off and I had to stop the recording, and again everything turned out fine. During the interview I took brief notes on my sheet that

had my questions, so that I could be ready to ask other things or to clarify things she mentioned. She seemed to be ahead of me the whole time and answered everything I planned on asking and was truly a great interviewee. Through her easy-going personality and her previous experience with these sorts of projects, my interviewee made me more comfortable and more confident in my interview and made the hour and 10 minutes fly by.