

LSE ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

INTERVIEW SUMMARY SHEET

Title Page

Ref. No.: THS020

Wav file Refs:

Collection title: Tales from Houghton Street

Interviewee's surname: Rock

Title: Professor

Interviewee's forenames: Paul

Sex: M

LSE connection: Department of Sociology, Emeritus Professor of Social Institutions, Mannheim Centre for the Study of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Date of birth

4/8/1943

Date(s) of recording, Compact Flash used, tracks (from – to): 24/7/2015

Location of interview: LSE

Name of interviewer: Clara Cook

Type of recorder: Tascam DR-40

Total no. of tracks: 2

Recording Format: Wav 24bit

	44.1khz
Mono or stereo: Mono	
Total Duration: 00:49:27	
Additional material:	
Copyright/Clearance:	
Interviewer's comments:	

THS020 Paul Rock

Track 1 [16.47] [Session one 24 July 2015] Paul Elliott Rock [PR] Born 1943 [00:16] PR recalls his first visit for interview mentioning that knew of LSE from his parents' friends who were of the 1930s generation. [00:25] PR was interviewed for Economics Degree but after showing an interest in demography was directed to Sociology Degree. PR notes that he fell into criminology after being taught by Terence Morris. [00:53] PR remembers LSE as small and dowdy; discusses food in the refectory. [1:43] PR remembers the Library in Old Building as a warren of staircases. [2:16] PR discusses lectures and standard of teaching, mentions Isaac Schapera and Ronald Dore. [2:38] PR notes importance of learning from fellow students including Jock Young, Stan Cohen and Frances Heidenson; remembers discussions in Florries Bar in the Old Building. [3:44] PR notes importance of discussions introducing new ideas many from the USA eg symbolic interaction, microsociologies and workings of the Chicago School. [5:45] PR talks about the Library and small number of teaching hours enabling wider reading. [7:17] PR describes the Library and its collections. [8:05] PR remembers being arrested for protesting against nuclear weapons at an air force base and later politicisation of students by the Vietnam War. [8:37] PR describes organising a series of talks by controversial speakers and the difficulty of demolishing their arguments. [9:00] PR talks about rowing and visiting the LSE boat house at Chiswick. [10:06] PR describes attending Student Union meetings in the late 1960s as a staff member and role of academic, Robin Blackburn. [10:59] PR remembers LSE being the base for students during political demonstrations and having French revolutionaries using his office phone. [10:27] PR felt

distant from the conflict but remembers others trying to get him to resign because of the School's policies. [10:59] PR describes going to Nuffield College, Oxford, for his doctorate and his application for a post at LSE. [13:50] PR discusses the transition from student to a teacher and working with his former teachers. [15:21] PR describes the tensions between senior Professors and their supporters. [16:08]

Track 2 [32:40] PR discusses the role of Professor Bob Mackenzie. [00:14] PR discusses conflicts between professors and their impact on the Department. [1:08] PR discusses his interest in new developments in sociology and criminology. [2:14] PR discusses teaching. [3:14] PR discusses difference between teaching undergraduates and research. [4:53] PR notes LSE's busy and collegial atmosphere and the scope for inter-disciplinary working. [8:21] PR discusses work of the Mannheim Centre for Criminology. [10:50] PR discusses the importance of LSE's size in enabling conversations and notes the importance of the SDR in bringing people together. [11:28] PR describes himself as conventional academic interested in ideas and discussing ideas; notes that he is not involved with other social groups as he had a family. [12:50] PR discusses changes in support for personal research and development influence of a government directed research agenda. [14:58] PR discusses scholarly values at LSE eg in sabbatical system although there has been changes since his retirement [17:20] PR recalls work in Canada, Princeton, Australian National University and a year researching the Crown Court in Wood Green. [18:10] PR discusses changes at LSE noting it is more architecturally adventurous, the financial situation and potential impact of global economic changes. [19:14] PR remembers that the School staff as white and middle class; remembers appointing women to the board of the British Journal of Sociology. [21:05] PR expresses concern about a government led agenda for higher education and its impact on smaller eg anthropology [22:05] PR recounts Director John Ashworth's statement that LSE's first priority was to remain solvent. [26:15] PR comments on the Law Department balancing vocational training and open minded enquiry [27:04] PR comments on the importance of LSE's location in central London in shaping LSE's research; mentions earlier plan to move to Croydon. [27:58] PR notes the difficulties of retaining staff in high cost London and describes a Stanford University scheme to support faculty in purchasing properties on the university estate. [30:18]