

**TRAINING:
UNISA-UWC
ASTRONOMY ORAL
HISTORY PROJECT**

WHO TO INTERVIEW?

PRIORITY: ELDEST

- The oral history project is motivated to capture the lived experiences of our oldest living astronomers and those associated with astronomy in South Africa.
- We do want a cross sectional sample including all career stages, all ethnicities/races, all genders, all economic classes.
- We will allow for people who are not astronomers but telescope operators, engineers, etc.

COLLECTING INTERVIEWS

SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

- Two Teams: Cape Town and Johannesburg
- Focus on Institutes and Departments: SKA, SAAO, AIMS, UCT, UWC, etc.
- 2-3 day visits
- dedicated room
- Who: Eldest (priority), recommended, and volunteers

PHYSICAL SETUP

DEDICATED ROOM

- Quiet
- Well lighted
- Needs a door
- Either blank walls or visually interesting but not distracting
- The Scientists: Should wear solid colors
 - avoid white
 - non-reflective coating glasses

FILMING

LIGHTING IS CRUCIAL

- carry a portable light source to illuminate from the front.
- 2 hours maximum - promise 1.5 to 2 hours
- Get your subject to relax by doing chit chat while testing the equipment

EQUIPMENT

CANON CAMCORDER

- XA 20 - Cape Town
- XA 40 - Johannesburg
- Voice recorder - Johannesburg
- Cell phones - Cape Town
- Lapel microphones if available
- 64 GB SD card for video
- >4 GB Mini-SD for voice recordings

Equipment Summary

- ✿ *Everything charged*
- ✿ *Have backup batteries/backup chargers*
- ✿ *Check equipment and check again*
- ✿ *Lighting is important*
- ✿ *Your phone is your friend*

Record Keeping

- ✿ *Have your own memory cards 64 GB each for camera and voice recorder/phone*
- ✿ *Organize the file system on your computer (show example)*
- ✿ *You are responsible for the files until they are uploaded onto our file servers.*

What do we want to know?

- ✿ *Dates, names, science, instruments, funding, networks, migrations*
- ✿ *BUT we want to learn their speaking style and the way they put information together on their own. Not just what they say, but how they say it.*
- ✿ *Semi-structured interviews*
- ✿ *Prompt - Listen - Cross-examine*
- ✿ *SILENCE IS YOUR FRIEND - wait for answers. Do not use verbal reinforcement such as yes, yah, ahem, etc.*

New Protocol

- Read CV/Resume, Go onto ADS to get highest cited article
- SPELL
- Background
- Education/Career
- Tastes
- Significance
- Life-work
- Religion
- South African Issues: Apartheid, Black Tax, Empowerment, Gender, Language
- Current Issues
- Advice

MEMORIZE THE PROTOCOL

- Memorize the protocol and the meanings behind each term
- It is not important the order of the topics - FOLLOW THE CONVERSATION. It is okay to jump around. Just keep track of what still has to be covered.
- What if you do not touch on all the topics? It is OK. Just mention that you didn't get through everything and that you hope there will be a chance to do another interview to 'finish'
- Kleenex/Tissue this can be emotional. Show sympathy, stop equipment until they are composed again.

South Africa Specific Questions

- ✿ *The Black Tax*
- ✿ *Apartheid*
- ✿ *Gender Roles*
- ✿ *Religion?*
- ✿ *Language - English 2, 3, 4th language*

MOCK INTERVIEW