

Observation Session 3

Wednesday, 15 January 2020 5:44 PM

Researcher ok

TC 00:00:02.546 - 00:00:03.639

SD (0.57)

P8 ok, so here mate, 10 years, 12 years?

TC 00:00:04.217 - 00:00:08.744

P11 uh, 10

TC 00:00:07.700 - 00:00:09.529

P8 10 years

TC 00:00:09.044 - 00:00:09.729

P11 yeah

TC 00:00:09.669 - 00:00:10.528

P8 why?

TC 00:00:09.950 - 00:00:10.592

SD (0.06)

P11 why? Well, when I was at home I was in my um, first job and it was um, I'd been there already 8 years in that company, and I was- I've got uh, as you know, I have family here as well so,

it's always been uh, proud of that as well, so, I got a bit fed up with the job at home and all the politics in the team and I was like, around 29 so I thought, you know, why don't I try

and find some 6 month kind of uh- un, I take un- 6 months unpaid leave from work and go and work here for 6 months, yeah, yeah

TC 00:00:10.659 - 00:00:46.708

P8 yeah I remember you saying it was - it was unpaid to start with, so sort of like-?

TC 00:00:43.656 - 00:00:48.495

P11 unpaid from work, they let me do that but I had to have a - a c- a business case, well not business case a- a, a case why that I had to go there and I had to get some kind of employment

and tell them why and they'd let me go for the six months 'cause it's quite a long time, so I found - I- I- wrote to the ministry of the environment and they said to me that they haven't got any position there but

TC 00:00:46.708 - 00:01:08.734

P8 did you write to 'em in English or in Czech?

TC 00:01:07.460 - 00:01:09.969

P11 I wrote them, eh- to them in English, and then they wrote back to me saying that they couldn't help me there, but they have a company called Cenia which is a Czech environmental

information agency and I could possibly go there, so I got- I wrote to their director at the time in 2008 and he said yep, we can pay you and you can come here, and I'll find you something to do, and I came here, and so I [unint]

TC 00:01:09.125 - 00:01:30.660

P8 yeah

TC 00:01:10.394 - 00:01:11.530

SD (16.43)

P8 so they- they- they sort of saw it as a- not exchange 'cause they didn't send anyone over but just a chance to have an-

TC 00:01:27.963 - 00:01:35.471

P11 no, not an exchange, just a chance to have an En- an English speaker there and I- 'cause I had an environmental background in, in fisheries management and- and water management, they

just said ok and, and why not and you can help us with things as well

TC 00:01:31.351 - 00:01:44.729

P8 so I think - we- we've both been in uh, sort of, environmental settings while we've been here so, do you think we've actually got the real feeling for Czech?

TC 00:01:42.982 - 00:01:51.681

P11 yeah

TC 00:01:45.563 - 00:01:46.981

SD (0.41)

P11 mhmm

TC 00:01:47.398 - 00:01:48.568

SD (2.45)

P11 I think-

TC 00:01:51.025 - 00:01:53.799

P8 'cause I- I'm teaching at CZU [unint] I teach at the water research, and a couple of Universities and whatever and- and you know, so are we really in, in the Czech me- mentality?

TC 00:01:52.126 - 00:02:03.955

P11 erm, well, for where I work, I- I- I- I am, 'cause it's a Czech company, it's a Czech state-run company so, I, live here every day and see it every day, and, 'cause I live here all the time as well, um I think so, yeah, 'cause

TC 00:02:03.868 - 00:02:22.360

P8 but- I'm thinking is it- 'cause, they are environmental people or are they not necessarily greenies they're just like, everyday people?

TC 00:02:16.118 - 00:02:23.911

P11 Erm I think, again it- it's- everyone's different and if- I- I think all parts of the society that- they are and they aren't, they speak for services that are quite modern as opposed to what it was in the old regime, and after 1990, they've - really have improved and they've aspired to be in Europe so they have to, so, you know

TC 00:02:23.920 - 00:02:44.420

P8 mm

TC 00:02:29.942 - 00:02:31.023

SD (5.02)

P8 yeah

TC 00:02:36.052 - 00:02:37.307

SD (5.13)

P8 so you've not- got any desire to go back home?

TC 00:02:42.438 - 00:02:45.954

P11 well, erm, part- part of it was that while I was working here I decided after the 6 months that I'm, I wouldn't go back because I just was- I- I found it- I wasn't quite convinced that I'd stay but I thought to myself I'm 29, I wanna change, so I took a very big brutal choice and thought, right, now or never, 'cause I was nearly 30, I was going on 29 so I thought why not, you know, so I did it, and while I- just- just after the- the year- within the year I was staying in 2009 I met my future ex wife, unfortunately, now, but, um I met her at work and I ended up marrying her and having 2 kids with her, and then unfortunately we split up because, some things have happened and uh, she went to Slovakia with the 2 boys and - I've- I've been - I'm here now and- I just find that, you know, back home, if I was earning what I'm earning here, at home, I would struggle to have a family and here I can get by and I'm on the continent I'm not - I- I- yeah

TC 00:02:45.310 - 00:03:49.400

P8 yep

TC 00:03:08.584 - 00:03:09.662

SD (16.25)

P8 yep

TC 00:03:25.916 - 00:03:27.673

SD (5.62)

P8 still likely to stay

TC 00:03:33.294 - 00:03:35.305

SD (6.16)

P8 yeah

TC 00:03:41.466 - 00:03:42.693

SD (3.21)

P8 no I'm the same I- I wouldn't dream about having a family back home, I don't- I think financially it would be really difficult, but yeah life here is so much more relaxed than, Britain's very fast and a bit aggressive and, there's some nice parts and I'm looking forward to going over there next year for a couple of weeks but that's it, couple weeks and then get out again because I find it too violent, too materialistic, Czech has changed though, hasn't it, I mean, I've been here 17 years and I can really see it but it's still, compared to Britain, I feel it's more relaxed

TC 00:03:45.912 - 00:04:16.382

P11 yeah, it's different

TC 00:03:51.628 - 00:03:52.997

SD (21.79)

P11 yeah, depends, I mean I've got mixed, mixed views, you're right, when I go home, I, I do miss it if, in some ways but I don't in others, so I've got my- I mean you know we're both you know, different people, different backgrounds, slightly different generation as well of course, but I- I - I have a lot of friends that I left there and, with a- with a big - from my- that's, that's it see 'cause, I- I- was a swimmer and I had- I had a lot of social contacts from that team and sport, I loved it

TC 00:04:14.793 - 00:04:43.411

P8 yeah, that's the thing, friends

TC 00:04:32.695 - 00:04:36.288

SD (5.39)

P8 but you've never been anywhere- anywhere else really, 'cause I've been Germany, Scotland and all sorts of places

TC 00:04:41.682 - 00:04:48.349

P11 living- no, no of course not, I've only just been there of course, so, no I haven't, I mean as, uh, I mean- I mean obviously I travelled a lot as a child 'cause my family are quite well off so we had the opportunity to be on holidays in, in quite exotic places so, I was lucky enough to experience that of course, but

TC 00:04:46.550 - 00:05:02.330

P8 but you went to somewhere in the Caribbean didn't you?

TC 00:04:59.815 - 00:05:03.451

P11 erm yes, er, yeah, I went to Dominican Republic for three weeks, that was my first ever holiday that I could afford so yeah I went out [unint]

TC 00:05:02.669 - 00:05:12.440

P8 but that was when you were an adult
TC 00:05:03.591 - 00:05:05.668
SD (0.88)
P8 yeah
TC 00:05:06.555 - 00:05:08.434
SD (1.6)
P8 that's the sort of most exotic place, yeah
TC 00:05:10.035 - 00:05:12.902
P11 [laughs] well, and I've been to the Seychelles as well, which was when I was, but I was, I was at- no, I was 6, but yeah that's probably the most exotic place I went to
TC 00:05:12.546 - 00:05:20.793
P8 really? on your own?
TC 00:05:14.145 - 00:05:16.863
SD (0.07)
P8 oh right, [unint] with your family
TC 00:05:16.936 - 00:05:19.327
SD (0.32)
P8 wow, and that was filming, were they filming there? oh, on holiday
TC 00:05:19.647 - 00:05:23.830
P11 no no, that was a holiday, that was in February, I think, in uh, 80, 86 I think 'cause it was horrible weather and they were fed up with the tax and politics and it was horrible and they- and they originally, what it was it was lucky that they booked a holiday but apparently when they booked it with that company it went bust, so they offered them another package at half the price, but they- they had to do it the next week, so they took it, it was like yeah
TC 00:05:21.493 - 00:05:50.145
P8 alright, alright
TC 00:05:25.453 - 00:05:28.432
SD (10.84)
P8 oh right
TC 00:05:39.279 - 00:05:41.315
SD (4.45)
P8 yeah
TC 00:05:45.766 - 00:05:47.290
SD (0.09)
P8 it's easy enough mate, yeah
TC 00:05:47.386 - 00:05:48.873
SD (0.02)
P8 I've never been there, and I've- and I've never been to the Americas but I went to Malawi
TC 00:05:48.900 - 00:05:53.750
P11 yeah
TC 00:05:51.112 - 00:05:52.325
SD (0.09)
P11 oh that's - that's amazing as well, I've been to a lot of-... I've never been that far over, yeah
TC 00:05:52.423 - 00:06:01.188
P8 yeah but- and I- I was in Singapore when I was very young but I've got no memory of Singapore so
TC 00:05:53.797 - 00:05:58.583
SD (0.39)

P8 well you know, I- I think I told you when I first came over here the idea was to stay in Prague for a year or two and then, do the typical teacher thing, travel around Taiwan, Japan, China, wherever, Saudi, get some money but, no I just like it here so much, and I don't think I would like to- I came here because I'd already been to Prague and knew people, so when I came over here to start a new job it was really easy but if I went somewhere else, I think it would be really difficult

TC 00:05:58.974 - 00:06:24.756

P11 right

TC 00:06:02.637 - 00:06:04.825

SD (0.03)

P11 yeah

TC 00:06:04.863 - 00:06:06.742

SD (2.47)

P11 yeah

TC 00:06:09.217 - 00:06:10.900

SD (0.95)

P11 yeah

TC 00:06:11.859 - 00:06:13.121

SD (3.81)

P11 yeah, yeah

TC 00:06:16.933 - 00:06:19.290

SD (4.25)

P11 well that's what a lot of people ask me, you know, why are you here, and I've been here well so 10- it's 11 years actually going on 12 but it's more or less 10 isn't it so, and I- and it is sometimes difficult to say well, are you gonna go back, when are you gonna go back, oh they're saying it's better there than it is here, isn't it

TC 00:06:23.547 - 00:06:39.875

P8 well this is what a lot- Czechs, actually younger Czechs are quite surprised when I say I don't like Britain I think this is much nicer here and they say oh I don't believe that because they've got this like idealistic view maybe of what life is like

TC 00:06:37.883 - 00:06:47.813

P11 it's not that I don't like it though, it's just that I decided to come here and- and now I've based my life here and my career's here now and I've got the children here and, and I - it's not that I've entrapped myself or did it on purpose to say I'm gonna stay here and I'm gonna go back and I- and I regret doing it, I don't at all, just unfortunately that relationship fell apart the way it did, and, you know, that was here

TC 00:06:46.634 - 00:07:06.863

P8 but you love the food here as well don't you, you're a big fan of the food

TC 00:07:04.944 - 00:07:10.003

P11 well I do, I love the food, yeah and I do love the language of course, 'cause it fascinates me completely and I- and I love speaking it and- and I love learning every day and challenge

of it, and, but the society has its ups and downs, it- it's difficult to integrate sometimes, still even when you do try really hard to learn the language and try and be one of them and you never will be naturally because you're not born here but, you know, it's not boring and you know

TC 00:07:06.863 - 00:07:31.470

P8 but though the politics is mad here because they've got this - I think a sort of delusion of democracy where, they, you know, yeah the corruption is so bad, I mean, the prime minister is

still in place when he's already - he's been found more or less guilty of- but, the Czechs seem to accept it and they- they just have this like, oh well, nothing we can do about it, so,

I find that frustrating at times, because

TC 00:07:30.000 - 00:07:51.560

P11 yeah

TC 00:07:32.118 - 00:07:33.975

SD (8.54)

P11 yeah, unfortunately yes [unint]

TC 00:07:42.518 - 00:07:46.351

SD (1.57)

P11 yes, yeah it's very difficult having to try and because unfortunately as- as a byproduct of - during communism there- there was a lot of corruption and it was who you knew and- and where

you were in the party and then afterwards of course, straight after the fall of the iron curtain and everything became cheaper and then everything was being sold off, people came in and

completely utterly, scandalously bought- bought properties and things, and, you know a lot of stuff was done and un- unfortunately Eastern Block, most countries are quite the same

characteristic, corruption as a way of life and, people accept and get on with it like that like, it happens in our country but not on such a level, unfortunately they take it as a way of life

TC 00:07:47.927 - 00:08:27.434

P8 yeah but-

TC 00:08:26.493 - 00:08:28.486

P11 which is I don't accept either really, I mean

TC 00:08:27.434 - 00:08:32.124

P8 well it's frustrating when you- I think the-the frustrating bit is that the Czechs just say oh well there's nothing we can do when, they can, you know

TC 00:08:29.723 - 00:08:38.381

P11 but I think they're also scared that if they did, you know, there's also that, the other side to it that they're scared that what the- you know, they open a can of worms up and you know,

there's always that, 'cause maf- there's quite a big mafia fraternity here, there's an underworld fraternity here with a lot of ties to other countries and it's all - it goes down very

deep and it, you know, it's not as easy as it seems so of course, it's, yeah, it is difficult, but of course again when you look at statistics and they say, look at all the money you

could save if you weren't corrupt, you know, where could it go, but I mean you know, so

TC 00:08:36.004 - 00:09:08.426

P8 yeah

TC 00:08:43.961 - 00:08:44.690

SD (18.24)

P8 mmhmm

TC 00:09:02.931 - 00:09:04.372

SD (2.39)

P8 so maybe- maybe you should start focussing more on uh, trying to revive the film industry 'cause that's where your connections are, the Czech film industry has been struggling a bit

hasn't it, because the Hungarians have been taking it over [unint]

TC 00:09:06.767 - 00:09:20.802

P11 yeah

TC 00:09:13.990 - 00:09:15.269

SD (0.94)

P11 it has um, it, it, absolutely right yeah they built a new studios in Budapest back in 2011, they shot that film there 47 Ronin because they got better offers there than they did here,

and in other places, um, the well, like you said, the Czech film industry exactly, the British film industry is taking a lot from the American film industry as well because they've got

cheaper and better facilities now or coming through but here, particularly, it- it's having a revival now in the last 3 or 4 years but it's not- it's not so popular in terms of because

the problem is, is that everyone- everyone wants state of the art um, level equipment for cheaper price, and of course the Hungarians have nailed that, with state of the art new studios

and as well as in Romania and other places and so they're all going over to Lithuania and they're all going there because they- they're providing everything in Poland as well, and

unfortunately here, it's- it is more expensive, Barrandov and everything else, but they have that, but still they have, the beauty they have of it is, they have the lands, the culture,

the scenery, and that's I think the only thing that saves their bacon a little bit to put it like that

TC 00:09:16.209 - 00:10:25.835

P8 yeah, some big-ish films here now

TC 00:09:47.145 - 00:09:51.774

SD (32.67)

P8 yeah yeah

TC 00:10:24.450 - 00:10:26.725

P11 um but there's still a lot of serials coming here and films, so I think it- it- it

TC 00:10:25.835 - 00:10:30.160

P8 didn't Cameron come and do something recently?

TC 00:10:28.203 - 00:10:31.673

P11 uh I think so, I'm not quite sure what though, but I know that they have had a few big films here, but mainly sort of like, Netflix sort of things and TV dramas and what- what have you

but, you know, it's not dead, and it's you know, not quite what it

TC 00:10:30.940 - 00:10:46.586

P8 yeah

TC 00:10:32.254 - 00:10:33.749

SD (5.42)

P8 oh right, ok, yeah

TC 00:10:39.172 - 00:10:42.996

SD (1.63)

P8 not quite what it used to be

TC 00:10:44.628 - 00:10:47.246

P11 used to be but yeah, there was that Spiderman film that was here last summer, Far from Home or whatever it was called, they shot that, a lot of that here because they were doing like a

Euro Trip and they were going right from Austria, Charles Bridge, places like that but

TC 00:10:46.586 - 00:11:01.620

P8 yeah

TC 00:10:47.481 - 00:10:48.464

SD (2.07)

P8 yeah, yeah

TC 00:10:50.539 - 00:10:52.257

SD (0.54)

P8 yep

TC 00:10:52.803 - 00:10:53.841
SD (1.24)
P8 yeah, that's right, yeah yeah
TC 00:10:55.090 - 00:10:58.738
SD (0.12)
P8 yeah
TC 00:10:58.864 - 00:10:59.713
SD (0.59)
P8 but very often it's pretending not to be Prague, but pretending to be somewhere else, isn't it
TC 00:11:00.311 - 00:11:04.827
P11 yeah quite often yeah, they've used it like it's Hamburg or they've used it as um- like for example there was that film Hostel, which was, you know, completely mad but they said it was meant to- called it in Slovakia but it was filmed in český krumlov and hlavní nadraží, yeah
TC 00:11:04.068 - 00:11:21.180
P8 yeah
TC 00:11:11.501 - 00:11:13.522
SD (5.19)
P8 yeah
TC 00:11:18.713 - 00:11:20.317
P8 oh right really, yeah yeah yeah
TC 00:11:20.317 - 00:11:22.603
P11 which is quite unusual but, there you go
TC 00:11:21.180 - 00:11:25.243
P8 yeah, so, cottage at the weekend, we're going to go to the cottage?
TC 00:11:24.236 - 00:11:28.756
P11 um I'm, I'm gonna be busy this weekend, so, can't make it, yeah but, it's always good fun up there of course
TC 00:11:27.440 - 00:11:38.010
P8 yeah
TC 00:11:31.270 - 00:11:32.551
SD (0.4)
P8 alright ok, yeah
TC 00:11:32.952 - 00:11:35.585
SD (0.69)
P8 yeah, well that's the thing I think which helped me with escaping from Prague, because it's good to be in Prague, my wife, she's from Prague she likes it, likes to be here but the cottage is such an escape, as you know, it's-
TC 00:11:36.281 - 00:11:50.295
P11 yeah, it is yeah, I do
TC 00:11:46.428 - 00:11:48.445
P11 yeah, I've come to appreciate that the years that we usually - you know, I've been invited up there because it is such a sanctuary in itself, like a little, you- you know get- getaway in the valley there and it's quiet and you can switch off, and I think that's- that's quite similar to, luckily to have in our family, we have a chalet by the sea, and that's exactly the same, I mean, even though it's a caravan park, you know, but, I mean it is, we do have our own private road and garden and it's right by the beach and I was going there since I was a kid

and that was a similar thing for me, so that- it- it's the same, it feels the same like really I can go that's one of the only places I can - relaxed, anywhere, at any time in my life is that place

TC 00:11:48.458 - 00:12:28.150

P8 yeah

TC 00:11:58.428 - 00:11:59.553

SD (4.53)

P8 yeah

TC 00:12:04.086 - 00:12:05.401

SD (10.22)

P8 yeah yeah

TC 00:12:15.627 - 00:12:17.565

SD (5.69)

P8 yeah

TC 00:12:23.257 - 00:12:24.180

SD (1.34)

P8 yeah yeah, I feel like that with the cottage 'cause when I'm in Prague, I feel like- it's got so many connections with work, and it's - it's a bit polluted, bit-bit polluted here, and

whatever but, and I was wondering you know, if I didn't have the cottage it might be quite difficult to- to sort of escape and find something to do, you'd have to spend money going, going away

TC 00:12:25.528 - 00:12:44.197

P11 yeah, it's a rat-race, you know, yeah yeah

TC 00:12:30.106 - 00:12:33.836

SD (4.08)

P11 I can imagine

TC 00:12:37.917 - 00:12:39.959

SD (0.42)

P11 well, all those years ago I think you did a good thing seeing that opportunity, that you had a good, good chance to do it and it's investment and you probably looking to the future,

which uh I'd say a lot of, unless you're an English or a person who hasn't got a lot of money behind them or you haven't got it in the family that's quite a hard thing to do, and you did

well to do it and afford something of that level and where it is, the access and everything else so you did really- that's quite a- a noble thing, quite a brave thing to do yeah

TC 00:12:40.379 - 00:13:10.456

P8 yeah

TC 00:12:45.622 - 00:12:49.424

SD (9.52)

P8 yeah

TC 00:12:58.948 - 00:13:00.735

SD (4.54)

P8 I think especially in the last 5 or 6 years

TC 00:13:05.278 - 00:13:08.759

P8 I think when I was younger, when I first came here I was happy with the nightlife in Prague and stuff, but as I got older and now I'm married, it's really great to be able to just get out of there and have some- absolutely, absolutely

TC 00:13:08.759 - 00:13:21.460

P11 yeah sure, yeah, yeah
TC 00:13:12.694 - 00:13:16.197
SD (0.05)
P11 well life changes, doesn't it, priorities do too yeah