

Observation session 6

Thursday, 9 January 2020 4:10 PM

P4 what's - are we gonna talk?

TC 00:00:00.070 - 00:00:01.977

SD (0.09)

Researcher yes

TC 00:00:02.070 - 00:00:02.850

Researcher yeah so yeah, yes, yes, and it's in - it's in English on the back obviously, you guys speak Czech so, you can - um, so I'm just gonna be sitting over here, and try not to -

TC 00:00:02.850 - 00:00:15.112

P4 to each other?

TC 00:00:03.450 - 00:00:04.523

SD (0.3)

P4 about these things, ok?

TC 00:00:04.830 - 00:00:06.880

SD (6.83)

P4 oh, are we supposed to- are we supposed to do formal or informal?

TC 00:00:13.716 - 00:00:18.528

Researcher um, whatever you want - I mean, it's in English, so, yes yep, yep, speaking in English, but um as I said like, if you wanna - if a word comes in in Czech or whatever just like kind of -

just, yeah

TC 00:00:17.224 - 00:00:36.978

P4 so we're speaking in English?

TC 00:00:22.445 - 00:00:25.837

SD (0.16)

P4 ok

TC 00:00:26.005 - 00:00:26.827

SD (6.64)

P12 alright then, tak?

TC 00:00:33.469 - 00:00:39.661

Researcher alright

TC 00:00:37.123 - 00:00:38.626

Researcher so I'm just gonna er put, set this one on record as well and I'll let you know around the 10 15 minute mark so, um, P4, sorry would you mind just moving up one chair, I just can't see

you on this, yeah, ok, perfect thank you ok now, ok awesome, thank you

TC 00:00:38.626 - 00:01:11.178

P12 mmhmm
TC 00:00:46.427 - 00:00:47.902
SD (22.7)
P12 I- I notice that there's a - a lack of interesting topics in the um - yeah
TC 00:01:10.603 - 00:01:17.280
P4 [laughs] you- you could make them interesting
TC 00:01:14.056 - 00:01:18.710
P12 yeah politics or you know, chauvinist male gender discussion [laughs]
TC 00:01:17.586 - 00:01:24.920
P4 aww, that's only a matter of perspective, chauvinism
TC 00:01:23.318 - 00:01:28.343
P12 only joking, so you're from where originally?
TC 00:01:26.657 - 00:01:30.705
P4 originally Texas
TC 00:01:29.415 - 00:01:32.803
P12 ok, and ah, Czech parents obviously or no?
TC 00:01:31.120 - 00:01:36.463
P4 no, no, Dad Hungarian and Prussian and my Mum's Native American Indian and Irish
TC 00:01:33.973 - 00:01:41.986
P12 ok so that's - that's quite a uh-
TC 00:01:40.767 - 00:01:44.716
P4 typical American mutt
TC 00:01:43.095 - 00:01:45.816
P12 yep yep
TC 00:01:45.124 - 00:01:46.711
P4 and uh, you're from originally where?
TC 00:01:45.987 - 00:01:49.060
P12 well, I'm originally from Melbourne, Australia, but Czech parents, so, '68 um, they did not agree with the political shenanigans that were going on
TC 00:01:47.750 - 00:02:01.679
P4 ah, oh why did they leave here?
TC 00:01:50.548 - 00:01:54.619
SD (4.99)
P4 that's not surprising
TC 00:01:59.610 - 00:02:02.311

P12 so they decided they would exit stage left and became immigrants in Australia, that was at a time when immigrants were still accepted uh and supported by country, it's, it's - they are

but it's more of a challenge, back then, uh Australia needed people much more than it probably need people now, and Australia still is quite open, but I think what's, uh, what has

happened over the years that um, the decision has been made which, I can appreciate that there needs to be managed process, the last thing they want is just a flood of people going over

and I guess the - the official political line is that it's for their own good if they're not drowning in waves but coming over in a sensible manner which, many many deaths of what we

would call boat people who were trying to escape by boat from dictatorial regimes, variously in the Middle East, in Africa and Southeast Asia, so

TC 00:02:01.721 - 00:03:02.677

P4 they're not anymore?

TC 00:02:13.844 - 00:02:16.534

SD (46.25)

P12 but my parents, they came standardly by airplane

TC 00:03:02.792 - 00:03:06.746

P4 and did they teach you Czech?

TC 00:03:05.470 - 00:03:08.129

P12 yep, grew up speaking Czech yeah, and your parents, you're first generation are you, or second generation?

TC 00:03:07.801 - 00:03:14.292

P4 um, my Mum's - well they've been in America forever and my Dad actually, um, he was born in a refugee camp in Germany, I think at the time and um, there was a church in Texas that

decided to bring one family over, so there was like a tombola of like, a thousand families and my father's family was drawn, so the church paid for them to move to Houston, gave them a

house, and etc

TC 00:03:13.610 - 00:03:48.448

P12 ok, right, so luck, I guess luck

TC 00:03:45.589 - 00:03:53.689

P4 Laketa? - well though? - it's from Lakatos, originally the Hungarian, but um we think my grandfather did some kind of - something criminal - because he changed his birth certificate, he

changed his age, he changed his name, so officially he created himself

TC 00:03:50.280 - 00:04:08.835

P12 ok

TC 00:03:53.880 - 00:03:55.443

SD (12.66)

P12 well, re-created himself I guess
TC 00:04:08.103 - 00:04:11.222
P4 re-created [laughs]
TC 00:04:10.300 - 00:04:12.925
P12 and - did you - I mean, did you grow up speaking German or Hungarian or?
TC 00:04:11.685 - 00:04:15.875
P4 no no, I grew up speaking English only
TC 00:04:14.130 - 00:04:19.340
P12 ok
TC 00:04:17.211 - 00:04:18.503
SD (0.13)
P12 and on the - uh, on the native - native Indian side, what percentage is that of Indian [unint]
TC 00:04:18.635 - 00:04:26.964
P4 really, I think it's - I think it's really small, my great-grandma
TC 00:04:24.610 - 00:04:29.707
P12 ok, so and do you know what tribe they came from or what part of the US they were from or?
TC 00:04:27.779 - 00:04:34.290
P4 um, it was somewhere around West Virginia, and I don't think my Mum actually knew
TC 00:04:33.270 - 00:04:41.128
P12 ok
TC 00:04:35.639 - 00:04:37.666
SD (2.33)
P12 so there's awareness of that being there but that's - that's it, right, ok
TC 00:04:40.005 - 00:04:47.024
P4 yeah
TC 00:04:43.100 - 00:04:44.821
SD (1.25)
P4 but, but why'd you come here? just curious?
TC 00:04:46.080 - 00:04:49.524
P12 um, just for the heck of it really, uh I thought I'd come here for a year, travel around, uh check the place out and ended up staying, so
TC 00:04:47.517 - 00:04:58.811
P4 [laughs]
TC 00:04:50.790 - 00:04:52.485
SD (4.91)
P4 it's great, isn't it

TC 00:04:57.400 - 00:04:59.887

P12 yeah - there was, I mean there was no sort of, you know, specific, oh I'm going to go and take part in a revolution that's take - that's sweeping across Central East Europe, it was like

yeah, cheap beer, nice people, lots of castles, check it out yeah, so, it was just - it was just basically I wasn't feeling - I wasn't uh feeling satisfied with academia so, I just

thought I'd take a year off and yeah, it's been a year off ever since

TC 00:04:58.871 - 00:05:32.489

P4 [laughs]

TC 00:05:13.140 - 00:05:15.224

SD (15.09)

P4 oh you - so you didn't go back to academia?

TC 00:05:30.320 - 00:05:36.108

P12 no did not, no no, and - and yeah I took a year off and started working and uh, yep my year off has been work ever since [laughs], so, nah, it's been great I've enjoyed it, so certainly

no complaints on my side

TC 00:05:34.990 - 00:05:48.569

P4 so what are you doing now?

TC 00:05:47.060 - 00:05:49.517

P12 uh, working in con- consulting, working with-

TC 00:05:49.210 - 00:05:53.576

P4 oh, what consulting?

TC 00:05:51.680 - 00:05:55.378

P12 so uh, historically I was working in public relations and marketing communication and working within an agency and then uh, moving - moved on to working with startups, so, sort of active

in the startup, startup and or micro - micro company sort of management consulting space, so, yep, been freelancing since, at least, I guess it depends on how you mean freelancing, but

yeah I've been, because I've never actually been employed by anyone, pretty much ever

TC 00:05:54.000 - 00:06:30.625

P4 so you use the živnostenský list

TC 00:06:27.910 - 00:06:31.280

P12 er, well- no, I mean, I- I've got various um, companies, that I would invoice through, yeah, but it's a - for- for all int- that's basically for tax optimisation purposes, but yeah for

for all intents and purposes, yeah, work, doing my, doing my own shtik?? uh, even when I've worked with large local agencies and large local agency brands it's always been as an external

contractor, not actually as a - as an employee per se though, to be honest, whether you're working as a contractor or actually a- a bone fide employee from a legal point of view, there

is no difference to the way they treat you, or the responsibilities or the expectations that they have uh, so, [unint], I mean so you still get the same holidays that you would get, um, you know, you still get the same amount of reporting requirements, all that sort of stuff, so it's literally just - it's- it's a decision that, a given person has made that, you know, that they want to manage their own tax and their own, um, their own sort of um, income, in their own, in their own manner, uh, as opposed to, as opposed to just [unint] the state, but I mean that's the case with large agencies, I don't know how it is with uh, companies, I mean, horses for courses

TC 00:06:30.930 - 00:07:49.018

P4 companies?

TC 00:06:33.850 - 00:06:35.371

SD (73.13)

P4 I don't know either

TC 00:07:48.510 - 00:07:51.529

P12 and what do you do?

TC 00:07:50.475 - 00:07:52.398

P4 I test software.

TC 00:07:52.130 - 00:07:55.759

P12 So?

TC 00:07:54.728 - 00:07:57.593

P4 and, and I write novels, that's what I really wanna do. But - I have a day job and night job.

TC 00:07:55.840 - 00:08:01.832

P12 ok, and so to software, in terms of, what do you test it for, in terms of the way it works or its-?

TC 00:07:59.871 - 00:08:07.328

P4 oh, well we've - I test to make sure like the forms, like the gui is working as, and I also do commands like the scripts and make sure the internal functionalities are working, which I

like more, actually and then I create automatic tests to check you know, typical functionality in the system

TC 00:08:05.940 - 00:08:26.126

P12 and so you're doing that as a- as a contractor? yeah, and you're working with a company that specialises in testing software or you're just-just going to- going to job- job sites and?

TC 00:08:24.595 - 00:08:35.237

P4 yeah

TC 00:08:27.390 - 00:08:29.000

SD (4.0)

P4 oh, have you - have you heard of [REDACTED]? They're a huge - yeah

TC 00:08:33.000 - 00:08:39.344

P12 yes, yeah huge Czech company and they've got their own University, uh, a uh, a very - what's the word I'm looking for, let's use charismatic owner

TC 00:08:35.940 - 00:08:47.231

P4 yeah

TC 00:08:39.560 - 00:08:43.367

SD (3.45)

P4 yeah, [REDACTED], [laughs] yeah he- he tied me to uh, the railing of a ship once

TC 00:08:46.820 - 00:08:55.398

P12 yeah, very

TC 00:08:48.727 - 00:08:51.329

SD (3.26)

P12 yep, that-

TC 00:08:54.596 - 00:08:57.181

P4 'cause, you know, they have the- they have the yacht and uh, we were getting our captain's licence, and we drove from- from here to Croatia 15 hours, and no food and in the morning we got there at like 6am so they gave us rum with coke because why not, and then they took us on the sea and it was really crazy and I was just like [exasperated sound], and he was afraid I was going to jump off, so

TC 00:08:55.670 - 00:09:21.709

P12 the yacht, or whatever it is

TC 00:08:57.888 - 00:08:59.807

SD (20.35)

P12 and how long did that take?

TC 00:09:20.165 - 00:09:23.215

P4 uh, I think we were there a couple weeks

TC 00:09:22.848 - 00:09:28.388

P12 that trip?

TC 00:09:23.830 - 00:09:26.108

SD (1.12)

P12 ok, so there was actually a - a true formalised, standardised captain's course

TC 00:09:27.235 - 00:09:33.261

P4 yeah we- we had- we had like, in the, we had like few couple hours every day when they went there and told us how to navigate by the stars and how to - how to like you know, steer and all that stuff, but I wouldn't trust me as a captain

TC 00:09:31.100 - 00:09:45.326

P12 but you got the bit of paper, that's important

TC 00:09:44.850 - 00:09:48.392

P4 yeah, somewhere [laughs] from like 20 years ago, but it supposedly doesn't expire, oh and it's only good within like 15 miles

TC 00:09:47.622 - 00:10:00.494

P12 so - so is it a 15 mile one or a 1 mile - there's a 1 mile one, and there's like a 15 mile one and there's an open sea one I believe, yeah

TC 00:09:57.261 - 00:10:05.301

P4 yeah, it's the - it's the one before the open sea, it's 15 miles

TC 00:10:03.300 - 00:10:08.226

P12 ok, ok, ok but in general it must've been a - I guess a, I guess a good - I guess he looks at it as a team building activity more than anything else, so

TC 00:10:05.977 - 00:10:15.957

P4 well I think they do it- they do it every year for- for whoever - whoever wants - is interested in it, I think they still do it, not 100% sure, so you've met him?

TC 00:10:12.930 - 00:10:24.799

P12 I've not met him personally, but uh, I've certainly heard about him, and read about him, and known about - known about him or his media presence, probably since yeah, the early noughties
actually, so

TC 00:10:23.724 - 00:10:36.339

P4 yeah, 'cause, yeah he's been around since the late 90's

TC 00:10:34.580 - 00:10:39.935

P12 yeah and a - and a friend of mine had a software company which he ended up selling, uh to - to - he actually had a software company, he launched it - [unint] don't know whether he

launched it but he uh, took it public on a or the alternative Polish BOS, um and then ended up selling, I think maybe buying back whatever outstanding shares there were and ended up

selling the company to um, to [REDACTED] so, [unint - a Czech name], he's a senior something or another, so yeah

TC 00:10:38.557 - 00:11:19.811

SD (0.14)

P12 yeah no, he's, he's certainly an iconic character, I think in, in Czech terms so um, but I - I've never heard anything negative about him, um, except from the agency side, where I've

heard he can be incredibly demanding on the agencies he works with, which is fair, it's his company, uh, but that can occasionally be demotivating for said agencies, so

TC 00:11:19.951 - 00:11:41.738

P4 yeah I don't think anyone's really said anything bad about him, I mean there is a normal internal company secrets, exactly

TC 00:11:39.230 - 00:11:51.919

P12 no, no

TC 00:11:42.854 - 00:11:44.692

SD (2.03)

P12 yeah, but that's normal

TC 00:11:46.728 - 00:11:50.083

P12 [unint]

TC 00:11:50.083 - 00:11:51.036

SD (0.31)

P12 it's a- but no I mean, the company is doing well, so, you know, he's the major shareholder so, that's, that's important so

TC 00:11:51.347 - 00:11:58.672

P4 and you know, I think they said there's actually - they created a company, that - what does he say - they deliver - oh my god- apparently, he, you know, if there's a company that doesn't do what he wants it to do, he creates it.

TC 00:11:57.330 - 00:12:13.630

P12 but that- that would make sense, I mean anyway, it's, it's an excel spreadsheet, you know, if he knows, what he needs and he knows how much he would have to - I mean if there's no one

doing it, he needs it, period so he's got to create it, and I guess you know everyone's company is doing something that he needs as a- as - from supply point of view, uh and you know,

you can probably very easily do the numbers and see what makes sense so, and getting back to um, Texas, do you get back, do you get back very often at all or?

TC 00:12:12.951 - 00:12:46.242

P4 uh actually everyone - my family moved away from Texas so, yeah

TC 00:12:43.340 - 00:12:50.502

P12 ok

TC 00:12:48.187 - 00:12:51.172

P4 so, but I don't - I don't get back until - I only get back when my Dad can afford to uh bring me, because I have a really bad work ethic. Well actually I have a good work ethic, but

trying to write, I'd rather write so I don't work as many hours as I should. How often do you get back?

TC 00:12:50.640 - 00:13:12.108

P12 um, I try to get back once or twice a year, so, uh sorry, once or twice every one or two years, one or two years? so yeah, realistically works out to probably once every two years to be

honest, on average, there have been some three year gaps as well and there have been other years where I've been every year and there's a few times where I've once or twice, I've been

twice in a single year but yeah, the average, now actually overdue, it's been two years since I've been there last, so, parents aren't getting any younger, so

TC 00:13:11.067 - 00:13:40.284

P4 yeah

TC 00:13:30.870 - 00:13:31.863

SD (7.22)

P4 yeah, I think I read that by the time you're 21 you've already spent 80% of the time with your parents that you're going to spend, it's really sad

TC 00:13:39.090 - 00:13:52.763

P12 exactly

TC 00:13:46.233 - 00:13:47.216

SD (2.44)

P12 so and last time you were back was when then?

TC 00:13:49.662 - 00:13:54.291

P4 Christmas, last Christmas

TC 00:13:53.400 - 00:13:54.968

P12 ok so that's not too bad

TC 00:13:54.544 - 00:13:56.881

P4 No, oh but the time before that was like three years, though

TC 00:13:56.030 - 00:14:00.358

P12 ok so that's, that's a decent amount, yeah

TC 00:13:58.567 - 00:14:02.185

P4 I mean, I- I was, after I got divorced things kinda went downhill for me for a while

TC 00:14:01.261 - 00:14:07.389

P12 and you were married here or you were married there?

TC 00:14:06.017 - 00:14:08.211

P4 I was married here

TC 00:14:07.670 - 00:14:10.000

P12 ok and how long have you been in the Czech Republic?

TC 00:14:09.037 - 00:14:11.772

P4 uh 21 years

TC 00:14:10.510 - 00:14:12.471

P12 really? wow

TC 00:14:11.911 - 00:14:14.166

P4 yeah, I left when I was 22

TC 00:14:12.720 - 00:14:15.347

P12 ok, and also, I mean you came here - why Prague?

TC 00:14:14.630 - 00:14:19.096

P4 oh, because I love it

TC 00:14:18.260 - 00:14:21.680

P12 you'd - you'd read about it and lots of stuff or heard about it or?

TC 00:14:20.077 - 00:14:24.136

P4 No no no, it was - it was actually quite ironic, I was studying in Vienna, and my friends were like,
we're going to Prague, do you wanna go to Prague, I was like ok, I'll go to Prague
 and then like once I got off the train I was like oh my god, I just loved it and I just - been in love since
and it was like, you know how Kafka says, you know its mother has teeth, it's
 what it felt like, like got the teeth

TC 00:14:22.440 - 00:14:45.330

P12 I've not read any Kafka so, but I- I believe you

TC 00:14:44.424 - 00:14:49.143

P4 [laughs] yeah, um

TC 00:14:47.940 - 00:14:53.722

Researcher I think - if you guys are ready now, like that's probably enough for that one, it's yeah
[laughs], it's been around like, 14, it's between 10 and 15 so that's totally fine, alright so
 I'll stop that one

TC 00:14:51.556 - 00:15:08.933

P4 ok

TC 00:14:56.346 - 00:14:57.826

P12 ok

TC 00:14:56.856 - 00:14:57.954

SD (0.34)

P4 whoa that felt like a really long 15 minutes

TC 00:14:58.300 - 00:15:01.255

SD (2.56)

P12 yep yep alright

TC 00:15:03.818 - 00:15:05.492

SD (1.78)

P12 is that getting you what you need? or should we have been more specific to the topics that were
there?

TC 00:15:07.279 - 00:15:13.086

SD (0.11)

Researcher it's fine, doesn't really matter what you talk about so it's all good

TC 00:15:13.199 - 00:15:16.807

P12 yeah

TC 00:15:14.666 - 00:15:15.925