

William Sterling Hall

- Born 7/6/1934
- A.B. (1957) Roosevelt University, Ph.D. (1968) The University of Chicago

Major Employment:

- University of Illinois - 1978-1981, Professor of Psychology and Educational Psychology
- University of Maryland, College Park - 1994-2007, Member and Faculty of the Neuroscience and Cognitive Science Program
- University of Maryland, College Park - 2008-Present, Professor Emeritus, Psychology



Major Areas of Work:

- Psychological Science
- Developmental Psycholinguistics
- Comparative Neuroscience

SRCD Affiliation:

- Member since 1967

SRCD ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

William Sterling Hall

Interviewed by Diana Slaughter-Defoe
Washington, D.C.
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Slaughter-Defoe: Okay. For the record would you please state your basic background information?

Hall: Okay. My name is William S. Hall, and I am Professor and Chair of The Department of Psychology at University of Maryland College Park. I have been at College Park as a faculty member since 1981. Immediately prior to joining the faculty at College Park, I had been on the faculty for three years at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. For one of those years I also was visiting at the University of California, San Diego at LaJolla in the Laboratory of Comparative Human Cognition. This appointment was a continuation of a project started in New York City with Michael Cole at Rockefeller University where I had been on the faculty since 1974. I actually went to Rockefeller in 1973 as a Guest, but became a member of the faculty in 1974. Prior to that I taught for one year at Vassar, and before that I had taught at Princeton, and during the time at Princeton I was also the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Psychology, a position called Departmental Representative. During my appointment at Princeton I received The Jonathan Dickinson Bicentennial Preceptorship which allowed me to take a year off. I spent the year in the Department of Psychology at Stanford where I worked primarily with Dick Atkinson and Herb Clark.

Slaughter-Defoe: Okay. Just for the record Bill, tell me again, we talked a little bit about it over dinner, how you had come to become a psychologist?

Hall: Well, actually I started out studying piano but changed to pre-med and matriculated at Roosevelt University in Chicago.

Slaughter-Defoe: You studied piano.

Hall: My father thought that a music career was really not the thing to do for financial success and other reasons too. I took a course in abnormal psychology with Professor Hartman who was a very dynamic teacher and very, very intense. And I identified with him and began to read Freud very seriously and became a self-styled intellectual sipping coffee at Munson's Coffee Shop on Monroe Street, a few blocks from Roosevelt. I guess what intrigued me about Hartman wasn't his intensity at all, in his own background. He had come to the U.S. at the end of World War II fleeing Nazism. I moved to Chicago from Little Rock, Arkansas, to escape racial segregation and all that it implied (e.g., poor schools, etc.) So -- but Professor Hartman killed himself the next semester and it was during that time I was really kind of deciding I didn't want to go to medical school, so I just switched my interest to psychology.

Slaughter-Defoe: And had you at that time settled on a major or --?

Hall: Well I had thought about it - children had really intrigued me, so I was quite interested in child development then, because I lived in Hyde Park with this family who were from Vienna and they had two small children, and one of my jobs was to baby-sit and to teach them piano as well. So I played with the children, and I pursued that line of interest. Actually, I studied piano off and on until 1978.

Slaughter-Defoe: You pursued language development?

Hall: Yes.

Slaughter-Defoe: And what were the questions at that point in your career, one or two of the questions that interested you?

Hall: Well, actually I didn't start out in language development. I started out actually in developmental issues in intelligence. And I did a stint at ETS actually, and I worked on the big longitudinal study funded by the Office of Child Development. Vicki Shipman was the director of this study. And it wasn't language so much that interested me then, but issues of intellectual competence and racial differences. And as a way of getting at that, since most of the instruments were verbal with very high loading on this factor.

Slaughter-Defoe: Right.

Hall: Language became a natural outgrowth of that. But what got me into language was I read this paper by Joan Baratz and her husband on dialect. I didn't believe it. I thought well, and I talked to about my supervisor at the ETS about it and he said, "Well you should go to the schools here in the area and I know a principal in Texas, you can do some experiments there with him and so I did. And that led to my paper in 1973 in the journal Human Development - where we had tried to test the hypothesis that one of the reasons why minorities don't do as well on standardized tests is that there's a translation back and forth required from their dialect to that used in the tests and that takes time. I followed up in 1975 with a paper that was published in the journal Developmental Psychology.

Slaughter-Defoe: And in some ways you felt like at that point you had reached a basic understanding of what was going on relative to how children performed on these time tests, that basically they didn't have enough time and weren't allowed enough relative to their recall from short-term memory to bring that information back and then use it and apply it in the situation?

Hall: That was my hypothesis, yeah. Is it quite clear that subsequent work has shown that to be so because I think the following tests - I've kind of left that because I found I had done what I could do with that topic. I went on then to study the Lexicon. I studied that actually for several years. And I was very impressed with some work by Michael Cole. I came upon him actually kind of by accident; I was the head of the New York Chapter of the Association of Black Psychologists. And we used to meet regularly - this was in the 60's and 70's I guess, early 70's, we used to meet at International House in

New York. And Michael Cole had done this monumental work, on the cultural context of thinking among Liberians and U.S. college students.

This work became a landmark. So he had wanted to do the same sort of thing in New York as he was coming to join the faculty at Rockefeller University, and had written to the person who was then the head of the Association of Black Psychologists and you know, the political climate at that time was that you didn't let people study in the African-American community if you could help it. So that's why he petitioned us to get entree in this community. And we had a meeting where we discussed this, and many people had not read his work and they were opposed to him. And I said, "Gee wiz, he's the kind of guy you want to come into our community, he's on our side."

Slaughter-Defoe: That's right.

Hall: So we want to encourage this work. Go tell him by all means, we will -

Slaughter-Defoe: -- facilitate his work.

Hall: Yeah. So one day actually later after that, completely unrelated, Michael Cole came to Princeton to give a colloquium, and some of the fellows there knew him from Stanford and Los Angeles, and we all went out for beer after the seminars. And they said to him, "Bill is going next year to Stanford to work with Dick Atkinson," and he said, "Well you should come to Rockefeller." I said, "Well I'm going to Stanford now." So he called me up. So I went to Stanford and I really loved it. It's the number one psychology department in the country, no question about it. But it rained so much. I've been there since I left Princeton. I used to walk the campus, which was unusual in California to walk any place. "Well, it might be good," because I had this full year off. I had gotten what's called a Bi-centennial preceptorship from Princeton or actually for teaching undergraduates. So I had gotten that and I had a full year off with full pay, and it was wonderful. Well, I stayed at Stanford two quarters and then went to Rockefeller. So I called Mike Cole up one day and he said, "When are you coming?" So at the end of March I came back East and went to Rockefeller and finished up my Bicentennial Preceptorship.

Slaughter-Defoe: I see. So you stayed for maybe about two, three months or something like that?

Hall: Where?

Slaughter-Defoe: At Stanford?

Hall: No I was there from the end of August until the end of March.

Slaughter-Defoe: Oh, you stayed a long time there.

Hall: Six months.

Slaughter-Defoe: Six months.

Hall: Yeah, right. It was the fall and the winter quarter.

Slaughter-Defoe: I see, so it appears that you had one hard year of that way studying motivational issues, or--?

Hall: Well actually it was information processing. And anyhow, so through this time at Rockefeller I also went to teach at Vassar, and I didn't like Vassar because it was primarily an undergraduate school and did not have a graduate program.

Slaughter-Defoe: I see.

Hall: And Vassar had a long-standing history of child study.

Slaughter-Defoe: That's true.

Hall: So I thought well what I'll do is talk to Mike Cole about possibilities at Rockefeller. I had originally been a Guest there.

Slaughter-Defoe: Right.

Hall: Cole told me that I could teach at Vassar work in his laboratory and do my research there, so I did. And we got going, we went up to Harlem, we got the centers behind us, and we got students. And then -- so actually it was December of 1973, I used to hire some of my Princeton students, put this in here, get this okay, because it's kind of essential. We used to have something called the eve of New Years Eve party, and actually we continued this until actually I think the last one we had was 1979, the same group of students. And how this got started was kind of interesting. It was 1972, I was back actually in California for business and I knew a couple of students and they called me - I was home for Christmas actually, I said we'll meet at the Waldorf, and it was the 30th of December. And this student came and he brought another student and his date. So we went to a big art gallery and had a drink, and I said let's go to the King Cole room at the St. Regis, we did that. Then I said, "Oh, let's go to the Plaza, midnight it is", so there was born the New Year's Eve party. So the next year, 1973 I said we have got to have another party there. And many of the students that I had taught at Princeton had graduated and they were working in Banks of New York, which was one of the great traditions then. And so my closest friends, whom I met at The University of Chicago, Wayne Green, in fact was a Chief Psychiatrist at Bellevue Hospital in New York had this place in the village, this large place, and I talked him into letting us use it for this New Year's Eve party. So we sent out these invitations, three of us, we had two other students of Princeton, as sponsors, and we had this party and it was a huge success. And then we said we should just have this every year. So then the two very good friends, one was my honors student at Princeton in psychology and his twin brother, and they still are my very good friends, they had bought a place in New York and they said, "We'll have it at our place," so we actually had the party from 1974 till 1979, for five years, a party of that size every year. Yeah. And it became such a big tradition that was in '78 and we just decided well, that's not what we had in mind, and we haven't done it since 1979, that's been a long time.

Slaughter-Defoe: Almost twenty years.

Hall: Yes. Right. Right. So, but it's been fun. Anyhow I've got to lead to it then -- I was at this party, I'd invited Michael Cole but he couldn't come, so he called me at the party and said, "Listen, I've got this idea. Why don't you resign from Vassar and come to Rockefeller next year?"

Slaughter-Defoe: That was 1974 then?

Hall: That was December of '73, it was the eve of New Year's Eve when I got this call, "Why don't you resign as of '74 and come?" And I said, "Well we ought to talk about this, you know." So he said, "Well come by tomorrow," so I did. We talked, and he had this idea he was getting his own laboratory. So he had a couple lines in it. So I thought gee whiz, well I had already at Vassar, one of the things I did was Chair African-American studies -

Slaughter-Defoe: Oh, I see.

Hall: -- and we've had - and it had a very stormy history as it had in most places.

Slaughter-Defoe: Right.

Hall: But not being a research institution at Vassar, it really sounded very, very badly because the kinds of things Simpson wanted to do would have been better if we were able to do the research at the University. They had for example the Urban Center how to teach people how to vote and all kinds of great things, you know, but a college really can't sustain those things without resources. But it had a liaison person for all this, a sociology teacher, and she did a great job. And I had come and everyone was hopeful because I first of all try to not take any nonsense and be fair, get on with the program and they didn't take it seriously. And it had - I think it had been really kind of shucking and jiving as these things often are. And the President was Alan Simpson who's from The University of Chicago, he just meddled in the office, so the students were extremely alarmed. So alarmed that like in two days the history professor and I thought and thought, well you know, I don't really know who is there. This man who had his ideas had laid out his plans to gradually close out these things, but not all at once, because he didn't even focus on the academics on campus. He was going to make African American studies a part of every department on campus, not just some, but only some P.S. We had become integrated with American studies, we were all in the same building, it was going to be a very nice thing. And then he winds up pulling the plug and undercutting. So -

Slaughter-Defoe: Was that the President or --?

Hall: Yes, was President at Vassar. So it so happened the trustees were meeting that weekend that things hit the ceiling-

Slaughter-Defoe: Had Vassar by that time gone co-ed? I think Yale had as well.

Hall: Yeah, it was co-ed.

Slaughter-Defoe: It was co-ed then wasn't it?

Hall: Yeah. It was co-ed. So first of all I found Vassar a very lonely place because it really wasn't a research institution at all. It was a very fine liberal arts college, very fine college. So anyway another African American Professor and I talked a lot, and he said, "I've written my letter of resignation," and I said, "Oh," And he said, "Oh, put up or shut up." I thought well, you know, so I said, "Well, it's like put up time," so I - as of June, 1974 I resigned as well. The trustees reversed President Simpson, this made the New York Times. I would come into New York City and stay at the Williams Club because Vassar had a nice reciprocal arrangement with them. The weekend that the article appeared about our resignations in the New York Times, I checked into the Williams Club and the Head Manager said, "I read about you in the paper. Oh my God," she said. Yes it's funny off the table all of sudden she says, "You know, these are the times in which we live". The trustees reversed him and asked him to possible leave.

Well I didn't mind Stanford, of course, because I was quite interested in getting with somebody who really could help me develop the hypothesis that I had. Well so, I came to Rockefeller and applied for funds - had applied before that for large support funding for a large project on language variation and was successful at getting funding. This was in 1974; the grant was, you know, around \$400,000.00, which in those days was a lot of money. It would be probably now twice that amount. So I applied for that and got it, and launched this very large semi blind study of language development comparatively across ethnic and social classes of children in the U.S. located in New York City.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah. This is what some of that data led into the chapter in the book that I edited.

Hall: That's right.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yes. That was an excellent chapter.

Hall: And that corpus is still one of the largest corpora's of its kind. I don't even know another one quite like it, because we started out in the morning, recording in the child's home, then we went to the child's nursery school, and concluded the day right after dinner. So it's quite a massive piece of work. It's been written up actually a chapter in your book is one, the intro state data, that's another one, spoken words a book is another one. So things went along at Rockefeller and those were the really great days. It was a cool thing that really happened to me.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah, tell me a little bit about Rockefeller, to amplify how much freedom and flexibility you found after having been first at Princeton and then at Vassar before you got there? Was that a new University in the city or what exactly --?

Hall: Okay. We'll it had been the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research for a long, long time and it became a university actually I guess in the late 60's. And they expanded it to include fields like philosophy that were not originally there. Behavioral Science, the department that I was in, was also added. Generally they added more departments and it became more than a specialized institute. It subsequently went back to its original focus in - about 1977, problems were beginning to be felt. Some departments were closed and other departments were closed or phased out and behavioral science of course was one of the ones that was eventually phased out.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah, that had to do with cutbacks?

Hall: Yeah.

Slaughter-Defoe: It was around that time that people in academia first began to feel that crunch of retrenchment that really it has never recovered from.

Hall: That's right. So that Cole -

Slaughter-Defoe: That's when he went out to San Diego?

Hall: Cole was going to go to San Diego, California. I didn't want to go to California at first because it was so far away. I had been there and I felt it was charming and pleasant, I like to visit there, but the culture was not what I really what I saw myself being, it was too laid back and too casual for me. So, what was I going to do? Well I looked around actually and I got a letter from - and a call from Illinois, at Champaign-Urbana. I never liked Champaign-Urbana because I have some funny memories of it growing up in the Midwest, of course, I don't mean to share here now, but also it was such an isolated farm place. I had been on the Board of the Reading Center since it started in 1976, had gone to these meetings and I'll tell you it was really -- coming and going out there from New York City was really quite a treat. So I thought about it, but didn't think too much about it and I sort of held them off because Cole said, "Why don't you come to California?" Well there were no real live positions in psychology. There was something in communication which was to be Cole's home department. There were these research positions. I felt at that point I didn't want to become a research associate; it was not in my career interest. So, I applied for and - won a Sloan fellowship to Yale in cognitive science, and that was the summer of 1978. That was Schank and Ableson's project.

Slaughter-Defoe: Schank was at Yale then wasn't he?

Hall: Yeah, he was one of the Directors of this program, along with Ableson - they did the program together.

Slaughter-Defoe: I see.

Hall: At the end of the fellowship I still was uncertain all summer of whether I was going to go to Illinois or go to California, because I kind of reconciled that well, California couldn't be that bad so I went out for a visit, and it was very pretty, La Jolla is beautiful.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah.

Hall: But I couldn't see any long-term career in things for me at that point there. And I got back to Rockefeller from Yale, and I called the Dean at Illinois and said I was coming and he said, "When?" And I said, "Well, this fall, I'll come up after Labor Day," he said, "Well fine." So we started up the preparation work let's see that was the end of July -

Slaughter-Defoe: July '78?

Hall: End of July, right '78. Because I had been at Yale for the month of July.

Slaughter-Defoe: Back up a little bit. What question or two was a focus in that cognitive science? How was cognitive science different from say early studies of intelligence? What was the significance of that term being used at that point?

Hall: Well actually what I was trying to do there is really to again it was my first attempt beyond, you know, of course, strictly psychology studies investigations, the map of what was going on when one processed information wasn't clear to me. That was also a large part of the Reading Centers work rather than on the Board you see. And the BB&N in - Bolt, Beranek and Newman, Cambridge where Collins is, they were partners with the Reading Center -

Slaughter-Defoe: BB & N

Hall: And N.

Slaughter-Defoe: Were partners in the Reading Center in Illinois?

Hall: Yeah. Yeah.

Slaughter-Defoe: Oh, I see. So BB&N has been around a long time?

Hall: Oh, yeah. They've been around for quite a while.

Slaughter-Defoe: What does it actually stand for --?

Hall: It's, B-O-L-T, B-E-R-A-N-E-K and N-E-W-M-A-N.

Slaughter-Defoe: And it's a private information processing firm --?

Hall: It's a research and development firm, an R&D firm. I don't know what you have in Chicago comparable to it. There must be some.

Slaughter-Defoe: But it's special as it is applied --?

Hall: Cognitive studies.

Slaughter-Defoe: No, I don't think there is anything in Chicago that is comparable.

Hall: Lots of computer scientists.

Slaughter-Defoe: You know why I'm fairly certain? I don't think he would want this commute.

Hall: Oh.

Slaughter-Defoe: If there was anything truly comparable.

Hall: Lots of computer scientists, lots of linguists and lots of psychologists, and also engineers.

Slaughter-Defoe: Computer scientists, psychologists and linguists?

Hall: And engineers.

Slaughter-Defoe: And this was as early as 19 78?

Hall: Well actually I started - well, no, no. I started really with them in '76 or '75 -

Slaughter-Defoe: This is why you were at Rockefeller --?

Hall: Yes. When in the Reading Center in Illinois applied for this grant, and I became one of the satellite people on the grant.

Slaughter-Defoe: And they went for the grant --?

Hall: It was awarded, started in '77, '76.

Slaughter-Defoe: And where did they go for that?

Hall: It was NIE.

Slaughter-Defoe: Oh, NIE. Yeah, of course. NIE. And then they had partners and Rockefeller was one.

Hall: I was a partner. I was at Rockefeller. I was a partner, but their real partners were BB&N and Illinois. So that was five years at a time, about a million and a half dollars a year in direct costs.

Slaughter-Defoe: Which was a lot of money then?

Hall: Yeah. And they were renewed; I think for two more times - I think they had it for fifteen years. They just lost it the last time around to the University of Maryland and the University of Georgia applied, where they were more interested in curriculum issues in reading.

Slaughter-Defoe: Rather than basic processes?

Hall: Right.

Slaughter-Defoe: And of course, NIE is now OERI?

Hall: OERI, that's right. Yeah. But I think that they're more interested in practice issues.

Slaughter-Defoe: This is a little bit of a detour, but do you ever hear - have you ever heard any more from - Marsha Taylor? Did she do anything other than that one study?

Hall: Well Marsha Taylor is actually on the Advisory Board of the Reading Center at The University of Maryland and Georgia.

Slaughter-Defoe: How wonderful.

Hall: She got her degree.

Slaughter-Defoe: You're responsible for that.

Hall: Well I really - she was on it. I didn't --

Slaughter-Defoe: Where is she now?

Hall: In South Carolina. She's the Director or Research for the State of South Carolina Board of Education, --

Slaughter-Defoe: Director of Research.

Hall: For the State Department of Education, in South Carolina.

Slaughter-Defoe: Well I'll be damned.

Hall: She was from a small town - well she married a military man -

Slaughter-Defoe: I know, that's the last I saw of her. She got her degree that year in 1981 when I - see I was down there '80-'81 in Illinois and I was on the Committee.

Hall: Were you on the Committee?

Slaughter-Defoe: Oh, yes. I know that study. That's where they put Carol Lee's work in context. Because of Mark Shane. I still remember Bob Lynn saying that that was the first time that he had seen any relevance during this cultural difference issue, and -

Hall: Freedom

Slaughter-Defoe: And see what Carol Lee does. She's on our faculty now, is extend the actual instruction -

Hall: Is she the one that wrote a letter for?

Slaughter-Defoe: Probably. She's extraordinarily talented.

Hall: She's an African-American woman -

Slaughter-Defoe: That's right.

Hall: -- and she is out some place -

Slaughter-Defoe: Haki Madhubuti, did you know that? The poet infrastructure that developed around 1976 relative to what was cognitive science and the linkages between the Reading Center at U.I. where you were, of course, for these three years, this group in Massachusetts and University of Illinois so forth, NIE - so go ahead.

Hall: So I went to Urbana instead. And

Slaughter-Defoe: And your decision was really based on the fact this was a better - place to continue a career?

Hall: At this point, yes. Illinois is a powerful university.

Slaughter-Defoe: Right.

Hall: Powerful. And that was a group, and intact group, an exciting group of people, Andrew Ortony was there, Ran Sperow, Dick Anderson, Tom Anderson, Bill Brewer, the BB&N people, of course, Chip Bruce, Collins, John Fredrickson.

Slaughter-Defoe: See I believe that while Ortony Chaired - I'm fairly certain he chaired the Review for her and so he was naturally the advisor of record -

Hall: There also there were a lot of linguists at Illinois with appointments at the Reading Center, Georgia Green for example. Many people were at the Reading Center, it was an exciting time actually. So it proved to be, and I had lucked upon a fantastic collaborator who got his Ph.D. at LaJolla in Linguistics, and this was Bill Nagy, who's still there as a matter of fact.

Slaughter-Defoe: Oh, yeah.

Hall: And it was a very productive three years actually. But I got lonely for the east, and I kept getting these calls actually from the Chairman of Psychology at College Park. So at Illinois I was Professor of Educational Psychology and of Psychology.

Slaughter-Defoe: That's right.

Hall: I kept getting these calls after that. I got to Urbana actually - let me go back - I had called Ortony and said meet me at the airport, this day, it was the Tuesday after Labor Day actually, because I was getting into O'Hare at ten o'clock if I remember. I went to Chicago - oh, I left New York, all my stuff packed up and I moved - and that flight left by noon on Friday, and I took I think a three o'clock flight to Chicago. And it was coincidence I had old friends from Hyde Park that live on the north side, so I went and stayed the weekend there, because I wanted to gradually get into being back in the Midwest again. I stayed there on the weekend and they had a big outdoor backyard barbecue, which people do a lot in their backyard space for the weekend. That Tuesday I went down to Urbana. My friend picked me up at the airport and I had the secretaries find an apartment for me as I wanted to be close to the urban life. So I did. We got there and got into the Reading Center. Then I spent half of the year in California; I went there in the wintertime actually. A good time to go to California from Urbana, from California, but that one year we had this great snow storm actually. And then after that I decided that the spring of '79 that gee this would be nice now to have some city close. I went out one day to Chicago for the weekend and got this place along the lake front. So I would come up to Chicago every Thursday and go back to Urbana every Sunday night. And I was doing research and eventually in Chicago I was writing. And anyhow, got this call from Maryland, and after about - I was on a study section at NIH, so I would come out here and said to the guy, actually Alan Gross social psychologist. So, I said to him, "Well actually why don't I come out and do a colloquium because I'm out there for NIH and it'll just be an extra day?" So all of 1980, and our study session ended in October, and I stayed over for a weekend on a Saturday. I'm sure it was, because I stayed over one day. I gave a talk and they offered me a position. I thought, "Well, all right, write me a letter," and that's what he did and I thought about it, Illinois and -

Slaughter-Defoe: What did you talk about?

Hall: I talked about a supermarket study, part of which - where is that -- that's in the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences that's published there.

Slaughter-Defoe: And what was that about?

Hall: That was about actually how you could create links by changing the context, get children to use very, very, communicative language.

Slaughter-Defoe: Again context.

Hall: Right.

Slaughter-Defoe: And how context could be used to -

Hall: So anyway. So I went back and finally in March they had written me a letter saying that they had recommended me and all that. And then in March I got the letter from the Dean and President. So I thought about it for period, Illinois then made all these counters of course, and I thought well I really want to be back east, most of my close friends were in New York or in New Jersey, Philadelphia, out that way. And I kind of was lonely. And I thought well twenty more years of commuting between Urbana and Chicago every week. And the winters in Chicago are severe, as you well know. I thought, well you know, this is quality of life issue, do you want to do this the rest of your life. And also my perspective was beginning to change actually. And I continued on and I came to Maryland - actually - well not quite eight, but another five years working on issues like this, and partly because I had a lot of data that I had to write up. We arranged a conference on plasticity of development actually, and that became a book published by the M.I.T. Press in 1991. It had chapters by Jerry Kagan, Sandra Scarr and a lot of other scientists. And that was a kind of dawning of my getting into neuroscience. By the time the book came out I was really into neuroscience because I had taken a sabbatical and my colleague Steve Brauth said, "Why don't you take a sabbatical and come to my lab," so I said, "Well, why not." So I did. I was interested in language development and developmental production of conversation was especially was especially of interest. Steve was working with parrots on some other issues.

Slaughter-Defoe: With parrots --

Hall: Yeah.

Slaughter-Defoe: As some people know.

Hall: He was not interested in development, especially until I went to his lab and got him interested in development. And we -- the first thing that we did was to begin work on neural pathways. And that's kind of where I am now actually, along with being Chairman of Psychology. I usually get up at four and get to the lab by seven-thirty and -

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah. Tell me what would be a typical day?

Hall: I get up at 4:00 a.m., I leave home at 6:30 a.m., and I usually get to College Park by 7:20 a.m., and I get a shuttle to the University, the Metro station. So I really get to the office somewhere between a quarter to and 8:00 a.m. I've already had my breakfast by then. And I work on administrative things in the office until 9:30-10:00 a.m. when I go to the lab until noon. After lunch I either go to the lab, depending on what I'm doing, or come back to the office - I usually try to go to the lab after lunch, come to the office in the last part of the day. And after the office closes, which is 4:30 p.m., more like 5:00 p.m. to me -

Slaughter-Defoe: So you get to the office maybe about 3:00-3:30, something like that?

Hall: Yeah. That's right. Then I go back to the lab at 5:00. I usually stay until 7:00, 7:30-8:00 p.m.

Slaughter-Defoe: And then the lab from 5:00 to maybe roughly -

Hall: 7:30-8:00. And I do the same - I go Saturdays, I'm used to going in midmornings, oh six or seven.

Slaughter-Defoe: And then let's see -- And so you have basically confined this Chairing, well at least you structure it in such a way that it takes maybe about three hours a day or something like that?

Hall: Well, it varies. There's some things you have to do that - I say somewhere between - when you're always Chairing, even when people call. But you can kind of organize parts of it, especially if you've got mostly a research faculty- and I have a research faculty, they don't need you very much, they do things themselves they're independent.

Slaughter-Defoe: That's right.

Hall: I think if you had a conventional psychology background then you might do more than this.

Slaughter-Defoe: So you like it?

Hall: It's kind of interesting, yeah. I've done these kinds of things before at Rockefeller; I was the Director of the Institute. At Illinois I was the Co-Director of the Reading Center, and at Vassar I was Chairman of the Department of Afro-American Studies and at Princeton I directed undergraduate studies so --

Slaughter-Defoe: So you know a lot about administration --?

Hall: I've always studied -- actually, yeah.

Slaughter-Defoe: Why have you done that? Do you find that varying your life in that setting is synergistic to the other?

Hall: Yes, or I wouldn't do it. Actually I'm looking now at - I don't know if I'll be - Chairing, because there are things I really want to do in the laboratory. I do plan to retire at 65.

Slaughter-Defoe: You do?

Hall: Oh, yeah. And do other things. I want to formally sever my ties with the Department and the University. I might be an Emeritus and continue on doing things with my collaborators, you know, but I don't want any formal connection otherwise.

Slaughter-Defoe: So you're envisioning retiring in about four to five years max?

Hall: Four to five years, right.

Slaughter-Defoe: What life do you see for yourself in that?

Hall: Well, I'm going to sleep to noon. I'll probably write, but I will probably move back to New York and I will enjoy the cultural riches of New York at my own pace, because they're there to be enjoyed. But I am a member of The Most Venerable Order of St. John.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah, how did that come about?

Hall: Well I was recommended. So the work I do, together with a strong love I hope, and I'll probably do some volunteer work and some things like that. Of all the things I volunteer to do I want to do things like that, you know, kind of relax.

Slaughter-Defoe: So you're anticipating retiring?

Hall: I am - I'm looking forward to a life of volunteering.

Slaughter-Defoe: I hear you. But in some ways I mean you've rendered service to SRCD. How long have you been a member of SRCD?

Hall: I was thinking about that actually as I was walking over here. Now the first time I believe my first SRCD meeting was I believe in 1967. SRCD was at the Waldorf -

Slaughter-Defoe: In New York?

Hall: Yes. And I taught at NYU actually then from '66 to '68.

Slaughter-Defoe: And I would imagine in those days there were no blacks at that meeting?

Hall: I think I was the only one in '67 that I saw. There were very few people first of all at SRCD, it wasn't very large then, and Susan Gray was the President. And then in 1969 it met in Santa Monica, and I didn't see - I saw one other black - a black woman I saw. I chatted with her, but I think she was Caribbean, she might have been in working in the States but she was Caribbean. And I recall, for example, watching Michael Lewis and Jerry Kagan discuss the orienting response in infants for a long-time. That was '69, and then '71 - Where was SRCD in '71?

Slaughter-Defoe: Could that have been Minneapolis?

Hall: Maybe, I didn't go in '71. I didn't go there. And '73 -

Slaughter-Defoe: I remember that one well because that's my first memory of being there and that's when we formed the caucus that was in Philadelphia.

Hall: Philadelphia. Okay. And '75 was in Denver.

Slaughter-Defoe: Right.

Hall: I remember that one well because I was going on to California for the weekend. One of the persons in California I met in Hawaii I met people from San Francisco and Los Angeles kept very active in politics actually. So '75 was in Denver, and I recall I think I had several presentations actually, two of them for the caucus actually. And then in '77, where were we?

Slaughter-Defoe: Was that Boston? I'm trying to remember.

Hall: No, Boston was '81. '77 - Where was '77? In '79 was that San Francisco, but what as '77?

Slaughter-Defoe: Probably somewhere in the Midwest, but now - it might have been New Orleans.

Hall: Yes, it was New Orleans. It was New Orleans.

Slaughter-Defoe: Because I know now from Council, that they swing to the Midwest and back --

Hall: Yes, '77 was New Orleans. - The headquarters was over on Canal Street I believe.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah, because I remember Gerald Weiner was the Program Chair, and he was working with Janet Blumenthal - you know she died.

Hall: Did she?

Slaughter-Defoe: Did you know that? She had cancer.

Hall: Recently?

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah, within the past year. She had - she was in Atlanta. They'll probably have something in one of those newsletters. I think Marge is going to write something up, but she was

actually - I was her Chair she was you know working and preparing in intervention. And she took a long time, but she finished in H.D. at Chicago. And she worked in Georgia and different places. She had a good working relationship with Marge and with Joe, who also died.

Hall: Joe?

Slaughter-Defoe: Stevenson.

Hall: I didn't know him.

Slaughter-Defoe: He died a couple years ago also.

Hall: I heard about that. I remember that.

Slaughter-Defoe: He was very much again in parenting early childhood development.

Hall: Was he a Chicago Ph.D. as well?

Slaughter-Defoe: He was actually - that's why I was interested in going back with you about Susan Gray, because he was Susan Gray's student. And -

Hall: What college?

Slaughter-Defoe: At Peabody. And I since - just recently learned I think Sadie Grimmitt—also a black woman, I think she was her student also, because I saw a proposal -- I was working with Bonnieon the panel for at-risk kids this time around, finally was chairing it. And one of them she sent me was a proposed conversational hour being organized by Sadie and somebody else just in honor of -

Hall: Who died this year, because last year -

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah. And so I mean I gave that high priority. But I did not realize that Susan Gray was Sadie Grimmitt's advisor- which is of some interest because Laura Washington was Susan Gray's - Sadie Grimmitt's student -

Hall: Where?

Slaughter-Defoe: At Indiana University, where Sadie's always been.

Hall: I know Sadie Grimmitt is -- I know where she is now. She was at Indiana, right?

Slaughter-Defoe: Right. Which is of some interest because although there were a handful of us blacks, there - involved in some way in SRCD, for the record it should be noted that we could actually trace our intellectual roots or ties or launches to an even smaller handful of people. That is to say it wasn't as if everybody in Society, so it seemed took one, in which case you add. I mean it's that you find that oh, Susan Gray was responsible for Joseph Stevens and also Sadie Grimmitt, and in turn was responsible for -- again things like that. It's a small group and it's probably not accidental that Susan Gray was a very close friend of Bob Hess. I mean that all these people were sort of working in that general area of early childhood intervention, early development, language development, you know, things along these lines. And there is another whole group of people who were working at SRCD, but these people tended not to sponsor - be involved in some way- it seems that even your own career in terms of its beginning what you've described, your early relationships - very central concern was issues around matters that would have been thought about then as culturally different -

Hall: Right. Right.

Slaughter-Defoe: -- children and how they acquired basic developmental attributes.

Hall: Yes, that's right. My first interaction with Susan Gray actually was not after the conference in New York, but in Chicago at the Center for Continuing Education. Ben Bloom had a conference on the disadvantaged. That must have been '62 or '63, and out of it came a kind of literature review type thing in the Vanderbilt University Press.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yes, I remember that very well.

Hall: -- and this lasted actually three or four days.

Slaughter-Defoe: Because Susan Stodolsky was a graduate student and was the writer for that.

Hall: Yes, she was, right.

Slaughter-Defoe: I remember that now.

Hall: And that's when I really got to, cause you're there all day long and - Erickson was there, for example. And I really got to interact with her. Anyway where were we?

Slaughter-Defoe: Well you came to SRCD during the year of her presidency.

Hall: Yeah, that's my first time -- Yeah. And actually my student - my first student was Bill Cross, and he's now just become Professor of Psychology at Penn State. And we know his contribution to identity. We did, I guess the first of those studies on the black identity.

Slaughter-Defoe: That's right. Well that's interesting too because we could talk about that one, because Deborah Johnson who's working around now, she was at Cornell and Cross was her mentor on her master's degree.

Hall: Oh, really. She got her Ph.D. with you though didn't she?

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah. At Northwestern. But she got her undergrad at Chicago, and she went to Cornell in Human Development and Family Study. Cross was not in Human Development and Family Study -

Hall: Well he had an affiliate appointment. He was in Africana Studies.

Slaughter-Defoe: That's right. But Deborah was perceiving herself as not being helped very much by the woman who was her advisor in Human Development and Family Study.

Hall: Who was that?

Slaughter-Defoe: Some woman who's now in Atlanta. I've forgotten her name. Elaine Walker, could that be her name?

Hall: It could be.

Slaughter-Defoe: And she went over to Cross, and he helped her a great deal. But when I met her, she and two other young women, who were in her cohort at Cornell at that same time; Andrea Hunter who's at Michigan now, and another young woman who dropped out of Cornell and never went back into graduate studies. But the three of them were presenting papers on their work, and Deborah was presenting on her work and she was doing under Cross' supervision and a dissertation

on black psychology. And we had just started this Human Development Social Policy program at Northwestern, Bernice Neugarten was there. And when I found out that here's a young woman who's up there with two others giving a paper, trying to be that ambitious and so forth, and I found out she was an APA minority fellow and I said, "Leave that place, come work with us," and she did, and the rest is history. I mention that because I just had to write for her tenure at Wisconsin and one of the questions on these tenure things is always compare this person with their peers. And when I limited it strictly to gender and race, she has no peer; everybody is either a little bit older than she, or younger, because in that group she was the only one. Andrea Hunter did post-doc work at John Hopkins and then came up into the tenured process at Michigan within the past three to four - three years.

Hall: Is she in psychology at Michigan?

Slaughter-Defoe: She's in psychology. And so -- but it's interesting that Cross, who was your student -

Hall: Yes.

Slaughter-Defoe: -- was the mentor to her. And I want to tell you what she worked on. She got very interested in the time-line for bi-racial children by comparison to black children and white children in terms of racial awareness and racial identity. It's slightly different. And that was the work which she published - she published that in the chronicle that I think she's in the -

Hall: Child Development.

Slaughter-Defoe: In the Palmer quarterly.

Hall: Oh, that's a different one.

Slaughter-Defoe: But it's interesting. I forgot that Cross - I knew that at one point, but until this winter when you brought it to me, I forgot that he was - that's right he was your student.

Hall: Yeah, he was.

Slaughter-Defoe: He's from Evanston too, you know.

Hall: Yes, he is. And his folks. I think - well actually dead now. But he grew up in Evanston right?

Slaughter-Defoe: Yes.

Hall: Evanston High School. He -

Slaughter-Defoe: He was at Margaret's -

Hall: Oh, was he?

Slaughter-Defoe: Yes.

Hall: Well good for him. We were at, you know, we had him also at Rockefeller, Mike Cole had this institute, and part of that was really to train minorities, and we had a lot of people here. Faye Vaughn-Cook, who is now Professor of Linguistics at UDC, who got her Ph.D. in Linguistics and is of course now a very outstanding person. That was one of the people. Laura Hines, who just retired actually, who is on the faculty at Yeshiva University. She had been for many years; a Supervisor of Psychology for the New York City Public Schools. She is a good friend of Edmund Gordon.

Slaughter-Defoe: Can you spell that last name?

Hall: Laura Hines, H-I-N-E-S. Then let's see. From that group those were the ones I worked with most, then, of course, in Urbana my post-doct - I had two actually, Jose, who was very active in SRCD, who is on the faculty at Loyola in Chicago. Jose got his degree from Katherine Nelson -- and then the other was Bill Nagy, of course, got his Ph.D. in Linguistics at UCSD, and then since I've been here at UMCP my students to date have been Susan Calkins who is currently on the faculty at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and James Booth.

Slaughter-Defoe: How do you spell --?

Hall: Susan Calkins. The other student is James Booth who came to me from Michigan and the other was Harold Stevenson who now - he just passed his dissertation proposal review last week.

Slaughter-Defoe: Great.

Hall: He's a professional who's really quite good. Very, very smart, very creative. He already has I think five papers already.

Slaughter-Defoe: Oh, boy. He has his degree already?

Hall: (358) -- his father was a professor, of course, -- he understands the drill - And he married a developmental psychologist. Her parents are both professors. And I had another student who came in last year.

Slaughter-Defoe: What we were discussing basically is who some of the students were and their intellectual lineage. And what I want now to turn to as a focus is, what were your -- has been your general strategies for working with students? Because obviously that's important to know because your experiences and the set of credentials you brought to the situation, the kinds of questions you've worked on and so on, that would make you an unusual mentor?

Hall: Well, guess I would describe my model as really kind of a European model. When I talk to a student, I expect them - they say they want to work with me, I look at their credentials and see if this might work out, in case if it doesn't look like it might work out then I lose - it's a waste of my time. And then I like the student - they come and we talk, and I always give some things to read to kind of give them some things I've done recently, and have them go and read them and think about them, and think about how their interests might be same. I'm not saying you got to do this, but they usually come back with something, and then I let them loose. When they think they have something they come back to me you see, and eventually things kind of fall in place.

Slaughter-Defoe: So you help them - for example, when you were working with Cross and -- so he brought some of his ideas to you and then you -

Hall: And we decided we worked well together and I'd design the experiments and then he took that idea actually and developed it quite extensively, and has become famous for that. Actually he's changed it substantially since 1970 when it was first published, actually. It was first published actually; I did a post-doct at the American College Program Testing back in Iowa, summer of 1970. The current President of ETS was there. And I worked on this thing and this came out as a monograph for ACT. As a matter of fact last time I was in touch with this there were at least seven or eight dissertations based on this work. And many students who applied, African-American students who applied for the counseling psychology program in Maryland were interested in this idea. One of them said to me, "Are you the Hall from this?" The Holy Cross. Yeah, I was.

Slaughter-Defoe: When you first went to SRCD in '67, was that when - I guess Dorothy Eichorn was the Executive Director?

Hall: Well, she had just become that hadn't she, or she had not been for very long. I don't recall meeting her there then, but I'm sure I did see her, I didn't meet her I must of seen her, of course. It was at the Waldorf, and they ran out of programs and everything, because I think that this was during the big, you know, the Head Start push, the evaluation and all, so many people - and in New York anyone who's interested in children's development, so you always get a large number of people who will go to meetings too.

Slaughter-Defoe: That might have been one of the years it was a turning point relative to the numbers of people - just the sheer number of people who started -

Hall: Then it was in '69 in Santa Monica, it was at a small hotel - a small hotel actually on Santa Monica Boulevard. I didn't go to '71, but '73 was -

Slaughter-Defoe: Philadelphia.

Hall: -- and I heard there was a huge crowd and they had to turn away people almost. In '75 in Denver was very, very large too. And, of course, I did the '81 in Boston.

Slaughter-Defoe: That's right. It was just mobbed.

Hall: It was mobbed full of people. Another place where, you know, you have so many people working in child development is that area of the country -

Slaughter-Defoe: That's right.

Hall: -- you know, but it's hard sometimes for people to plan.

Slaughter-Defoe: That's right.

Hall: But we had a nice program. I thought the program was nice though.

Slaughter-Defoe: That's right. Yeah, I remember how difficult that was for you too because you were still at Illinois, at the time -

Hall: I was at Illinois.

Slaughter-Defoe: -- and so although you were Program Chair -

Hall: I was for a local agent at first. Someone else was that actually. So when I was in Illinois they were in Boston.

Slaughter-Defoe: That's right. That's right.

Hall: It was supposed to have been actually in New York see, and then so they asked me to do it I was in New York. It was supposed to have been in New York. There were some union problems or something like that --

Slaughter-Defoe: Oh tell us about that.

Hall: - and that would have been more logical and easier actually.

Slaughter-Defoe: What have been your most - you've served in so many capacities in SRCD. What have been some of your most satisfactory -- was it publications committee or --?

Hall: Publications was really quite satisfying actually, because I think we did get a lot of special things done, a lot of special issues. I'm not sure about those now, they're good but they do tend to take away somehow from the regular flow of publications. And there's always the question of well why get this work published regularly.

Slaughter-Defoe: Weren't you on the Publications Committee when the special issue on minority development was published?

Hall: Yes, I was on the committee.

Slaughter-Defoe: -- at that time came out? How long have you been on Publications?

Hall: How long has it been? Gee wiz, well after the program I really became more like a consultant to Child Development actually, then they changed editors and I was no longer that. When was it? When were we in Kansas, 19 what? '83? '81?

Slaughter-Defoe: I think it was sometime after that.

Hall: '81 we were in Boston. Oh, '83 was in Toronto.

Slaughter-Defoe: Okay. Yeah, that makes sense.

Hall: No, no, no. Detroit. Detroit.

Slaughter-Defoe: Detroit, that's right.

Hall: '85 was Toronto.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yes.

Hall: And '87 was Kansas, right?

Slaughter-Defoe: No, I think I was married. It must have been '89, but does that sound right?

Hall: '87, '89. But '85 was Toronto, I remember that very well. But where was '87 though? '87 must have been where, New Orleans?

Slaughter-Defoe: No. We just came from - what is this? '95 we're going to Indianapolis, '93 we're in -

Hall: '93 we're in - that's where we just came from, New Orleans in '93 and '91 we were in Seattle.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yes, that's right.

Hall: And '89 we were in Boston - maybe '89 was cancelled.

Slaughter-Defoe: I think so.

Hall: Where was '87?

Slaughter-Defoe: Well let's see, it's going to be east - '87, '85, '83 --

Hall: New Orleans?

Slaughter-Defoe: No, I know for sure it's - '87 -

Hall: It wasn't in California.

Slaughter-Defoe: I should know.

Hall: I should know too.

Slaughter-Defoe: '83, '85 -

Hall: '83 was Detroit, '85 was Toronto and '87 was where? '89 was Kansas.

Slaughter-Defoe: Boston?

Hall: No, it wasn't Boston. I don't think was it? Again? No, I don't think so.

Slaughter-Defoe: Baltimore. When did we go to Baltimore?

Hall: Baltimore, '87, that's right. Baltimore.

Slaughter-Defoe: Because I remember that - because you were local arrangements and it was wonderful. What were you?

Hall: I wasn't local arrangements. I was the party special events planner.

Slaughter-Defoe: Special Events, because I remember that marvelous reception at the museum. It was just marvelous.

Hall: It was good.

Slaughter-Defoe: So if I could just enumerate these because you were on publications from - in some capacity from roughly 1987 to date?

Hall: Yes.

Slaughter-Defoe: From Baltimore forward?

Hall: Yeah. Yeah.

Slaughter-Defoe: All right. So you were on publications from roughly '87 to date in some capacity?

Hall: Right.

Slaughter-Defoe: Chairing until most recently. And then Baltimore you were in Special Events, and then you were Program Chair in 1981.

Hall: '81. Right.

Slaughter-Defoe: And what I'm documenting is that you were on Publications when that special issue came --

Hall: Yes, I was. Right.

Slaughter-Defoe: And frankly you were also a very exacting mentor to Vonnie McLoyd.

Hall: In what sense?

Slaughter-Defoe: She used to - I mean she certainly - because I can recall you discussing with me how you were worried that if she shifted her interest from this basic research that she was doing that she, or whatever. Actually it worked out okay.

Hall: She wouldn't get tenured.

Slaughter-Defoe: -- that she - that would deflect, you know -- and whatever. Actually she seems to have pulled that together and it's working okay. But it was a bold move on her part at that time.

Hall: Yeah. What is she doing now?

Slaughter-Defoe: I think she's doing work on the effects of poverty on children in early development. I know she had this grant a couple years back where she was looking at daycare wasn't she? I think it was from NICHD.

Hall: Well she had - she did have one of those.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah. I think she had some career award from the Grant Foundation.

Hall: She did. She had one of those awards, and Marge had one too.

Slaughter-Defoe: I don't think Marge had that, but she was - she's been working on it.

Hall: Oh, my Jose, my post-doct got one of those.

Slaughter-Defoe: Oh, did he?

Hall: Yes.

Slaughter-Defoe: Sam Jose?

Hall: No, Paul.

Slaughter-Defoe: Paul Jose. Y-O-S-T?

Hall: J-O-S-E. He's not Hispanic I should say, he's from Missouri, blonde, blue-eyed. I thought he was Hispanic when I saw his name. They think its Jose. It's not.

Slaughter-Defoe: And he worked with you at --?

Hall: At the Reading Center.

Slaughter-Defoe: At the Reading Center in Illinois?

Hall: Yes.

Slaughter-Defoe: So you worked with a range, men, women, black, white, range of people?

Hall: Right. And I have two students at Urbana, well I have one actually, who's a Texan, he is now - he went to Farwest Laboratory, he was my Ph.D. and the only one I had at Urbana actually. His wife was not working with me - I left before she got ready to defend her dissertation and she is Chinese. But she didn't finish with me, you know, she finished - with Ann Brown.

Slaughter-Defoe: Well summing up all of this, you have to say that the face of child development has certainly changed. And you have to put yourself as one of the central things for contributing to that change between 1967 and 1997, around the time of your retirement. You're talking thirty years.

Hall: That's thirty years isn't it? My goodness how time flies.

Slaughter-Defoe: That's right. And you have to say that you described these people and various - and as we access the roles that they've had on various things in the field, even apart from your own publications and presentations, network and interactions and the people that you've called upon to write for tenure, include my own, that all these things together contributed quite a bit just changing the pace of that profession. And so that this time around, so it seems to me, anyway as we're revisiting a lot of the issues that were first visited in the 60's, people in a different mind-set and a different level of understanding, particularly on this difference deficit issue, that's been put to bed. That really has been put to bed, except in the minds of very few who simply don't know the literature -

Hall: Don't want to know it.

Slaughter-Defoe: -- and the history and don't want to know it. It really has been put to bed. And that was - for that time and that date, that was a major intellectual challenge, and I - it had implications now, not just for African-Americans and the minorities who were in the country at the time, which were a small group of Native Americans and the Hispanic, but now with all these new populations coming into the country, the enormity of what was done if you think about all of these immigrant populations from these various countries, the Haitians and Caribbean countries, and then you think about these Indonesian populations and then coming into closure of the war. All of these issues that we were raising then, the issues of language, identity, achievement, intelligence, how does indeed the brain function, all that. Those issues are still basically - not necessarily now, but it's clear that the right questions and the right critic critiques were raised.

Hall: Yeah. That's true. Yes. You know I was very pleased to see in the recent American Psychologist. I didn't know that.

Slaughter-Defoe: Oh, thank you.

Hall: For heaven's sake. Yes. Because you were the context, because you were presenting Professor Neugarten and that's it -- you had gotten this award last year and I guess you were central to her getting it.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah.

Hall: And that's very nice.

Slaughter-Defoe: Well, I don't think she had any role, but I was just talking about how as you can think of it in terms of my own life, but that, of course, subject for another conversation another night, had she not come to Northwestern and started that program there, although I had a nice, as you would say it, pretty place to work, and certainly a place with all the resources, I wouldn't have had an intellectual context.

Hall: Yes. She's a powerhouse.

Slaughter-Defoe: And that was the - I think because - so I consider that very important. As a matter of fact at this retreat I had occasion to remind somebody of it because of the three graduate programs that are now in our schools, one of them, counseling of scientists is having a lot of trouble and one of the issues that one of the faculty was raising at this retreat is that in some

sense it's been a misnomer for a long time because we have not had a full-time counseling psychologist for any sustained period in that program in the seventeen years that I've been there. Now there's two ways to interpret that. One way is that you would say, well you've never been able to find anyone who was interested enough in terms of their research and their this and that to begin that field of psychology, counseling psychology, to have them there at Northwestern. But the other way, you have to be careful because the other way that it can also be interpreted as my colleague rightly pointed out to us, is that in some sense they were not all together truthful about what they were about. And so someone said at the retreat, "Well you know this is some of the same problems that we had in human development psychology -," and I said, "Wait, wait, wait, stop. That's not true," because when we were founded, as I reminded them, there were two Ph.D.'s in human development and there were two people with social policy credentials. In other words we were never operating at any time without staff with credentials in what it was that we were basically talking about here. And so, you know, cause Northwestern is very different from Chicago where if the person goes, the courses go and everything else. But Northwestern operates on program, and it's a really nice thing to say that a program may have been around for a number of years with no legitimating -

Hall: Well you know counseling psychology programs are generally in schools of education, not in psychology departments.

Slaughter-Defoe: Right.

Hall: And we have one in my department actually.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah, Maryland's is very well -

Hall: Yeah, we have been number one in that field.

Slaughter-Defoe: Yeah, see it's very well recognized you see.

Hall: Yes.

Slaughter-Defoe: In fact, it was talked about the fact that in contrast to say Maryland and also Columbia has an -

Hall: -- outstanding program as well.

Slaughter-Defoe: -- that nobody knows about this thing Northwestern had prodded in because the people in it do not relate to the field.

Hall: Yeah. Yeah.

Slaughter-Defoe: And so they are now, in fact, a student's coming out, they're now getting ready to try to put together a packet of research too because they see a potential there in terms of higher education etc., and so now they want - and they really do want to get someone who would be respected in counseling psychology. And because they certainly - we had for a short time a man by the name of Jack Crites.

Hall: Crites?

Slaughter-Defoe: Ah huh.

Hall: He used to be here at Maryland.

Slaughter-Defoe: Did he?

Hall: I think so, maybe not.

Slaughter-Defoe: But he moved on after a period of time. And I don't think - he wasn't there more than a couple years at the most.

Hall: And I got his office when I came to Maryland here in 1981-

Slaughter-Defoe: Is that right? C-R-I-T-E-S.

Hall: That's a different one. No, it was a different one.

Slaughter-Defoe: But at any rate, so then we - but -- our deal is trying to deal with all that he has inherited and one of the things he inherited is this. And right now I wouldn't want to be in his position trying to figure out -

Hall: What to do.

Slaughter-Defoe: You know, what to do.

Hall: How old is Roy? Forty?

Slaughter-Defoe: I think he's probably somewhere between forty and forty-five, something like that. But he comes out of, I think, this tradition that -

Hall: You know he's got his degree with Bruner at Oxford I think, right? Because he was at Rockefeller actually for a time working with George Miller.

Slaughter-Defoe: Oh, I see.

Hall: And maybe Doug Medin, I guess he worked with Medin. Medin is in psychology at Northwestern. Yes, he is.

Slaughter-Defoe: Oh, is he?

Hall: He was at Rockefeller too. Doug Medin, he was at Rockefeller with me, then he went to Urbana, he left there and went to Michigan, didn't stay at Michigan very long and then he came to Northwestern.

Slaughter-Defoe: And he's still there?

Hall: Yes. Unless he's left since I've talked to him back in the fall. No, I talked to him last spring I guess it was.

Slaughter-Defoe: Okay. Well, it's back to SRCD - I had a feeling we covered the things -

Hall: I think we got all the things that as I recall I think we've covered them pretty much.

Slaughter-Defoe: Well thank you very much. I know this is exhausting.

Hall: Oh, it is.