

SfAA Oral History Interview Suggested Topics

Each interview should be tailor-made to the particular career and experiences of the applied and practicing anthropologist/sociologist being interviewed. The important goal is to produce a verbal account of the interviewee's experiences, especially those that shaped the development of application in anthropology and sociology. These general topics are provided mainly as a guide for interview planning. In the event that any of these issues have been covered in earlier sessions, it may not be necessary to review them again.

Two broad areas are outlined. The first focuses on the anthropologist's/sociologist's observations of the development of applied and practicing anthropology. The second addresses aspects about his/her personal career.

I. Development of Applied and Practicing Anthropology

- A. Central influences on the early development of applied and practicing anthropology/sociology.
- B. Explicit inclusion of practicing anthropology into the discipline and focus of practitioner work.
- C. Nature of the formative years of applied and practicing anthropology/sociology?
- D. The main problems that needed to be solved or worked on in your areas of applied and practicing anthropology/sociology.
- E. Interesting stories from your experience that demonstrate the development and history of applied and practicing anthropology/sociology.
- F. Success stories?
- G. Disappointments?
- H. Challenges for the future for the application and practice of anthropology/sociology.

II. Personal Career

- A. Entrée to applied and practicing anthropology/sociology (e.g., education, early career, particular influences from growing up years, notable experiences).
- B. How he/she made the decision to study the discipline in the first place.
- C. First work as an applied and practicing anthropologist/sociologist and how he/she came to that part of his/her career. Timing, place, substance, results, lessons learned.
- D. Review of career history, especially contributions made to applied and practicing anthropology/sociology.
- E. Highlights from the interviewee's perspective of his/her career overall and his/her applied and practicing anthropology/sociology, in particular.
- F. "Words of wisdom" for junior colleagues considering applied work.
- G. Recommendations for the disciplines of anthropology and sociology with regard to educating people to become effective applied and practicing social scientists.
- H. Other reflections.