

This is an interview of Lucy Cohen done for the Society for Applied Anthropology Oral History Project at the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky Libraries. The interview was conducted by Barbara Rylko-Bauer on March 19th, 2009 at Santa Fe, New Mexico.

RYLKO-BAUER: This is Barbara Rylko-Bauer, and I am interviewing Lucy Cohen for the Society for Applied Anthropology's Oral History Project. The interview is taking place in on Thursday, March 19th, 2009 at the historic La Fonda Hotel, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, during the *SfAA*'s 2009 annual meeting. Accompanying me in the interview is Carol Hill, a medical anthropologist and past president of the Society for Applied Anthropology. The interview focuses on Lucy Cohen, but Carol Hill may enter the conversation from time to time.

[Pause]

RYLKO-BAUER: As . . . background information, I just want to mention, that during the . . . 2008 applied meetings, Lucy Cohen received the society's Sol Tax award for her leadership and long term service to the *SfAA* which included membership on numerous committees, and serving as meeting program chair. Lucy Cohen also has been very active in the Society for Medical Anthropology, and in fact was a founding member of the SMA and eventually serving there as secretary, as president, and also as an archivist of the SMA. The . . . Society for Medical Anthropology is an organization that has held numerous joint meetings with the *SfAA*, and who is interest in membership overlap quite a bit with those of the *SfAA*.

[Pause]

RYLKO-BAUER: Good morning . . .

COHEN & HILL: Good morning.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . Lucy Cohen, and good morning Carol Hill.

COHEN: Good morning Barbara, and good morning Carol.

[Pause]

RYLKO-BAUER: I, I, Lucy (whisperings) Lucy, I'd like to start . . . with . . . you telling us a bit about your academic career, how you got into applied anthropology, and . . . maybe reflect on some of the highlights of your work and your career that you feel have had an impact on applied anthropology. Then perhaps, you could talk a bit about your role, the roles that you've played within the Society for Applied Anthropology and perhaps the Society for Medical Anthropology, especially the early years. And finally, I think it would be very interesting . . . to have you share your interest and experiences from the work that you've done within public policy, and public and community service.

COHEN: Thanks so much Barbara, hello Carol. I am honored to be interviewed, so to go ahead. I, I discovered anthropology quite literally, I discovered it, at the college where I studied there were no anthropology courses, but I was interested in how culture influences action. So, eventually I talked to some people about what to do about on, on this, and . . . the people that I first talked to had a gr . . . were graduates of Cornell University, and later came to the University of Kentucky. But people from Cornell, when Cornell had a sociology and anthropology program combined . . . influenced the things that I did. Cornell, as we know, had an interesting program and some interesting projects, so I got myself to talk to them, and then talked to the people in Kentucky, and I said, "I'm going to go into anthropology." And that's kind of how I got inspired with the idea. But my interest was applied anthropology, helping to bring culture into programs of action, that's how I saw it then, and . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Could I ask you Lucy . . .

COHEN: Yes.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . who were some of the people that you talked with. Were they anthropologists, who you talked to at Cornell . . .

COHEN: At, at Cornell . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . and Kentucky?

COHEN: . . . at Cornell let's talk about Cornell first, that Steve Boggs who was a graduate of Cornell, and then . . . the sociology part was Leila Deasy who later became, she was a student of Robin [M.] Williams, [Jr.] both of them, and then, I met some of the Vicos people later, but those two were critical because they were in Washington. So I went to talk to them and they kind of guided me as to what one did. And so I, Steve Boggs, who then went to NIH and NIMH and handled the grant programs, suggested to me that I apply for one of the pre docs when they had pre doctoral programs. I did and I got the, the, I got the, the training grant, the training grant, so I was in and I started studying my anthropology. So that was my early beginning. But I want to say that my reason for studying was so that I would kind of work and use this in action. It never was so that I would go to teach. An academic career had never crossed my mind. So my early notion of anthropology was just that . . . and . . . that now anthropology and health was not kind of in my, in, in my . . . at, that was not my thought, except that I had then, I had also had some work experience, because I had an interest in mental health in psychiatric hospitals and . . . and things related. So I had an interest in mental health also, and so my path to medical anthropology came via research interest in mental health, and Leila Deasy who had been the sociologist had worked at in NIMH when the first social scientist anthropologists and sociologists had worked at, were the first who kind of pioneered that, so I was kind of influenced by that. And, and so it was going to go into, some mental health career, so I did my training, and then one another thing happened which then I did my . . . my, my disser . . . my research work and so on, and

so on, in Colombia. So then my cross cultural thing came in. But those were my early beginnings there. Now . . .

HILL: When did you wor . . .

COHEN: . . . that, that, that, that transfer to Kentucky, was because there was this move of the applied anthropology interest from Cor . . . out of Cornell, I, I don't know if that's appropriate to put it that way, but out of Cornell to Kentucky. So I, learned something about Kentucky, and so on and so forth and that was how that was . . . so in, in the early '70s then, I had just as I had finished my, my PhD, I, I needed a jo . . . I mean I was going to get a job. So I went to some people that I knew in the District of Colombia Health Department, and I said, well—saw somebody and I said “so-and-so, I'm looking for a job.” And she says, “well there is a job, chief of program evaluation in area C Community Mental Health Center.” So, I applied and I got it. And that's, that was my job, non-academic in the midst of, you know, mental health, grantsmanship and all kinds of things that go with program evaluation, and that's how I started kind of working and that was very applied, that was my beginning.

RYLKO-BAUER: Was that one of the early community health centers?

COHEN: That was one of them, because it was special legislation for President Kennedy for the District of Colombia, targeted that way. At the same time, however, I'd like to say, because the immigrant community was developing in Washington and Latinos, I s . . . I had started volunteering at, at, at a, at a Spanish Catholic Center working with immigrants. So I had, I made some time to go there while I was working full time, I mean I arranged my time at the center . . .

HILL: Uh-huh, yes.

COHEN: . . . so I, I also was then doing that, and so that plunged me into the community stuff, so-to-speak, and I was very active, I mean I became very active in that particular role. I'll stop there, in case you want to ask me something, if that's what, that was kind of the early flow where you see that what my applied interest, and not too long after I got into that community work, I got involved into some policy issues that I think I'll talk about a little bit later.

RYLKO-BAUER: Good.

[Pause]

RYLKO-BAUER: If I can ask you Lucy, how so for how many years did you work as the . . . was it the chief . . .

COHEN: Chief of Program Evaluation . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Pro . . . Program Evaluation . . .

COHEN: . . . about two years.

RYLKO-BAUER: Two years? And did you, you got your PhD at Catholic University.

COFFMAN: Correct.

RYLKO-BAUER: And, were there program—I mean were there courses at that time, or any training in doing . . . program evaluation . . .

COHEN: No.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . or doing any kind of . . .

COHEN: No.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . application?

COHEN: No, there was a p . . . we did have applied anthropology, because Friedl Lang was there, and Friedl Lang was from Cornell. Then he left Catholic U. and he went to Colorado. But that was the . . . that was how the “ins” with Cornell came in because of Friedl, and then because of Leila [Deasy] who was in, you know, that, that was my “ins” into that. So, and then . . . that was the, the, the contact, and so, and so we, I was, I was very conscious of applied anthropology, and I said, “that’s what I want to do.” We were lucky that I don’t think there were that many programs around that were giving any course on applied anthropology. Now Friedl’s model of applied anthropology, of course, mirrored something of what Cornell was giving, and that model of applied anthropology weren’t going to cities to do things. You had going to native Americans, or you were going to Peru, or so on, and doing things, but it wasn’t necessarily going to do, to your backyard, so-to-speak.

RYLKO-BAUER: Mm-mm, right.

HILL: But did they call it ‘applied anthropology’?

COHEN: They did call it ‘applied anthropology’. Now I have to say that . . . that was my training. I was . . . at the same time that the, this was going on, I had kind of an interest in what we call ethnohistory, so that early on, after my PhD, I, I do acknowledge that’s another interest that . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Uh-huh, yes.

COHEN: . . . goes along with these things that I’m doing, and they may not sound very applied, but anyway, I, I want to talk a little bit about that maybe later.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: Okay. So that was the ethnohistory interest, and . . . one of the first interest that accomplished of mine was in, a little paper that was published in *Ethnohistory*.

RYLKO-BAUER: In *Ethnohistory*, yes. Well, it's interesting, you know, to . . . I think often times we don't realize how many parallel threads there are, you know, in a person's career, that actually kind of start around the same time, but they, they have different . . . you know, they, they evolve in different ways and at different rates. So I think that's very interesting, you know, for you to have mentioned that right now. So you were working . . . on evaluation.

COHEN: At, at, at Area C, when I was also doing volunteer work.

RYLKO-BAUER: Right.

COHEN: And I was also doing research on my ethnohistoric . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Right.

COHEN: . . . stuff . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Right.

COHEN: Three very different goals . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yeah.

COHEN: . . . I have to tell you.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: But you managed to work with them and I've managed to continue to work in some way with these interests afterwards, and so . . . then . . . somewhere along there, I got invited . . . when I was working at Area C, I, I decided to take . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: When you say area C?

COHEN: At the mental health center.

RYLKO-BAUER: Mental health center, okay.

COHEN: Such an exciting name. It was area A, area B, area C . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Oh, I see, okay.

COHEN: . . . and area D . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Mm-mm.

COHEN: . . . were the different geographic arenas, of the areas of the city, and . . . I, I decided to take, go to take a course part time in anthropology at Catholic U. That was how my interest in a possible PhD . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Ha!

COHEN: . . . I forgot to say that came along. And so I started in this and that was what shored up my interest, and I said, well, maybe that's a, a way to go. So I talked with these persons I've mentioned before about what that would mean, and that was going to be a shift, and then of course, when I got the fellowship from NIMH, I left Area C, I spent some money in Brazil, went to a meeting, came back and started my PhD program, and I have to tell you, I started in my PhD program, my first course was on . . . language, because I knew I wasn't going to be a linguist, so I went to the Summer Institute of Linguistics. I don't know if you all have ever heard of it.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes . . .

COHEN: S-I-L.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . Yes.

COHEN: I went to S-I-L in Oklahoma.

RYLKO-BAUER: Unhuh

COHEN: So . . . that was my transition to anthropology of course S-I-L has its very special culture, so I, that was my first wonderful exercise in understanding the culture that's not my own. I learned linguistics, but I also learned how to understand the . . . the, S-I-L culture which was not my culture, and . . . so that was my beginning of my anthropological career.

RYLKO-BAUER: So you went there, not, you went there for . . .

COHEN: My, my . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . courses in linguistics, not for learning a particular language.

COHEN: No, that's right, for getting, because I said, I need to have, I'm not going to, I knew that I wasn't going to study the Indians of the Amazon, I had, that was not my goal, but that I said, I'll never, this will be useful because I said, I've got to have archaeology and linguistics, I'm never going to be an archaeologist, I have no interest, and I have no interest in linguistics, but it's supposed to be part of your anthropological training . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Uh-huh, right, the four field approach.

COHEN: That was what I . . .

HILL: Yes, yeah.

COHEN: . . . these people had said.

HILL: Yes.

COHEN: So I went to linguistics, and then the summer after that , I think that was it. . . I . . . I went, I came to New Mexico to do an archaeology and ethnology work with Florence Hawley Ellis, at San Juan Pueblo.

RYLKO-BAUER: Okay.

COHEN: And so, you know, that was my plunging in and it was a wonderful experience for many reasons, and, and so that's how I came, came to anthropology.

RYLKO-BAUER: Well it sounds to me also that that's a wonderful way of, you know, rather than sitting in a lecture hall and learning about linguistics . . .

COHEN: Oh yeah, it was terrific.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . and, and, you know . . .

COHEN: Terrific.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . or learning about archaeology . . .

COHEN: Terrific.

RYLKO-BAUER: on the ground . . .

COHEN: If you'd met Kenneth Pike who was the inspirer of it, and Sarah [C.] Gudschinsky were that fa . . . you know, they were the great fou . . . founding, well, he was not the founding father, but he was a great linguist also . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yeah.

COHEN: . . . and so on. And, and that in itself was an experience worth the while.

HILL: What years?

COHEN: . . . that, that, so that was my plunging in, and so I went, so I, you know, was getting my training, and then what comes into this picture on the, the applied anthropology, it begins with that I did field work in Colombia, and then . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: And why did you decide that?

COHEN: And I, at Catholic U I met two persons from Colombia, who I knew had gotten their PhD there in sociology and another one who came for one year. And they invited me to go to Colombia for my Christmas holiday, so I saved my money and went for my Christmas holidays, and at the school, anyway, so I stayed longer than the Christmas holidays. And then when the time came of thinking about a dissertation I said, I'd like to do it in Colombia. So I did it in Colombia and my NIH, and NIMH grant I had my project that I wanted to do it in Colombia and I wanted to do it from a subject related to women , for . . . in the professions, not—it wasn't going to be on the natives there, but on the, the, the most highly trained sample of the first generation of, the . . . the women in the liberal professions physicians, dentists, lawyers and so on and so forth. That was my dissertation. But more importantly, or equally as important, that translated in to my interest and love affair with Colombia.

RYLKO-BAUER: Okay.

COHEN: So that's, yeah.

RYLKO-BAUER: Well, and you, you know, throughout your work you've been very interested in women's roles. . .

COHEN: Yes I have.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . and the, and, and the, the role that women played in the whole immigration experience.

COHEN: Yes.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . the stresses, but also the, the way that they perhaps helped the rest of the community in the adjustments, and so forth.

COHEN: It's been two aspects, those who suffer, you know, down and out, plus the other kind, like for my dissertation I didn't do the down and out women. I did . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Right.

COHEN: . . . I was very interested in the women who were in the, the, you know, who had had the initiative of being the first professional lawyers and so on and so forth there, because I was interested in the other, you know, what goes into, wha . . . into the, what's the interaction of culture and the persons when they do something new, innovation theory was in vogue at that time time, and I started . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Homer Barnett.

COHEN: I started with that, I left that soon afterwards . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: . . . but it was that, why, how, how is it that people do new things, and so that was kind of what inspired me to do my dissertation, and I've stayed with that interest and some ways or another in Colombia, some other aspects of it.

RYLKO-BAUER: You know, that question of how people do new things is actually kind of a, and a, an endless and timeless question for anthropologists, you know, there is always new things that . . . so what happened next, after you got your PhD?

COHEN: Then one thing led to the other, and . . . the sociologist, Leila Deasy, the Cornell graduate you heard me talk about this, from south Georgia . . . got a grant . . . at, at Catholic U, an NIH grant to do a special training of, of educating social workers in the school of social work . . . both African-American and whites in, a special initiative program, and they needed someone with a specialty in cultures, in the social sciences and then she was a lead person on this grant so she needed somebody else. I had worked with her, so she asked me would you come, and so that's how I left and I went, but I said to her, I think you are putting anthropology in the department and said, if you'd like to come also, why don't you work it so that it's a joint appointment. I knew nothing about joint appointments. So anyway, I went and I worked in a joint appointment and eventually, when the grant ended, I got an invitation from the anthropology department to go teach there. Now I mention this, but I never would have thought of going in the academic situation would this not have happened. I mean I was invited to go to a special project and then from this special project I went to an anthropology department, and that's how I came to an anthropology department.

RYLKO-BAUER: That's interesting, I, I do recall also that you had a masters in social work.

COHEN: Yes, that's right.

RYLKO-BAUER: So that . . .

COHEN: And that was how . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Right.

COHEN: . . . that worked.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yeah, yeah. So did you . . . how did you feel about teaching . . .

COHEN: Well . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . when you first started?

COHEN: Fine, I mean I had, you know, the, that was a new activity and that was fine, I, I think I did all right.

RYLKO-BAUER: Who were your influences as you were getting your PhD and kept your interest?

COHEN: It, it continued to be Friedl [Lang] until then, and then Michael Kenny came in, who was my, my major professor . . . there, who was British, Oxford, Evans-Pritchard , Lasker and so he came. . . there was an interest in the department because he had done his work in Spain, and so on and so forth. He was my major professor, and then Regina Flannery Herzfeld who was a contemporary of Margaret Mead, and her work , she had worked with Ruth Benedict down in the southwest the famous stories of Ruth Benedict, the, the one woman that was involved with [Morris] Opler and those other boys was Regina. So she had very interesting experiences. So she wrote my other person.

RYLKO-BAUER: Do you remember the first course that you taught at Catholic University?

COHEN: Well I taught, the one first one I taught was . . . was a . . . you know, was in that joint appointment but the first one that I made, maybe I taught . . . either something in Latin America, or an introductory cultural anthropology course.

RYLKO-BAUER: [Chuckling] that's, that's, that's probably . . .

HILL: Of course.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . I hear it right [Laughter – Rylko-Bauer and Cohen]

COHEN: Either one, I can't remember which one of the two.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yeah. Well, and you have stayed with Catholic University . . .

COHEN: I stayed out there, except that, and then I got invited when Bela [C.] Maday was going to leave . . . the, the grants program at NIMH. Bela asked me if I would be willing to go, and, and take his space, it's not civil service if you have to, to (unintelligible) but, so I thought about that a lot. I talked to Steve Boggs who had been in that position before and I thought about it a lot. So I said, and I talked with the department of anthropology, the dean said, the dean said, "all right, go, but I'm going to put you on leave for two years. If you change your mind, you come back, you know, but, but the position will be here for two years." So it's a matter of fact I went, and I served the two years, and then I came back.

RYLKO-BAUER: And what was your position again at NIMH?

COHEN: That was, that was an NIH it was running the, the grant . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: NIH, or NIMH?

COHEN: . . . NIMH.

RYLKO-BAUER: NIMH.

COHEN: It was running, running the grants programs of pre-docs and post docs which were . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Okay.

COHEN: . . . beginning to go for . . . for anthropologist s . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Okay.

COHEN: . . . and, there were, there was a sociologist that handled that, so I (unintelligible) and, and (unintelligible). It was a ve . . . it was a very good experience.

HILL: There was quite a bit of money involved too.

COHEN: Oh, and that's what I was going to say, that was a time when you really had the money for pre-docs. Now post-docs came up afterwards when the money started going away, after the Nixon years and around then that's how it happened. A way of receiving it was a, a then developing the post-docs. It was an innovative way of saying well we need post-docs. And so then it was saved with the post-docs. I was there when it was the pre-docs.

HILL: Pre-docs.

RYLKO-BAUER: So these were the NIMH . . .

COHEN: NIMH . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . training programs?

COHEN: . . . training, the training pro . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: And I had one of those.

COHEN: Yes, yes, we all did, we all did [Laughter – All]. That's right, that's right, those were, and they were, I think that was a worthwhile program and the products, I mean [Chuckling] you know, it was a good investment . . .

HILL: It was.

COHEN: . . . it was a well-invested federal, it was a good federal investment.

HILL: Yeah.

RYLKO-BAUER: Well, and the, I mean that's very interesting that, that you know, that was a very important role that you played.

COHEN: And I must tell you, you know, my first meeting went, when all the other anthropologists were down to (unintelligible) and Laura Nader chaired that session that was a really interesting session [Laughter – All]. So I learned a lot from all the different anthropologists [Laughing].

RYLKO-BAUER: Who you had to interact with.

COHEN: Yes.

RYLKO-BAUER: So then . . . you decided after two years that . . .

COHEN: Then, then I went to talk to the dean again, and I said, "Dean," you know, blah, blah, blah, I didn't go into all the details, I said, is the department interested. So I went back. I stayed in the department every since then without that interruption. I've had other interruptions, but that stayed here. Other things were happening also in my community activities and so on. So . . . Washington community has also let me, I, I've had other opportunities to work in other places, very tempting ones. I don't need to go into that, but . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yeah.

COHEN: . . . what, what was the real thing, honestly speaking, is that Washington to me is very interesting and so I've stayed with Catholic was very good because I, it's in Washington itself, and it's allowed me to look at certain other aspects of life in Washington that are very interesting. It was a help, and then came the immigration issues . . .

HILL: Yes.

RYLKO-BAUER: Well, and it sounds to me that, you know, looking at your work across time, in a way you're, you're an ethnographer of Washington, D. C., and the Washington, D. C. culture.

COHEN: And, and the other part of course is that . . . I was developing an interest in ethnohistory also, and so the Library of Congress and there is some depositories there, and the Library of Congress, you know, has such treasures, and it's an inspiration to go to other parts of the country and so . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: . . . with my, my only other interest that I want to say that also led me to, to the academic scene but I, I had then become interested in a major one, what became a major ethnohistoric work, maybe it's not as relevant as what talking about here, which took me to . . . to do work in the U. S. South and by the time my book came out, I had my book that got published by L.S.U., *Chinese in the Post-Civil War South: A People Without History* . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: . . . and it, it has been a major . . . this is not Colombia, this is not . . . D. C., and I had decided that even now, every month I get at least three inquiries of all kinds on people that have read that and asked me something. The African-American that's, wonders if she had descendants who are Chinese, or to a Chinese from China who is working with Protestant records and the Chinese that may have come there, and maybe who came to the south, so they're reading this things that I might have never imagined, from the spin-off of this, and it's still in print.

RYLKO-BAUER: That's wonderful, that's really wonderful.

HILL: And then you became interested in the Chinese in Costa Rica.

COHEN: Yes, and then—well, actually , actually, as, as I meant to say, when I talked about my first publication in ethnohistory, that's how it all started, that I did it as my past time in Washington [Laughing] I think on, I became interested on how the Chinese that had come to Costa Rica had gotten there, but I—then, then again it really was that I had to study the Chinese in Panama to learn about the Chinese in Costa Rica. So I, I gave a paper at ethnohistory which happened to have been at Cornell where the meeting was, I think it was somewhere in New York—no, Albany, in New York. And so I gave this paper and then, the president of the society said, you should publish it, in that, in *Ethnohistory*. And so they published it in *Ethnohistory* and it was on the first Chinese that went to Panama to build the railroad.

RYLKO-BAUER: It's titled 'The Chinese of the Panama Railroad: Preliminary Notes of the Migrants of 1854' . . .

COHEN: That's right.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . who failed . . .

COHEN: That's right.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . *Ethnohistory*, Volume eighteen. number 4 . . .

COHEN: That's right.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . three-hundred-and-nine to three-hundred-and-twenty.”

COHEN: Got it, that's right. And so I, I dropped that, I didn't drop it. But then I, I went on. on the business of doing a major work on Chinese in the post-civil war South. However, I still had the Costa Rica piece that I had really started out with. So then just now, there is in the *Social Science Journal of Costa Rica*, there is a little article that's going to be published where I did get back to that . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Oh . . .

COHEN: . . . and it describes [Chuckling] that finally and since then other people have been working on that in Costa Rica, but the angle on this is, which is my interest . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: . . . which is the connection between Macao that the, many, most of the Chinese during the period of the 1840s to 1870s that have been brought to Latin American and the Caribbean had come through Macao and Hong Kong. So I have been, got myself to Macao to Hong Kong. And then I narrowed down this to the first group of Chinese that were brought to . . . Costa Rica, directly from Macao, rather than to go somewhere else, like Panama, directly, so I did a little article on the process of being recruited, and what it was like for those, the administrative issues involved with the Portuguese and the Chinese dealt with, and the labor agents in Macao, it was a study of bureaucracy in the positive, on how that moved in order to recruit these Chinese, and then he describes the coming, the stop in Hawaii, and then when they finally arrived got in Puntarenas in Costa Rica. What happened to them has been described in literature, but not . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: (unintelligible).

COHEN: . . . where the forces had been.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yeah.

COHEN: So that, that's, and so I finally did get to the Costa Rica case there.

RYLKO-BAUER: That's wonderful. Well, you know, it . . .

COHEN: It's a big fact.

RYLKO-BAUER: took a little time. [Laughter – Rylko-Bauer]. Before we shift to, you know, talking about maybe though . . . your involvement with . . . applied anthropology in a kind of professional way of the society, is there anything else that you want to add about, you know, your, the work that you've done or, do you, are there, is there anything that you especially happy with, or are proud of?

COHEN: No . . . I think I said what I wanted to say.

RYLKO-BAUER: Okay, okay.

COHEN: And so, we thought we might move to . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: To the . . . your involvement with the Society of Applied Anthropology.

COHEN: Okay. I have never thought of going to any society other than applied anthropology when I first began, because that's what I was interested in. I was interested in applied anthropology so I should go to hear these anthropologists. And so I remember one of these early meetings, when I go to sit. Now there weren't a lot of women anthropologists, female anthro . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yeah.

COHEN: . . . a few, Marion Pearsall comes into the picture, a little bit later . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: . . . about you know, sitting, and visiting with these men talking about whatever they had done wherever, different parts of the world and so on, and so . . . I decided, you know, this is what I want but maybe in a different context. I had different experiences and so on, so I, I, so that's why I went to the meetings of the society, because I thought, this is where I learned from these people . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Right.

COHEN: . . . you know, what it's like to be an applied anthropologist, and that's how I started. Now . . . I want to talk a little bit later about how then this other societies have entered my . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: . . . my image. Ethnohistory I kind of had a separate so to speak but, then medical anthropology comes into the picture not too long afterwards.

RYLKO-BAUER: But when . . . so you began going, did you start going when you were still a student?

COHEN: Yes I did, oh yes, absolutely.

RYLKO-BAUER: Well there's this . . .

COHEN: I paid my . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . story . . .

COHEN: . . . I had my, I saved my money to go to the meetings.

RYLKO-BAUER: You did, yeah. But there're . . .

COHEN: I got a hundred and sixty some dollars a month for my pre doc [Laughter – Cohen, Rylko-Bauer, Hill]. That was, that was some money and it paid for my tuition . . .

HILL: And you could live on it at the time.

COHEN: . . . and you could live. I lived in a room for which I paid forty-five dollars a month [Laughter – Cohen and Rylko-Bauer].

RYLKO-BAUER: Yeah. Those were the days. So, there is this story that you were at one of the applied meetings and . . . Oscar Lewis approached you to ask if you could help translate because there were some of the presenters . . . did not speak English and some of the members in the audience did not speak Spanish.

COHEN: Yes.

RYLKO-BAUER: Is that correct?

COHEN: Yes. I was a student still and . . . you know, the meeting was at Puerto Rico. And so they had invited Latin Americanist anthropologists in the proper spirit . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Okay.

COHEN: . . . and so there was this meeting, I can't remember what the meeting was, at that session. And so, Guillermo Bonfil Batalla, who was not as well known to American anthropologists then gave a paper and he didn't speak English. So, Oscar Lewis, and you know, asked, can anybody translate, can you translate? And so I translated. I had him read it and then I translated it from the text. And so at the end I, I said, so I said in my colloquial language, you know, nothing I, I thought it was a very good paper, and so I said with my colloquial language, I said, this is a very meaty paper [Laughter – All]. I mean it was, you know, it was, you know, it was a very meaty paper. So, up went the hand of a Puerto Rican guest who was not an anthropologist, but they were listening. I think they were going to (unintelligible) probably, and so he got up and he said, "yes, quite appropriate. And you know what color meat is?" at which point I almost fainted

[Laughter – All] and Oscar Lewis came to the rescue, whatever it was and he said, and that was my first [Laughing] entrée that, that was, that was story again.

RYLKO-BAUER: That's a great story. So how . . . how did you get more formally involved with the society then?

COHEN: Well, getting to be on committees and things like that. And then . . . at some point . . . at being on committees mostly, and then you know, I go to every meeting. And so I volunteered to do this, or they'd ask me to do something else at the registration desk, when we didn't have so many paid people. I mean . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Right.

COHEN: . . . the society functioned on the volunteer work of the anthropologists, and so we would volunteer to do, and that's how I eventually got involved, and I'd usually give a paper of some kind or another and so then . . . and I never got (unintelligible) that, that was my, this is my main group to which I belonged. I joined others soon after afterward but this was different.

RYLKO-BAUER: Do you remember any . . . particular memorable applied meetings that you attended or were involved in with, was . . . you know, something that, that was . . .

COHEN: They were all mem . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . they're all . . .

COHEN: . . . they were all memorable in that way, but different issues, like . . . I wasn't into the, as a student, that the war in Southeast Asia, when that comes, the end of that, you know, and you know, all, all the kinds of things that happened, they also happened with the AAA.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: . . . there was some repercussions of this and I, I started learning because one of our faculty members was a specialist in Thailand, Jay [Jasper C.] Ingersoll he was so, so he had, you know, I learned a little bit more of this whole area and the arena, so there were issues, so they were, and then they were . . . some issues going on in Latin America, so on and so forth, so I, there were some hot discussions.

RYLKO-BAUER: So it wasn't just at the AAA that you had a lot of . . .

COHEN: No-no-no . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . debates and stuff . . .

COHEN: . . . no-no.

RYLKO-BAUER: There were debates within the . . .

COHEN: There were debates . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . Society

COHEN: . . . but they were in a different kind. I think they were expected, because this was applied anthropology. I do think that they created, I can't remember, and maybe they were dealt with in different ways, but they didn't cause concern, there was more, you know, you knew each other but the society was smaller.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: You knew each other, you knew everybody's secrets, and so on and so forth, so you know, you just went on doing the work you were doing.

RYLKO-BAUER: When did you . . . get in, you became a founding member of the Society for Medical Anthropology, do you, would you like to talk just a little bit about that?

COHEN: That was probably because of the interest of two people, Dorothea Leighton and Marion Pearsall, and Dorothea Leighton because I had read their work at Cornell, you know, that's the Cornell thing.

RYLKO-BAUER: Okay.

COHEN: And I had read their work because I, my work in Area C where everything was so practical and very good conceptualization of all of this. So I read the volumes (unintelligible) and other things of theirs, and so one day, I, I decided to write to Dorothea who was at Chapel Hill. I wrote to her and said, "You know I am interested in medical anthropology because I was going to do some research in the (unintelligible)." So I got to use their framework so I, so that's how I got (unintelligible) people, you know, who were then involved, Alex was also involved in (unintelligible) method the movement that developed.

RYLKO-BAUER: This is Alexander Leighton.

COHEN: Yes, yes. And so . . . that's, that kind of how I got in. And then Marion Pearsall at some point or another and I can't remember exactly where, comes into the picture, because of my interest in applied anthropology in Kentucky, using the Cornell people that had gone down to Kentucky and so on. But it was . . . Leighton, and then one other thing happened. While I was at Area C, I went to the first meeting of the social science and medicine group in Aberdeen, Scotland. I just went, as a youngster a lot of these names from Europe, and the U. S. and so on and so forth. Leila Deasy was invited to go. When I was there, I met Virginia Oleson. I don't know if you know her. She

is a sociologist from UCSF. So Virginia Oleson in her way I think was influential in my thinking, you know, about in . . . interesting . . . that's what you asked me . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yeah.

COHEN: . . . is there really, is there really going to . . . shape my, my interest in this. But in the terms of the organization, though, it was probably Dorothea, then Hazel Weidman comes in the picture and so on, but I think the closer contact that I had was Dorothea.

RYLKO-BAUER: How did, how, how did the SMA actually, I mean, what, what actually happened I mean when, were you sitting together at a table having coffee and this idea came up, or . . .

COHEN: Dorothea organized it, and it's in the archives. Dorothea organized the meeting with a lot of college people, Alex Leighton, maybe was there, Hazel Weidman was coming from the psychiatry. Hazel Weidman had been working with the psychiatrists, first in the south, a southern state, and then she moves to Miami with the project. But she was very interested in anthropology, mentally and psychiatry. And so it's these two movements that come together, and they're, they, they're coming from different perspectives, but they were able to pull it together, I think. And Hazel becomes a, a major organizer of the record keeping and so on and so forth . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: She was very . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Which is important when you . . .

COHEN: Absolutely!

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . beginning of an . . .

COHEN: So the records that she wrote . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: organization.

COHEN: . . . because, because Dorothea wasn't involved in that kind of thing. She was coming as an outsider, (unintelligible) so on and so forth. That record keeping was not (unintelligible).

RYLKO-BAUER: Well maybe that, seeing the importance of that, perhaps had an influence in your value of, of records and having a historical memory for the discipline, because you've, I think in both societies have pushed to have archives, and have them complete and so forth.

COHEN: I think so, but I have to say that it is probably family oriented. My father was a specialist in Costa Rican stamps prior to 1900. There were two world specialists, Franklin Roosevelt and my father.

RYLKO-BAUER: Really [Laughter – All]

COHEN: So, so you know, you had, you had a sense of, you have to have a sense of history, if you're a stamp collector of a real kind, you know, or you can take a stamp and look at it and say no this is a falsification, if you are in London and are talking to a dealer so you have a sense of history, but not, I never was interested in stamps.

RYLKO-BAUER: Mm-mm, and you were born in Costa Rica.

COHEN: I was born in Costa Rica.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yeah.

COHEN: So, you know, I, I . . . I, I think that it caused, this was nurtured and one of my minors in college was in history.

RYLKO-BAUER: Okay, yeah.

COHEN: So I . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yeah. Is there anything else that you want to say about your, your role, or how about SfAA?

COHEN: About SfAA, well what I think was very nice to see that there is the (unintelligible) SfAA (unintelligible) you know, and the (unintelligible) where you could all sit in a room, sometimes smoky room, you know, and so on, (unintelligible) moving along, and Oscar Lewis coming in every once in a while just, there were these figures that would come in to look at things and sometimes there were difficulties that they had gotten into, that there was Vicos, that was very nice, there was the Thailand people that had the problems afterward and so on. So you see, you know, the issues. I think I became more interested also when, do it at home, do applied anthropology at home . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: . . . where you could do something, and there were people of other cultures at home as well. That was the thing, you know, there weren't only native Americans and that they were the issues of people at home, not only were they African-Americans and, and I, the old immigrants, but then there were newcomers that were coming in, and I think all of these things kind of contributed to the (unintelligible) and the society was willing to expand, we have really expanded .

RYLKO-BAUER: Well I think the society was probably a home for people who were starting to do, you know, study their own culture, at a time when the larger discipline was not as . . . accepting of that yet, you know, that, that was somehow cut, because I also did my masters thesis and my dissertation in the United States, and even at that point in time, and I did this in the late '70s, you know, there were . . . you would get people questioning was this really anthropology, and so you actually did some very early work of that sort.

COHEN: Yes.

HILL: And you supported students, to do these kinds of . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yeah but . . .

HILL: . . . research.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . could you talk a little bit about that, because I think that's very important too. Thank you Carol.

HILL: You're welcome.

COHEN: Well, I learned, I think the business of two models, the individual student and groups of students I think that (unintelligible) people that have groups of students the guru in the sociology or anthropologists, and so they tend to lose it, and I saw (unintelligible) project with (unintelligible) people, I don't (unintelligible) how you organize it and so on, that was possible to do it, I'd do it, and . . . and there was the other (unintelligible) which the dissertation would (unintelligible), there was a chance of this going on, (unintelligible) it's in your own backyard (unintelligible).

RYLKO-BAUER: So it's giving students on the ground training . . .

COHEN: On the ground training.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . at the same . . .

COHEN: (unintelligible).

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

HILL: Yes. But, can I say one thing?

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes, please, Carol.

HILL: I gave my first paper at the Society for Applied Anthropology in Boston, Massachusetts, and Lucy was the chair of session.

RYLKO-BAUER: Oh, that's wonderful!

HILL: Yes, and she would, and of course I was this scared little kid and she was so supportive, and complimented my work, and was very influential and being genuine.

RYLKO-BAUER: And that means a lot . . .

HILL: Yes!

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . at that point .

HILL: Because I was making the transition from student, you know, professionally.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

HILL: . . . this was very important and . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yeah.

HILL: . . . She's done that for other, other young people.

RYLKO-BAUER: Well, you've been very, I think supporting of, of getting the society to . . . have, have roles for students. I don't know if you were involved in all, in the, some of the awards that they have for students now at the poster sessions, but I remember reading that you, you've been influential in, because it's so easy for students to be over looked you know, in, in these large, or . . . organizations and I think students find the SfAA meetings much more welcoming.

COHEN: Yeah, SfAA is definitely much more welcoming, it always has been. I think that we also have to use your skills to understand how SfAA works I think, less so now, because of some extent (unintelligible) they're willing to (unintelligible), so you have to understand that part, the networks of people who protected each other, who organized the sessions, and weren't, if you were kind of an independent, because you were trained by people from various places, we had somebody from Oxford that had worked with E. P., Evans-Pritchard, someone from Cornell, and somebody that had known Ruth Benedict and that had worked with her in the southwest, you know, you had a very interesting experiences, but you didn't have that certain (unintelligible) . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: And that worked.

COHEN: . . . and so you had, you had to figure out how to work within SfAA, which that at that times had the groups of people, you know, with their own interest. That always happens in associations. .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: Young people don't understand all of this and how to deal with that.

RYLKO-BAUER: Well it's . . .

COHEN: I think it's changed.

RYLKO-BAUER: Mm-mm. Well it's understanding the, the social and politic organization of the, of the organization that you're trying to be a part of. I'm going to stop for one moment.

[Pause]

RYLKO-BAUER: And so Lucy, I think this might be a good time maybe to switch in so this, that the, the . . . third part of the interview and that is . . . true, you know, if you would be kind enough to talk a little bit about your work in public policy and also . . . your involvement and your experiences in combining, you know, your anthropological work with public service and community service.

COHEN: I . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: And perhaps end with where you see that fitting into applied anthropology, in what direction perhaps we, you know, should be going in.

COHEN: Thank you. About public policy, or policy, as I mentioned early on, I, I went into anthropology with no interest whatsoever in the academic part of it, that is in teaching. I thought that I was going to do anthropology out in the world. However that was going to be translated, probably . . . drawing on culture in some way . . . as it impacted the lives of people in, in health situations or in community, in communities, or with ethnic groups, kind of something like that. Well, things kind of changed around, and . . . what happened is that as I did the work that I've described already, there were things going on in Washington, in which I was invited to participate, and one thing that happened was that . . . with the increased presence of immigrants, particularly Latino immigrants in my case, I had began to do volunteer work, doing counseling, as I had said, at the Spanish Catholic Center, and I still do that. The same day that I started on Thursday afternoons, I'm still going on Thursday afternoons.

RYLKO-BAUER: Really!

COHEN: Absolutely. That's my non-moveable feast. I do that every Thursday afternoon and on weekends. But I was doing that and . . . then several things on the policy issue happened. One, one of them and I, I'm just going to mention a couple of them. One was that the Latino community then was becoming active in, in the political way, local politics in the city, and . . . this was a time following the, the black activities, and so on and so forth. And as they were becoming active, because they wanted to have more input into local policy in the city, I was watching and listening and I knew some of them in person, I still know them. And so one day I got a call from somebody

who said, "you're going to be called to invite you to par . . . participant in a, in a commission that the mayor has for Latinos." But I said, "well, but I am not political," and they said, "that's exactly why we want you." So, that's how I got into the business of, of working at that time with the commission that was called the Mayor's Commission on Latino Community Development, which was just that, meeting with the city officials and so on, on various matters related to the Latino community, and I . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: What were the issues then?

COHEN: The issues could have been . . . well the issues were wanting to have a special department, or a special, a position and a, and a commission and advise, wanting to establish an advisory commission to the mayor on Latino affairs. So we were able to get that. But then the greater thing what wanting to have a position for a director. These are small things, but do not such small things in a bureaucracy. So, you know, it related to those kinds of issues and so on. Then when there were issues of various kinds. Now they focused on immigration issues and so on. At that time, they were, well, you know, schools had not been integrated for too long in Washington, and then the issue of children of Latino background coming into the schools, were you going to have bilingual, what do you do with children that don't know much English, all of those run-of-the-mill questions which are now taken for granted. They weren't so at that time. Washington, D. C. didn't have much experience with it, and the suburbs there weren't that many Latinos in the suburbs then. So that, that, that caught me kind of out of the street, so-to-speak, with that. And it was a very valuable experience. It also gave me ideas about student training. So that was, one dimension that I want to say, that's one down on the ground. The other one, and I, you don't look for these things here. The other one I just to mention was that, again I got called one day when somebody di . . . diplomacy is this saying you're going to be called. And so I was called and I was appointed the . . .to be an observer for the Vatican at the Organization of American States inter-American Commission on women. Now here is where my women's interest had come in, because I had done something on women, you know, and whatever it was, and I had an interest in women. But then this, this meant, you know . . . representative, it was, when you're an observer in an international organization, it's a very interesting situation, so I need to go and everything, the American Commission on Women at that time, which was interesting at that time. You know, you would go and you visited them whenever they do what kind of issues are a concern, and an observer, the UN . . .

[End Tape 1, Side 1]

[Begin Tape 1, Side 2]

RYLKO-BAUER: So as an observer, you would, did you have to travel?

COHEN: No . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . because they, they met here in Washington, and . . .

COHEN: In Washington, so . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . and, and you had to report on . . .

COHEN: Then I'd do report, and reports I put everything diplomatic, you don't talk about it [Chuckles – Rylko-Bayer], no you don't, I mean, you know, that's the, you talk about it to the right person. I happen to have been in a very interesting period when the, the Vatican observer to Washington has just died a several months ago wanted to go [Cardinal] Pio Laghi, p-i-o-l-a-g-h-i, was a wonderful, absolutely wonderful man, top diplomat of any kind of diplomats. He was very much respected in the Washington diplomatic scene and so on, and so I was very, very lucky to have worked with him, and I could sit with him and say now this, you know, about the women issues, and whatever I wanted to say that I thought was appropriate I said, I'm very honored to accept this was a nomination from the Vatican and so on, however I will, I need you to know about some of the issues about how I look at some of the issues on women . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Uh-huh.

COHEN: . . . da-ta-ta-ta-ta-ta-da, that would be alright, and so on and so forth. So that was a very interesting so many years that I was in that. Those . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: How many years, do you know? Many years . . .

COHEN: . . . Yes, many years.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . yes, just a couple.

COHEN: Yes, and so those two levels of, I just wanted to mention they are the kind of things that you never planned for these things. That's what I wanted to say. You may want to say, oh, policy is very important. But, you know, but what kind of policy you may be appointed to a policy being in a bureaucracy. But these kind of things where you are out in the community, loose, like a loose, you know, in, in the community or in a city, or this one, which is diplomatic, and so you're an observer, and that's volunteered, there is no rewards . . . material rewards, so-to-speak. Maybe you get rewards in heaven, but [Chuckling] heaven is not here yet, so [Laughter – All] or whatever, you know, whatever [Laughing].

HILL: You know, because you lived in Washington, what that, gave you a unique opportunity to remain . . . active in international policies.

COHEN: That was a very interesting observation. . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: . . . absolutely, you're right, you're right, absolutely, yes, and you have to, you had to.

RYLKO-BAUER: So the, I mean you're, you're, you're exposed to all kinds of international issues, you're, because this is the place where policy is made, and different policies intersect . . .

COHEN: I'm still interested in women, I mean . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: . . . because my area was to, you know, never mind who's shooting who somewhere, if, you know, at the big wars, or little skirmishes, or the religious this-that-and-the-other, but my focus was on looking at what's going on with women and this, the inter-American commission on women which was supposed to be dealing with the issues with women in Latin America.

RYLKO-BAUER: Uh-huh.

COHEN: Now that complemented my, my dissertation interests.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: So that helped a lot, because I had become interested in issues, you know, and so on and so forth and in these things you see everything, you hear some people who are very qualified, some people, like anything else, a portion of every country, you see everybody.

RYLKO-BAUER: Can you . . .

COHEN: And so that was a very, very interesting experience because, I don't know that, that many anthropologists think of, even now, think of these kinds of issues. And of course, you don't necessarily, as we see it, when, when a president that look at it in the civil area, when a president invites so-and-so to go to deal with issues in Ireland, or to go to this place on another they, they're usually not the people that are out there in the bureaucracy. They're people that they choose because they think that they have some competence there, and, and the material rewards that they get for it may be limited. If nothing they give something, they may quit their job to the side because they don't want conflict of interest and so on, but you do your thing, and you go back again, you know, it's, it's not an eternal, it's not a position that's paid, it's, it's that issue, and what I want to say is that, you may say, gee I'd like to do that, but that, you can't do that, it, it's what you've done that then qualifies you because people are looking around, then they'll say, who's there, who's there, and that's what they'll (unintelligible).

RYLKO-BAUER: Well do you think that, if you also s . . . there are ways that you make yourself accessible, you think because you become involved and people, because people have to hear of you, right? And so how . . .

COHEN: Well . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . do . . .

COHEN: . . . for example, I mean in the various practical way at the university where I am, you've have your major school of religious studies. Alright I, I, I'm invited to serve on the, on, on . . . There was a major case, where a faculty member was from that school, in this academic setting and so on and so forth, they were six of us that were on the faculty committee to study that case, representing the faculty, I was a member. Cardinal, or the late Cardinal, Avery Dulles, others wasn't there because of the wonderful experience, and you know, so you have, so, you, you get, you're invited by these people because they know that you can . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Right.

COHEN: . . . in these kinds of situations.

RYLKO-BAUER: Right.

COHEN: . . . and that you diplomatically know how to handle . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Okay.

COHEN: . . . you know, the things, and that you're not going to go spill the beans distributing these things around.

HILL: Did some of these openings happened because of your . . . involvement with the Catholic Church?

COHEN: Almost probably. I mean, that's right, and you never know. For example, you never know. The priest that was the director of the Spanish Catholic Center, when I first began there, who was a street priest wonderful with immigrants you know, he was so good, that now, and he is a cardinal in Boston, Okay . . . Cardinal Sean [Patrick] O'Malley. And he was taken to Washington after there were some serious problems in Boston. I saw him, he said, what, he was a wonderful problem solver on the ground, and so on and so forth. Of course when he went to Boston, I said he is the right person, what a difficult situation, he is still there.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes, John O'Mal . . . this is . . .

COHEN: Yeah, yeah, Sean O'Malley.

RYLKO-BAUER: Sean O'Malley, Sean O'Malley.

COHEN: He is now a cardinal.

RYLKO-BAUER: He is now Cardinal Sean O'Malley. Your, your work is . . .

COHEN: So the church, yes . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes, yes. Well and so, in your case it was the church, in the case of someone else it might be involvement with some other . . .

COHEN: Group,

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . organization, or . . .

COHEN: . . . organization, that's right, absolutely.

RYLKO-BAUER: So what, what were the . . . if you were to give some recommendations for, you know, young anthropologists who are, and because we're still keep talking about policy, you know, we still are searching for a way to making anthropology more engaged and so forth. What would your advice be, to a young anthropologist?

COHEN: It is a very good question. I think number one that what (Coughs) you have to know what your interests are. You don't start creating interests because you're going to go into policy, and now all of the sudden you discover that you're interested with immigrants or health, or with something because you think that's going to be a good policy. That's, that's not the right way to do it. You have to work at your areas that interest you, become hopefully somewhat competent and then that will open the doors to other issues. People, now people interested in peace issues in times, in times (unintelligible) all these wars. If you start early looking at you know, what some of the models are and so on, and have experience looking at that and work at it, and you don't do it for your own glory to tell you the truth, it's tough work. And I think that then it's, it has a way of working back, you know if you stay with it. I mean we have some issues, applied anthropology has some issues now the kind of words that we have all over the world, and so on and so forth, local issues. So you start out with some interests.

RYLKO-BAUER: One final thing that I would like to ask about is how did you, you became involved in founding a walk-in medical center with the Spanish Catholic Center? Could you just tell us a little bit about that for . . .

COHEN: Well, a physician who was with Group Health who are not a Catholic, but who had an interest in the people. She had to been Mexico connects to, so on and so forth, they (unintelligible) his interest. And so she walked by the center and came in and asked do they need a physician to volunteer, as, you know, to hold office service. And so Father Mathew . . . said yes. And so then . . . he told me about it. So I, I said to him, "do you want some help?" And so we kind of got it organized as a health center, which is now (unintelligible).

RYLKO-BAUER: What is it? Is it still called the Annex (unintelligible)?

COHEN: It's now a building. The Spanish Catholic Center, and one floor is the health center and the other is the dental center and clinic and so on. But there were a lot of stepping stones involved.

RYLKO-BAUER: Now do you, with all this, this kind of work, do people identify you as an anthropologist when you're doing this, or . . . or . . . just a citizen . . .

COHEN: . . . the people that . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . citizen Cohen.

COHEN: . . . the people that you serve, I mean, if you're working with immigrants that can speak Spanish, you can be helpful in whatever needs to be helped, and . . . the, the rest comes later. Now you may have some educated persons with this, it isn't only for two people less educated you have all kinds of immigrants for example with that work who come, immigrants who were highly trained and now they move here and so the world (unintelligible) figure out, and son and so forth, so we have all kinds and then but you don't come forth and say "I'm so-and-so, such-and-such discipline or whatever," you don't. And so, but, but . . . but it, it, the experiences give you a lot of thinking on how . . . to solve problems which may look like a health problem, but which other times are kinship issues, I mean, kinship 101 and 102 is there, they're changing kinship what happens when you have changing kinship issues because kinship was worked up one way and now another or when you have separation of kin members who were . . . of culture and mental health interest of all kinds of symptoms that people have, and they've gone to physicians who give them all kinds of medication and then the medication aren't working, for God sake, you know, so what's going on culturally, what's going in their changing values that they are having problems with, and so on and so forth. So that's very helpful, that's how, that, that to me is applied anthropology.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes.

COHEN: You know, you're drawing on your knowledge in order to . . . understand the circumstances of the people. Now the only other thing that I want to say is that there comes a time when you can say is there something that you can generalize from here, that is are you going to stay always and you can, you know, everybody, but it's so some of the papers that I've written have been inspired by experience, from experience try to generalize from there and maybe you can think it can become a research projects on some issue so that it's not (unintelligible) something like a research problem that's related to the kind of the issue . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Well that . . .

COHEN: . . . from the bottom up.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes, and I think that's a wonderful example, how applied work then can inform theory, you know . . .

COHEN: Yes.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . vice-versa. Maybe we can conclude with . . . I, I understand that you're doing a session . . . tomorrow . . . and . . . here at the applied meeting, and that the paper that you're presenting actually does also relate to your work with public policy, and do you want to just say a few words about that?

COHEN: (unintelligible) . . .

RYLKO-BAUER: Some (unintelligible)?

COHEN: . . . conclusion (unintelligible) some of my comments that I said there, but it's, but it's essentially I've gotten several people that have been working on issues with, with Latinas, and that the value of Latina built communities, and so . . . it, it's now this is through the expansion of the presence of Latina immigrants in, in the U. S. and we now in our region it's no longer is in Washington, it's the suburbs. The suburbs, the suburbs have more Latinas than in Washington D. C., the suburbs have expanded exponentially. And so . . . but my, my paper is the shortest paper probably of all of them is simply on the issue of how you, how, how Latinas are in the past and how are they mobilizing themselves some of the ways they are mobilizing. What I have an interest in but don't develop it are Latina women who stay behind, but whose children are here.

RYLKO-BAUER: Okay.

COHEN: What, what impact does this have on the Latino middle aged women, not the young ones who are about the business of the children, but the ones that stay behind with adult children up here, what impact is this having on, on the ones that stay behind? I'm not sure that I am going to call it stay behind that's, that's a great interest. So that's how we generates ideas.

RYLKO-BAUER: Yes, yes. Well . . . anything you . . .

COHEN: Thank you so much.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . you want to add or . . .

COHEN: No.

RYLKO-BAUER: . . . anything else . . .

COHEN: I want to thank you and Carol for being patient.

RYLKO-BAUER: Well, and thank you very much. It's been very, very interesting, and I really appreciate both of you and the comments that, that you made Carol, and . . . of the fascinating information that you shared with us today, so thank you.

COHEN & HILL: Thank you [Chuckling]

[End of Interview]