

Methodist University Community Oral History Project  
Methodist University  
Fayetteville, NC

**Anonymous 2016 1**

Interview Conducted by  
Patrick W. O'Neil  
March 9, 2016  
Fayetteville, NC

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Interview of

**ANONYMOUS 2016 1**

Interviewed by

**PATRICK W. O'NEIL**

0:02

**O'NEIL:** Okay. My name is Patrick O'Neil, it's March 9, 2016, I'm here in Fayetteville, North Carolina at the Coliseum, where there will be a rally for Donald Trump taking place around seven o'clock tonight. I'm here with a person who has chosen to remain anonymous. But could you for—so that we can use this transcript, could you tell us the year of your birth?

0:27

**ANONYMOUS:** 1984.

0:28

**O'NEIL:** Excellent. So what we're asking people about is not just their feelings about Donald Trump, but their lives in general, because we're curious what brought people here. So could I ask you about your childhood? You—

0:41

**ANONYMOUS:** Sure.

0:41

**O'NEIL:** You were born in New Jersey?

0:42

**ANONYMOUS:** I was. Both of—

0:43

**O'NEIL:** What was growing up like? What were your parents—what did they do?

0:47

**ANONYMOUS:** Okay. Both my parents were in the Navy, and they were stationed in New Jersey at the time, and I have moved around a lot. I think every year until I was twelve years old, we lived somewhere—in a different state.

1:00

**O'NEIL:** Good gracious. How was that for you?

1:02

**ANONYMOUS:** It was hard. Keeping friends, making friends were hard. School was never something that I was very good at.

1:11

**O'NEIL:** Do you mean school socially, academically?—

1:13

**ANONYMOUS:** Both.

1:13

**O'NEIL:** —Do you think those things were related?

1:14

**ANONYMOUS:** Sure! Sure, sure, yeah. You don't have a study group if you don't have any friends.

1:19

**O'NEIL:** So true.

1:19

**ANONYMOUS:** So, yeah, that was really tough. And then my parents split up, got a divorce, when I was around twelve, and I thought by going to Florida with my dad it would be easier. It was not. [Laughs.] And then when I was sixteen I came back and decided I didn't want to be anything like either one of them and took my own path in life.

1:42

**O'NEIL:** Okay. So, could I ask, before we find out about that path, did they stay in the Navy? Was your mom in the Navy after the divorce?

1:52

**ANONYMOUS:** No, no. They both were discharged, I'm not sure if it was honorably or dishonorably, but they both left pretty early for their own selfish reasons.

2:02

**O'NEIL:** Okay. Okay. And what did she do when you were in Florida? And where were you in Florida?

2:07

**ANONYMOUS:** I was in two different spots, Crestview and Fort Walton Beach—it was lovely—and my mom stayed here in North Carolina—actually in Chapel Hill.

2:18

**O'NEIL:** That's—I've been there. And—sorry, your dad in Florida, what was he doing?

2:23

**ANONYMOUS:** Being closer to family. He's one of sixteen, so he wanted to be closer to all his brothers and sisters.

2:28

**O'NEIL:** Sure, sure. So when you say you followed your own path, what path did you follow after you left that?

2:33

**ANONYMOUS:** Well, I became—[laughs]—I guess I became more mature than my father when I reached the age of sixteen, and my mother was pretty much trying to find her next husband.

2:48

**O'NEIL:** Okay.

2: 48

**ANONYMOUS:** Yep. So I just kind of figured I didn't want to be like either one of them, and so I. . . Well, I had a baby when I was twenty.

2:58

**O'NEIL:** Sure.

2:58

**ANONYMOUS:** And then I put myself through college and devoted myself to doing the exact opposite of my parents. [Laughs.]

2:57

**O'NEIL:** Fair enough. Could you define the exact opposite of your parents?

3:09

**ANONYMOUS:** Yes. My mother would marry men for money, and then they would keel over and die, and then she'd be on to the next one. And my dad is like a hermit. He's very sheltered and doesn't want to do anything socially, and he's awkward all around.

3:30

**O'NEIL:** Okay. And you had a baby when you were twenty. Is he or she doing okay?

3:35

**ANONYMOUS:** Oh yeah! She's ten years old now, she's smarter than me. [Laughs.]

3:40

**O'NEIL:** I know that feeling; I've got a five year-old who's smarter than me.

3:42

**ANONYMOUS:** Yeah, I have a couple of those, too.

3:43

**O'NEIL:** It's very embarrassing.

3:44

**ANONYMOUS:** [Laughs.] Yes.

3:46

**O'NEIL:** Okay. So she's in school, and you have other kids?

3:50

**ANONYMOUS:** Yeah, well, I just got married last year—

3:52

**O'NEIL:** Congratulations.

3:53

**ANONYMOUS:** —Thanks—to a man with no money, so that’s the opposite thing. [Laughs.] So now we are a blended family of eight.

4:00

**O’NEIL:** Sure. Good gracious. So you’re a nurse. How did you decide to go into that?

4:06

**ANONYMOUS:** Well, when I was a kid, you know, being all socially awkward and no friends and all that good stuff, ‘cause of my childhood, I was a bully, and I hurt a lot of people and just went down a really dark path, and so I feel like this is my way of giving back.

4:24

**O’NEIL:** Yeah. When did you make that decision?

4:30

**ANONYMOUS:** Five years ago, maybe? After my second one was born, [NAME OMITTED], yeah.

4:34

**O’NEIL:** And so you went to school to be a nurse. Where did you go to school?

4:37

**ANONYMOUS:** ECPI [East Coast Polytechnic Institute, a for-profit university]. Don’t recommend it to anyone. [Laughs.]

4:39

**O'NEIL:** No? Fair enough. What kind of nurse are you?

4:43

**ANONYMOUS:** A home-health nurse. I work with kids, mostly.

4:47

**O'NEIL:** That's really good of you.

4:49

**ANONYMOUS:** It's okay.

4:50

**O'NEIL:** Having known a few sick kids in my time, I'm gonna say that's really good of you.

4:55

**ANONYMOUS:** Thanks.

4:55

**O'NEIL:** So can I ask about your politics growing up? Were your parents politically engaged? Did they care about politics—

5:02

**ANONYMOUS:** My mom was.

5:02

**O'NEIL:** —did they raise you one way or another?

5:04

**ANONYMOUS:** No. No, there was a bunch of mixed feelings in that house. My dad's a Catholic, and was not very into politics. But my mom was all kinds of religion, all types, from Wicca to Christian and everything in between. Yeah, boy, and so—I think she's Democrat. I like Trump for my own reasons, but my mom loves Hillary [Clinton].

5:35

**O'NEIL:** By the way, we'll get to Donald Trump.

5:37

**ANONYMOUS:** Okay.

5:38

**O'NEIL:** But it's helpful, I think, for me and my students to think about the lives that—there's a bug on me—

5:44

**ANONYMOUS:** There was. It's gone.

5:45

**O'NEIL:** —Thank you—to think about the lives that brought us here. But we ask these questions in front of all these interviews, if that makes sense.

5:49

**ANONYMOUS:** That's cool. That's cool. Yeah.

5:51

**O'NEIL:** So how did you get into politics?

5:55

**ANONYMOUS:** My husband. I have heard nothing but politics for the last eight months. [Laughs.]

6:01

**O'NEIL:** Why do you think that is?

6:03

**ANONYMOUS:** He's been passionate about our children's future, and he wants a good life for everybody, and he likes the idea of it, I guess. I don't really know. Oh, it's hot!

6:21

**O'NEIL:** So you talk about it as your husband; did his passion come to you, or are you following along?

6:27

**ANONYMOUS:** Oh, I'm definitely following along.

6:29

**O'NEIL:** Did you pick up his passion and run with it?

6:32

**ANONYMOUS:** Yes, pretty much. Pretty much.

6:35

**O'NEIL:** So, from someone who wasn't very involved in politics, what's it like suddenly becoming more so?

6:45

**ANONYMOUS:** It's confusing. I feel like my head's gonna spin off any minute. Trying to keep up with everybody's very hard, but I do want to keep an open mind and try to listen to everybody's views and opinions. Agh, I don't know what it is about this presidential race, but it has been so hard to follow along.

7:04

**O'NEIL:** Yeah. Yeah, things seem a little different this year than in previous years, I can say.

7:07

**ANONYMOUS:** Yes. Yes. Oh, it's also my husband and my's first time voting. That's pretty fun.

7:14

**O'NEIL:** Excellent. So why Donald Trump?

7:20

**ANONYMOUS:** Hmm. [Laughs.] I guess pretty much for the same reasons that everybody else is saying, you know? He's funding his own campaign, that's a biggie. He doesn't need other people's money, so he's not afraid to tell it like it is. I really don't like all the illegal Mexicans. It really bugs me.

7:42

**O'NEIL:** Yeah. Why?

7:43

**ANONYMOUS:** Because they don't pay taxes.

7:47

**O'NEIL:** I think most of them do—

7:49

**ANONYMOUS:** No.

7:50

**O'NEIL:** When they're paid, their businesses have to pay taxes for them—

7:53

**ANONYMOUS:** But that's what I'm saying, they work under the table, so they don't pay taxes. Yeah, they're paid a lot less than everybody else.

8:00

**O'NEIL:** Okay. Do you work with Mexicans or people of Latino descent?

8:03

**ANONYMOUS:** No, but I live around ninety-five percent of them.

8:06

**O'NEIL:** Yeah. What's that like?

8:07

**ANONYMOUS:** They're really nice people. They stay to themselves, and everything gets quiet at 8 P.M., I really like that. They're very nice people, but they just suck the system dry.

8:20

**O'NEIL:** Okay. Which system?

8:23

**ANONYMOUS:** Like the Medicaid and all the government assistance. Oh, it's really rough.

8:30

**O'NEIL:** Okay, interesting. Have you talked to them about Trump? Have they talked to you about Trump?

8:34

**ANONYMOUS:** Yeah. They all know that we're for Trump, and they're all leaving. It's gonna be a very empty neighborhood, unfortunately.

8:41

**O'NEIL:** What does that mean? "They're all leaving"—

8:43

**ANONYMOUS:** They're all going back to Mexico—

8:43

**O'NEIL:** —is that connected to Trump? Is that connected to something else?

8:45

**ANONYMOUS:** —They're all very scared that they're gonna be kicked out and maybe charged with being here illegally, so they've all decided to move before November.

8:52

**O'NEIL:** Yeah. Okay. Okay. So what does Trump mean to you? You say he's independent because he has enough money to do this. What do you think he stands for?

9:06

**ANONYMOUS:** Hard-working Americans. Like, just getting America great again—that's very true.

9:15

**O'NEIL:** So what would a great America look like? What would that mean?

9:20

**ANONYMOUS:** A perfect America, like a great America that Trump wants, I'm hoping?

9:23

**O'NEIL:** I'm not sure. Whichever one you think.

9:28

**ANONYMOUS:** People following the rules, a lot less crime because people have to follow the rules. And, you know, just people that give a damn, you know? Like, they want to better themselves and they want to, you know, kick the bucket, they want to really work hard to do so, not just come over here for a free ride, you know? I don't think that living off the system should be a lifetime goal, you know? I think it should be assistance if you need it, and then, boom, you're off of it.

9:57

**O'NEIL:** Do you think it is a lifetime goal?

9:59

**ANONYMOUS:** For most people, yes. Especially kids that have grown up in the system are, like, twenty times more likely to stay in the system when they become parents.

10:07

**O'NEIL:** Can I ask—you were raised by parents, and your response was, “I don’t want to be anything like them.”

10:14

**ANONYMOUS:** That’s right.

10:15

**O'NEIL:** What’s the difference?

10:16

**ANONYMOUS:** ‘Cause my dad will live off the government—. I don’t think he’s worked a hard day in his life. I mean, he has worked, but he doesn’t go after the things that he wants. It bugs me. If he’s told “no,” then he’ll shut down and just accept that. He doesn’t go after what he really wants. And my mom, my mom hasn’t worked, ever. No. She just goes after men with a lot of money.

10:41

**O'NEIL:** So when you think of America, what does America mean to you? [Sound of tapping on microphone.]

10:48

**ANONYMOUS:** You good?

10:49

**O'NEIL:** Yeah, totally good. It's just—

10:50

**ANONYMOUS:** What does America mean to me?

10:51

**O'NEIL:** Yeah, I mean, what should America be for, what does it mean to you? Have things changed?

Are they the same way that they were before?

10:59

**ANONYMOUS:** America is supposed to be about freedom and choices. I think you should have the choice—. Even though I think Canada has a really great health care thing in place, I think it should be a choice to pay for insurance, you know? If you choose to die in the street with no insurance, fine. That's your choice. You know, that's what America's all about.

11:21

**O'NEIL:** So, being a nurse, do you see people who come in with no money?

11:25

**ANONYMOUS:** Yeah, oh yeah.

11:27

**O'NEIL:** So what's that like, treating them and encountering them and interacting with them?

11:30

**ANONYMOUS:** That's okay to me. Well, to me. It's okay as far as, like, health insurance. I always thought health insurance should be free anyways, but I don't know how I'd get that ball rolling. But these people with terminally-ill children, they can be on assistance because their child's gonna die, right? They should be on assistance and get the help that they need, the support that they need. But to constantly just be on support because you just don't want to do anything better for yourself, it's just setting a bad example for the rest of us.

12:01

**O'NEIL:** Okay. So you're thinking mostly about the economy—

12:07

**ANONYMOUS:** Yes.

12:08

**O'NEIL:** —and about, I guess you'd say, people who feel entitled to something that maybe they haven't earned.

12:12

**ANONYMOUS:** Yes.

12:13

**O'NEIL:** Do you think anything about Trump's ideas about foreign policy, about where America should be in the world? Does that matter as much, or is it more about the economics?

12:26

**ANONYMOUS:** Doesn't it kind of go hand in hand?

12:28

**O'NEIL:** Tell me how.

12:28

**ANONYMOUS:** Oh, goodness. Like the whole overseas thing, 'cause it's cheaper to get things over there than American-made, I think we should stop that. I mean, I'm all for trade with China and all that good stuff, but just sending our jobs over there is just not good.

12:47

**O'NEIL:** Good. So you say your dad was Catholic and your mom was all sorts of religious—

12:53

**ANONYMOUS:** Everything, yes.

12:55

**O'NEIL:** Are you religious? Do you practice?

12:57

**ANONYMOUS:** No.

12:58

**O'NEIL:** Not at all?

12:58

**ANONYMOUS:** No, not really, no. I mean, I talk to God on my own terms. It's not necessarily in a church or anything, but, you know, I wave to Him every once in a while, you know, give Him a fist-bump.

13:08

**O'NEIL:** You don't have to explore that, but I'm curious what that means. When you talk to God, what are you thinking about?

13:16

**ANONYMOUS:** The unfortunate, the less-fortunate. Just making sure, you know, that God can take from me whatever He needs to give to somebody else. If I'm having a really awesome week, then I'll be, like, "Hey, you know, I got some good stuff to spare, here. Take what you need for somebody else."

13:30

**O'NEIL:** Yeah, I know that feeling. So when you think about that, your version of religion seems to be about wanting to give to people—

13:42

**ANONYMOUS:** Oh, yeah.

13:42

**O'NEIL:** —who have less. But you think that America is giving too much to people who have less. Or is there a different way you might put that?

13:52

**ANONYMOUS:** Wow. That's a good point, there, Patrick.

13:54

**O'NEIL:** So, again I should say I don't come to this with an agenda.

13:57

**ANONYMOUS:** No, no, you're fine.

13:57

**O'NEIL:** All I'm doing is trying to listen and think.

13:59

**ANONYMOUS:** Well, you've got me thinking. Yeah, I guess what I'm trying to say is, the unfortunate are unfortunate for a reason. If they deserve and need—not if they deserve—but if they need a handout, then by all means let's hand out. But once you get the handout and you don't learn from it and make yourself better, then you're just gonna stay getting handouts for the rest of your life. It's kind of rough.

14:25

**O'NEIL:** So, about voting. You haven't voted in previous elections. Why not?

14:31

**ANONYMOUS:** Because I never took it seriously. I just kind of always thought the electoral college was a joke and it didn't really matter what we thought.

14:41

**O'NEIL:** Was that true, do you think, or were you wrong when you thought that? Does that make sense? Do you know what I mean? Have you re-thought that a little bit?

14:50

**ANONYMOUS:** [Calls out name.] I'm sorry, I missed all that; that's the lady we were waiting for.

14:53

**O'NEIL:** No, that's fine.

14:55

**ANONYMOUS:** Go ahead. Ask it to me again.

14:56

**O'NEIL:** So, have you re-thought that, when you said that it didn't matter? But now you think it does matter?

14:59

**ANONYMOUS:** Oh, yeah, definitely. I'm coming around. I'm coming around, yeah. I would like to believe that it matters, and that we as a nation can become better by getting involved and doing what needs to be done. I'd like to believe that.

15:15

**O'NEIL:** So what's it gonna feel like when you go cast that first ballot?

15:19

**ANONYMOUS:** I don't know! Like eating Cinnamon Toast Crunch for the first time, probably, where it just, like, boom! [Laughs.]

15:25

**O'NEIL:** Fair enough.

15:26

**ANONYMOUS:** Bet you never heard that one before, huh?

15:27

**O'NEIL:** No, that's new. Although I know that feeling. That was a hell of a feeling. Is there anything else you'd like to say, anything else you'd like to tell us about Trump, or your life, or America, or what you think?

15:43

**ANONYMOUS:** Uh, no, nothing. I guess not! No. Stay in school, kids!

15:46

**O'NEIL:** Stay in school. Excellent. Well, thank you so much.