

STUDY ON WHITE PEOPLE

The Reminiscences of

Elizabeth Schock

INCITE

Columbia University

2018

## PREFACE

The following oral history is the result of a recorded interview with Elizabeth Schock conducted by Whitney Dow on May 13, 2018. This interview is part of the Study on White People.

The reader is asked to bear in mind that they are reading a verbatim transcript of the spoken word, rather than written prose.

ATC

Session # 1

Interviewee: Elizabeth Schock

Location: Cheyenne, WY

Interviewer: Whitney Dow

Date: May 13, 2018

Q1: So, first of all, can you tell me your name, where you're from, and a little about yourself?

Schock: [01:00:04] My name's Elizabeth Schock [phonetic]. I was born in South Florida and raised there. I moved to Colorado when I was, like, thirty-three, I think, and moved up here about two years ago to Cheyenne [Wyoming].

Q1: The wind here is crazy.

Schock: [Laughs] You haven't even experienced it. You should live here for a while [laughs].

Q1: Sam was telling when he was driving in the first day, there were like four semis blown off between Fort Collins [Colorado] and Cheyenne.

Schock: Yes. Yes.

Q1: Yes. So, it's pretty nuts. What compelled you or what motivated you to get involved in this project really? Well, it's kind of a weird project—we recognize that—and what made you interested in participating?

Schock: [01:01:14] Some fella' on Facebook said, "Hey, is anyone bored; wanna' do a survey?" And so I said, "Sure," and I was happy to do so [laughs]. I didn't think you'd pick me to be honest. I didn't think I was that interesting. I thought you would want more of a—well because I'm not from here, I didn't think I would be the right [makes air quotes] kind of person to be part of this survey, so.

Q1: I'm surprised but—

[INTERRUPTION]

Q1: No. So that, you know, honestly, I think I've done probably 150 of these interviews at this point, and I don't think anybody I've had—interviewed has not been interesting. And actually, everybody has an interesting life. I think it's—you know?

So, can you tell me a little bit about you, where you grew up with your family, the neighborhood you grew up in, what was the—what was it like, was it diverse, mixed? What was the universe you grew up in like?

Schock: [01:02:18] The university or the—?

Q1: I mean the place.

Schock: [01:02:19] The universe? Okay. I grew up in Boca Raton, Florida, about half a mile from the beach. In the '70s, it was a very small town. There wasn't much about a mile past where I lived. There isn't much out there. There's everglades, and there's brush, and nothing much. And, yes, it was pretty diverse. It's a pretty, right, diverse place to live, especially as it grew. It grew very quickly. Now, it's 100,000 to 150,000 people in my town, and all the towns are smushed together into a megatropolis [*sic*] of people, and it's really hard to go six miles. It takes an hour sometimes. It's very crowded, and there's lots of people.

And I went to the university there. It's actually the university in my hometown, the southernmost—? It was the northernmost missile base or air force base during the Cuban Missile Crisis [of October 1962]. And it was a pretty cool university to go to, very diverse, all my friends. I have friends from Poland, friends from Spain, friends from Norway, friends from everywhere. And after I graduated, they, kind of, all went [makes gesture] their different ways, and so I went my different way too [laughs].

Q1: And what did you study in college?

Schock: [01:03:54] Oh, I started out in ocean engineering, dropped out [laughs] for a little bit, and then went back and took an environmental certificate because I had no idea what I wanted to do, and took a remote sensing class, and got into GIS. Do you know what that is?

Q1: Geological survey is where you go and take the—?

Schock: [01:04:15] No, no [laughs]. It's geographic information systems. So, it's spatial data with databases behind it, so you can do more robust surveys and more [phonetic] robust research.

Q1: So, you said the data behind spatial data, and where is the—where are the other datasets are—

Schock: [01:04:38] Okay, so say your point data places like Cheyenne, Cheyenne might have a database—a table behind it that has population. It might also have a table behind it that has the number of stores and then there might be—it might be associated with the roads data, which is line data, and it might be associated with polygon data, which has schools, and then another polygon data that has fire stations and restaurants. And you can do a survey saying, “Okay, based on the population in these neighborhoods, where is the best place to put a fires station, the next fire station or the next school?” So, it's, basically, taking spatial data and being able to do more—I don't know—better research.

Q1: [Unclear] dataset on white people in Cheyenne that we can apply for?

Schock: Awesome [laughs].

Q1: And who's your friend on Facebook that's saying—that suggested that you take it?

Schock: [01:05:51] Richard Johnson. He's a councilman in Ward III.

Q1: Well, Richard Johnson seems to be a well-known character in town.

Schock: Yes, he is.

Q1: [Unclear] He seems to have told a bunch of people to take it, but some people weren't clear if he was joking or not when he told them to take it, and so—[Laughter]

Schock: [01:06:07] Right. I'm willing to take any survey. I think it's fun to take surveys, so.

Q1: So—

[INTERRUPTION]

Q1: —can you tell me when did you first become aware of your own race?

Schock: [01:06:23] Oh, I don't know. I don't really think I did. I have always just ran with whoever I liked [laughs]. But I think mostly in high school, it was more—you know, the kids in high school, they're more judgey and opinionated. And my school was probably fifty percent white, ten percent Hispanic, forty percent black, and it was more noticeable I guess. That being said, I still had friends from every race. I don't know if you call it race. We're all the same race but—[Laughs]

Q1: Are we all of the same race?

Schock: [01:07:09] I think so.

Q1: What do you mean by that, that we're all the same race?

Schock: [01:07:11] We're the human race, right? Just because somebody's black, that just means when—their ancestors were subjected to more sunshine. I mean, the sun's trying to turn us all black. I've got plenty of sunspots to show you that say they're—it's trying to turn me more brown. I know that. So, yes, I don't think we're separate in any way aside from our color, and that's silly. I mean, well, if you look at cats, people discriminate against black cats. They say that they're unlucky and stuff like that. So, I guess, color is important to some people, but I've had black cats, and I love them [laughs].

Q1: But I also think that you can't we can't deny that it's been—that it has affected the world. That even though we are—

Schock: Oh, yes.

Q1: —it seems that it has affected some people, and it says—will affect some people in their real lives, despite the fact that it might not be genetically accurate because of the way societies are. There are real differences in the way—our experience in the world as different races, so. So, if people asked you your race, what would you say?

Schock: [01:08:32] I'm Caucasian.

Q1: And so, what makes you Caucasian or white? Is it just the color of your skin? Is it genetic? Is it more—? Is it like social, or is it—? What makes you a white person?

Schock: [01:08:48] What makes me a white person? Just the color of my skin essentially. I came from persons of Europe that didn't have as much as sun, I guess [laughs]. Though I am closer to that—the Africa. Most of my family came from Italy, Greece, Austria, that's the highest. When my grandmother came over when America was founded, I guess, around that time, and I'm a mutt [sic] [laughs] on her side, so. So yes, I think I'm just white because I am European—of European descent instead of African descent.

Q1: Have you gotten any benefits in your life for being white, do you think?

Schock: I think so, yes.

Q1: Can you talk a little about that?

Schock: [01:09:43] Well, how do I explain this [laughs]? I think that because I'm white people don't treat me wrong if that makes sense. There's a lot of people out there who discriminate and hate based on the color of your skin and who you are. I can compare my friend who came over from [Republic of] Colombia when she was in the sixth grade. We've been best friends. She's way smarter than me, and she's accomplished a lot, but it's taken her a lot more to become

accomplished than me if that makes sense. So, you don't notice it if you're white, the privilege that you have until you witness somebody you know who is not as privileged, I guess, if that makes sense.

So, I think, I have a lot going for me because I'm white if that makes sense. I hope that doesn't sound horrible. I don't know. I think that's the best I can do [laughs].

Q1: Why would you sound—? Do you feel badly that you've had those kind of answers? Does it make you feel uncomfortable, or guilty, or—?

Schock: [01:11:14] No, I just think everyone should have the advantages that I've had. I don't feel bad. When you see somebody who is struggling because they're black or because they're Hispanic, it sucks. They deserve as much as everyone else. They deserve to have the advantages that we've had. I know lots of people don't think that way, but I do [laughs].

Q1: Have you ever consciously used your race to get something that you wanted? [You] say, [you have] those advantages, have you ever actually used that consciously to get something or you changed a situation to the way you wanted it to be?

Schock: [01:11:56] I don't think so. I'd never, you know, cried when I got a ticket [laughs]. I don't know. I don't know how that would be. Yes, it's hard to think of something I have done to have an advantage.

Q1: Have you had any disadvantages about—do you feel there are any disadvantages to being white?

Schock: [01:12:24] No. Maybe if you go into a bad neighborhood [laughs]. When I was in college, I had a friend who bought Volkswagens and fixed them up. And I took him down to a bad neighborhood to pick it up, and of course, it broke down on the way out. And we were sitting in a very ghetto-y [*sic*] neighborhood, and a few men parked their cars and sat with us to make sure that we, two little white people, didn't get hurt because we were not in the neighborhood we should be. So, yes, there are some disadvantages. If you think about people who are disadvantaged think we are advantaged, we might be in trouble if we're in a bad neighborhood or something like that.

Q1: How did that experience make you feel?

Schock: [01:13:23] I wasn't scared. I'm never scared [laughs]. But I appreciated the folks that wanted to protect us. That was sweet. There's always going to be bad people in the world, white, black, Asian, Hispanic. There are always bad people, and there are always good people also of the same—of every color. You can't just be like, "Oh, all black people are bad because I almost got mugged." You have to be like, "Okay, well, these nice people took care of us, made sure we didn't get mugged, and that's great."

Q1: Are you happy you're white?

Schock: [01:14:08] I guess so [laughs]. I've never been any other color, so yes, I guess so. I'm luckier I think.

Q1: I was thinking about, like, what makes us different or the same. Is there a white culture? You talk about black culture, Latino culture. Is there a white culture?

Schock: [01:14:30] It doesn't feel like it. It doesn't feel like there is a white culture. Maybe the cowboy culture here in Cheyenne. I'm a quarter Greek, and there are Greek festivals, but there's—it's like one day of "Opa!" [phonetic] and then you're done. You eat some falafels and enjoy yourself [laughs]. And then, again, I'm quarter Italian also, but I celebrate that by eating pizza [laughs] or having Italian food. There's no real culture that celebrates being white, and that's okay because we all come from different cultures. There's a very different culture being Scottish than there is being American—or not American, Italian. That's such a big different culture because Europe is so big.

How can you say, "Oh, there's a white culture?" You can celebrate being American. How would you do that? Cowboys? I don't know. It seems strange to think, "Oh, I've got to celebrate my white culture" because it's, kind of, nonexistent or I think it's nonexistent.

Q1: Well, I always wonder about that. Like is it nonexistent? I mean, we're the dominant culture, right? We are—I think they say—sixty-five percent of the population now. We control almost like ninety percent of the wealth. We control most of the institutions. There's a lot of things. How can we not have a culture if we're so dominant? And how can we not have

something that's definable? If you're saying that's black culture or Latino culture, it's different in relation to something. Are we just a white canvas?

Schock: [01:16:28] Yes, I think so. I think we're - we don't have a culture. We do not. If we could figure out a way to define our culture then that'd be great without insulting other cultures of course. Black culture, they were stolen from their countries. They have to re-find their culture, which is so lame really [laughs]. I mean, "I don't know where I came from in Africa. I'm just from Africa," that sucks. And the Latino culture, it depends on where you're from. You can't just say Latino culture. You know you're from Spain, that's really different from growing up in Mexico, and growing up in Chile is really different from growing up in Spain. So, they have their own cultures. I wouldn't say Latino has their own culture. It's, you know, you can celebrate Hispanics, and that's a certain portion of Central America, right? But is that all of Latinos? No.

Q1: So, how has it been, you know, going from a very diverse community like Boca Raton, coming to a very non-diverse community? It's one of the reasons why we're here in Cheyenne is because Wyoming has such a high proportion of white people, much more than the country as a whole. It's been, sort of, traditionally and historically a much more predominantly white state. Do you feel different living in a place that is so much less diverse than a community that you grew up in?

Schock: [01:18:27] Yes. I feel a loss growing up—or growing up in such a diverse community, it was educational, very educational. I have a lot of respect for a lot of different communities. Coming here, I'm not sure if I'm making—I'm not very good at making friends. Maybe it's

because I'm forty-five. Maybe it's because I have a kid that's really young. It's just harder to make friends here in this town, so it's a little more lonely for me here. I'm trying my best to make friends though [laughs].

Q1: Yes, absolutely. We don't want to talk about that. And what about you? What do you do for—? Do you still do the data research? Were you able to transport that? So, you said you came here for his job?

Schock: Yes.

Q1: Were you able to transport your job as well?

Schock: [01:19:34] Yes, I actually walked into my boss's office and said, "I'm moving to Cheyenne, can I commute or should I quit?" [Laughs] And he said, "You can telecommute." So, I am working from home and telecommuting to Fort Collins, which is only forty-five minutes south, but I'm not driving in the weather that they have. And my job is map-making, so it's spatial, pulling in data, making maps that have information on them for oil and gas companies. And it's a really great job. I enjoy it. But I don't get out much because I telecommute, so.

Q1: Do you commute all down to your—periodically doing it at the office?

Schock: [01:20:17] Probably once a quarter.

Q1: Wow.

Schock: That's it.

Q1: That's real telecommuting.

Schock: Yes.

Q1: That's not like fake telecommuting.

Schock: [Laughs]

Q1: And what's the neighborhood like that you live in Cheyenne now? Do you live in town, to the outside of town, or do you—?

Schock: [01:20:29] I live outside of town. It's very rural. It's nice though. The people are very nice. I try to help out at the HOA [homeowners association] as much as possible. The roads suck [laughs]. They're dirt roads, and we maintain them, so they're pretty bad. That's the biggest argument or contention during our meetings [laughs]. But yes, it's beautiful. It's so awesome. There's deer in my backyard probably once a week. There are lots of different rabbits, and little creatures, and antelope. I love it. It's such a big difference from growing up where I did because I lived on the fifth floor of an apartment building, and I never saw any animals, so [laughs].

Q1: And I take it you have dogs as well?

Schock: [01:21:21] I rescued a pit bull. He's wonderful.

Q1: What are your neighbors like? Do you feel really connected to the community? Do you feel like part of this community being a transplant here?

Schock: [01:21:35] No. My neighborhood is—despite—we each get like about five to nine acres, so we're pretty far apart. I've made friends with the folks across the street from me. They're really great. They give me eggs all the time. I joined the HOA, so I can meet more folks, but in all reality, we don't really talk to our neighbors much. We keep to ourselves.

And when we lived in town, we tried to make friends with our neighbors, and they didn't really want anything to do with us because we were renters, I think. That's my assumption is, "Oh, they're going to be leaving anyway, so we don't want anything to do with them," but—

Q1: We've heard from a lot of Wyomingites, how open and welcoming they are here. And that has not been your experience? Haven't we have heard that a lot, Gary? "Yes, we're the nicest people in the world."

Schock: [01:22:37] I think most are. You have a bad experience with a neighborhood who's a renter, you have a bad experience, and then you assume that everybody else is going to be bad, and I think that's it. The folks that I have met and then I'm friends with are all very loving, and

friendly, and outgoing, and, I don't know, very welcoming here. We've had both experiences [laughs].

Q1: You said you have a son?

Schock: Yes.

Q1: And how old is your son?

Schock: [01:23:08] He's four.

Q1: So he's not – he hasn't started school yet?

Schock: No.

...

Schock: I did join a gym earlier this year, and I have made probably ten friends there, so.

Q1: I mean it's hard for me to understand. I live in New York City where just like there's so many people all the time. There's loneliness for different reasons.

Schock: Yes.

Q1: But just to be out in the rural part, that seems like it would be challenging. Do you feel attached to your whiteness? Meaning that, would it be something—we're all the same—that you would be happy to give up?

Schock: [01:24:20] Yes. I don't really think about it. I'm just white, [laughs] you know?

Q1: But, I guess, what I mean, if you walked out this door and one door you went through, you emerged as you are, another door, there's a fifty-fifty chance that you would emerge as the black you. Would you consciously choose one or the other doors, or would it not matter to you?

Schock: [01:24:46] Consciously, I wish it wouldn't matter, but I would not want to deal with the discrimination that black people must go through—they probably go through. So no. If I was given a choice to change my color right now, I would choose to stay white. That's horrible to say, but that's the world we live in today is folks who are black get subjected—and folks who are Hispanic, they get subjected to discriminations.

My sister's boyfriend is black, and he makes way more than me. I always go to him for business advice. But he admitted last week when I spoke with him that if he gets pulled over, what you do is you keep your hands on the wheel, you stare straight ahead, and you're very polite. This man makes six figures. He's in charge of a large company, [laughs] and he has to worry about that.

It's not just the poor blacks. It's every black person. You have to worry about that. And I think if

somebody said, “Hey, you want to change your color,” I would be like, “No, I don’t want to worry about that.”

Q1: What’s our connection to history? Do we have an obligation to—? Because of what happened in the past in this country, as white American in 2018, is that our responsibility? Or is it [that] things have changed and it’s our responsibility to give people a fair shake, not give them—necessarily make amends for anything that has happened in the past?

Schock: [01:26:48] That’s kind of hard to describe. Let’s see. What has happened in the past is pretty horrible; things that we’ve always done. I mean in history, people are assholes to each other [laughs]. I mean, that’s just the way it is, and it’s always been that way. Yes, we should be responsible for what we’ve done to others as whites have done to others in the past. Will lots of people agree with me? Probably yes, some won’t. Can you change somebody’s outlook on other folks? That’s the big question.

So, yes, I think we are responsible, and we need to look at what’s happened in the past and try to do better. I don’t know if that’s going to ever work because people are assholes to each other [laughs]. It’s horrible to say. I mean even in the Bible we’ve—if you read the Bible, people were persecuting other people. It’s been happening since the beginning of recorded man. How can we change that? I mean we’re trying. I think some folks are. Some folks are not, [Laughs] so. Is that a good enough answer? [Laughs]

Q1: As I said at the beginning of the interview, there's no good or, you know, bad answer. I mean, what's really been interesting about being here is everybody is so different that we've spoken to from people who have been here for generations, people who have just moved here, people—you know, men, women, conservatives, liberals. There's been a really wide range of people who we've spoken to so far. One of the things, remember that—have you seen in this community that there—you came from a community that had a big, black-and-white population. Is there more or less racism, do you think, here in Wyoming than in Boca Raton where you grew up?

Schock: [01:29:00] I think it's hard for there to be racism here because there are so few people who are not white. I mean during the times when Black Lives Matter [Global Network] started, the Cheyenne Police Department put out their statistics on crime and who they prosecute, and it was pretty much, "Look, it's exactly like our population." We're seventy-seven percent white. That's how many—like seventy-seven percent of the people who were committing crimes are white. Three percent of the people who are committing crimes were black. So, the population here is so little, it's harder to see racism compared to in Boca.

Q1: Was there something that when you—that you—when Sam asked you to do this interview, that you thought an area of this subject now that you thought would be really interesting to talk about or important to talk about?

Schock: [01:30:10] Not really [laughs]. I thought it was going to be more on ethnicity—

Q1: Ethnicity.

Schock: [01:30:20] —instead of black versus white or racial tensions in the U.S.

Q1: Well, it's not so much racial tension. Yes, well the reason—like the whole thing about this project is to trend [phonetic]—is that there's a lot of focus and attention to—there's a lot of studies on black Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, minorities and how they function or don't—how they are treated in the whole. But there hasn't really been an analysis of how white identity is created, is perpetuated, and how people see themselves. And what we found is that people, depending on the population they live in, they see themselves very, very differently. Now, you're, sort of, a little different type of person because you grew up in one area that was varied, and you're a transplant to Wyoming, so you have a different perspective on it.

Schock: [01:31:04] Yes.

Q1: But it's not really about racial tension. It's more trying to understand how white people see themselves. And this idea, I think, that a lot of people we talk to say, "Oh, I'm very color blind," and then you can start trying to unpack that, what does that mean to be color blind. Or we've heard people who sat in that chair and said, "There's absolutely no racism in Wyoming," And we've had people who sat in that chair and say, "Yes, it's a very—" I think everybody's experience is different. But trying to, sort of, build an understanding by talking about a lot of different white people with different backgrounds about what actually is the dynamic here, so. I hope it didn't just feel like I'm focusing on racial tension. I'm not—

Schock: Oh, no.

Q1: No, I'm not trying to focus on racial tension. I'm just trying to understand a little bit how your experience as a white woman—what your experience as a white woman in Wyoming is like.

Schock: Okay.

Q1: And so, that's why I said, is that there—what is it that—you know? A lot of times when people agree to do this, they usually have something that's on their mind that they have—because it's not really a conversation that happens much. There's not usually a conversation around whiteness, and—you know? It's something I wonder, is it even a—is it a conversation that even is a valid conversation to have? Is it perpetuating something? Is it actually understanding something to make it better? So, I guess in one way, I'm sort of saying just curious of what you think about those little—about the idea of a project like this at all?

Schock: [01:32:42] I wonder [laughs] if you guys will get—if you will have some angry folks who say, “Why are you focusing on whiteness?” Are you going for the white pride thing? I hope not [laughs] for your sakes [laughs]. It's great what you're doing. This is great. It's good to have the conversation, I think. It's great to make people think about it, right, because I think most folks don't.

Q1: I think most white people see themselves outside of the racial paradigm in some ways, you know, so just separate from that, and that race is something that black, Latino, or Asian, or East Asian people deal with that we don't deal with. What are you? That you're actually—living in an all-white community is a really racialized experience. It's just something that you don't—that isn't negatively affecting you.

Schock: Yes.

Q1: So, you don't see it because, in fact, to say that it isn't a dynamic actually impacting your life, but I think it's—you know, that's—when I see you, what I see is I see a white woman, so. I don't know if you're religious, I don't know if you're a Republican, I don't know if you're a Democrat, I don't know if you're rich, I don't know if you're poor. I don't know if you're a map-making data scientist or like a dog rescuer.

I mean what I see in the first—the way I process you is a white woman. That's the first thing, and that's the thing that weaves this sort of a leading point that everybody sees when they meet you, when they make assumptions about you. And they allow and they process you or whatever that social situation is in a particular way. So, that's all we're trying to, sort of, figure out, so it's not in this—in a not very well-designed or effective format, so. [Laughter] Do you have any questions?

Q2: Yes, I've got a question. I think it's interesting because there's a lot of—the questions aren't pointed at racial tension. The questions are just about what it's like to be white and what your thoughts are on being white. But everybody we interview—

Schock: [01:34:59] Thinks that?

Q2: —defaults to the us-versus-them or this-race-versus-that-race mentality. So, you do feel like it's okay for white people to talk about race?

Schock: [01:35:16] I think it is. I think the problem is, is most of the folks that talk about white—their whiteness are white-power folks, and folks that want to dominate, and, you know, just keep others down. It's the folks that are just white and don't think about that, don't discuss it because they don't want to be identified as someone who's a Nazi or whatnot. Does that make sense?

Q1: Yes. I think that people are terrified that by admitting it, they somehow are condoning it. And if you, sort of, think about white supremacy, like when I say the word white supremacy, I think of it as a descriptor of something.

Schock: Yes.

Q1: I recognize the negative connotation of it, but I also think and say, "Well, this country is not about white supremacy." That's an accurate description of it, and that's neither positive nor

negative. It might be negative, but it's a descriptor that people are so afraid of talking about the stuff that they're going to be branded a racist by just acknowledging the fact that there's a difference of living in America as a white person than a person of color.

Schock: [01:36:27] Yes.

Q1: And so, yes. You know, I think it's a very complicated conversation, and we absolutely have people who don't like what we're doing [laughs]. But it's actually, the pushback has been more of the Liberal white's thing, you know? That for some reason they find the conversation very threatening, so. Do you have any questions for us?

Schock: [01:36:58] How's it been? How have the questions or the responses been in Cheyenne especially?

Q1: Well, so far, I mean, I think that most people that actually get to the point of sitting in the chair have been—you know, they have some interest in the space or something specific to say. So the interviews have been really different, but they've all been really interesting, and everybody has been—what I always really appreciate about this project, we're asking you talk about something that is potentially not explosive, but it is especially could have some repercussions where we bring up some things. So, I really appreciate anybody who comes in and speaks to us honestly because it's a really, really hard thing to do in the context—as a white person in the context of this conversation – because you feel...I'm always sort of wondering, “Why does it feel so dangerous for people to have this conversation?” It feels really dangerous

for a lot of people to talk about this and so, you know? So, I appreciate everybody who comes in and speaks honestly, yes, so.

Q2: Most of the people who say how welcoming Cheyenne is are, like, from Cheyenne or have lived here for like—

Schock: [01:38:14] Yes. I think the folks that grew up here and lived here all their lives, the reason why they feel welcome is because all their friends are still here and welcoming to them. When you come in as an outsider, like I don't have any [makes air quotes] cowboy culture. I grew up—you know, I have a beach culture. I was a latchkey kid, you know? [Laughs] Like I never had that culture. I never identified with westerns.

And I've never ridden a horse, and I've never shot a gun. And it's all stuff that's new to me and fun, but people look at me funny when I say [laughs] stuff like that because I am not that person—I am not Cheyenne. You know, the folks here, they're very welcoming, I agree, but it's hard to fit in when you're not Cheyenne [laughs].

Q1: Well, it's funny because that idea of the cowboy culture, the manifest destiny, the frontier, that's such a part of our [unclear]. That's a part of like American identity.

Schock: Yes.

Q1: So, even though you aren't connected to it as an American, does—is it also feel kind of like your birthright in a way?

Schock: [01:39:44] No, absolutely not.

Q1: Can you talk to me a little more of that? What you—

Schock: [01:39:48] Well, South Florida is—if you look at—there's a study on South Florida—on the United States, and they, kind of, put them all in [makes gestures]—all the states into certain sections. Like there's the English up here on the left, but South Florida is part of the Caribbean [laughs]. So, I identify more with Jamaican culture than the cowboy culture. You know, I identify with lapping waves, and sitting in a hammock between two palm trees, and drinking coconut milk, and things like that than I do with whistling and a guy on a horse with clinking—what do you know—[laughs] cowboy boots and stuff like that. I just don't identify with that.

Q1: Well, you've certainly come to the wrong place. [Laughter]

Schock: [01:40:55] I know, [laughter] and I'm trying to, I'm trying to. I've ridden a horse.

Q1: Shot a gun?

Schock: [01:41:03] Not yet, but I'm going to someday [laughs].

Q1: Is there anything else that you want to say in the context of this interview?

Schock: [01:41:12] No [laughs]. I can't think of anything.

Q1: Well, we're going to take a few pictures of you. Thank you so much. We're just going to— see how—this is—you just look at me and we're going to—just relax your face. You can smile if you want—

Schock: [Laughs]

Q1: You have a very nice laugh by the way.

Schock: Thank you.

Q1: And you relax your face again, just focus.

[END OF INTERVIEW]