

The Traveling Experience

Interview Transcript

Interviewer:	Nada Ismail
Interviewee:	Kathleen Saville
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Place:	Interviewee's Office Waleed P087 AUC New Cairo Campus
College:	The American University in Cairo
Class:	JRMC 202
Professor:	Kim Fox

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Persons Present: Nada Ismail (Interviewer)

Kathleen Saville (Interviewee)

Ismail: Hi, I'm Nada Ismail and I'll be doing an interview with Dr. Saville about travel. Hi.

Saville: Hi.

Ismail: Can you first tell us your name, and title, and place of residence, and place of origin, and age if you would like.

(Laughing)

Saville: Ok, Kathleen Saville, and I'm in the Department of Rhetoric and Composition, I'm a senior instructor. My place of residence is the U.S. in the state of Vermont, although I consider myself from Southern New England.

Ismail: Ok (laughing), so I understand that you have traveled a lot around the world. So, where did you travel?

Saville: Well, I have my map here so I can pull out things. To Africa, South America, South East Asia, Australia, Europe, Canada, Northern Canada, Mexico. I mean there are lots of places in between.

Ismail: A lot, yeah.

Saville: But I'm being, you know, global.

Ismail: Ok, so like I researched some of these places and I like realized that they have such diverse cultures. Like some of them are very liberal, like of course America and European countries, and the others they're like very conservative, like South East Asia and Palestine and stuff like that. So how did you accommodate to these different cultures?

Saville: Ok, when you say accommodate, what do you mean accommodate? How did I get along in the culture?

Ismail: Yeah.

Saville: How did I dress or talk or?

Ismail: Like how did you live like, how did you fit in? Did you feel comfortable? Was it difficult like shifting between these cultures?

Saville: No, I don't think so. I mean, as a child we moved a lot so I I was used to, in my own country, going between cultures of states and being the new person, and I learned to accommodate people within those culture because I had to get along. And I like to listen, I mean it's one of the ways I can get along well and travel is I watch and listen. And even if I don't understand the language, I still can, you know, see what's going on by just seeing, you know watching, so I accommodate by sitting and taking notes sometimes. You sit in a public place or you just go to some of the, like museums, sit outside. I don't know, people just do what they do and I, you know, I'm just within that culture, (laughing) sitting in a restaurant, watching what's going on.

Ismail: Yeah. So, through also my research, like I found that like a lot of people they wrote like articles and stuff about how travel made them less materialistic, and like

less shy, and they were like more confident, and they learned how to communicate better. Do you find that true in your experience?

Saville: I've been traveling so long that I feel it's not that kind of thing. It's, I mean, perhaps it was those things in the beginning. I go because I'm a very curious person, and I, person, and I just love observing what I'm seeing. I don't go there, you know, to be less materialistic. Sure, I can buy stuff at the airport, you know, Singapore has got a great duty free area, (laughing), that's not hard to do. But, you know, I picked up this phone on my way back from the states, and and Amsterdam which I didn't need; but I don't figure that into materialism, I don't travel to buy things.

Ismail: No, like it wasn't their purpose to be less materialistic. Like through their travel they just realized what is important in life and that they shouldn't really focus on like material stuff.

Saville: Yeah, I'm still not clear, are you mean having an epiphany that life is more about the people?

Ismail: Yeah exactly, yeah.

Saville: Yeah, yeah, I think so. I mean I'm not someone, I I have stayed in hotels but I, a lot of times when I've traveled in the South Pacific, and I've stayed and camped out and traveled that way with a backpack. I traveled by boat through, you know, the South Pacific Ocean, we were anchored in places so I slept on my boat. Other times I stayed at guesthouses in South East Asia and. So I've stayed in a variety of places, not the five stars hotels, I think of that as materialistic, because that's putting space between you and the people.

Ismail: Yeah.

Saville: So I can understand it in that sense.

Ismail: Yeah, so like can you just like a few like incidents where travel really affected you and changed your life, or like how it did in general, like changed your personality and your life?

Saville: I think in in my early 20's I did a series of travel by boat with my husband, and we traveled from South America to Australia. And then we also went across from Africa to the Caribbean on our boat and then a number of other places. And those those voyages affected me a lot because they were voyages in which I had to be dependent on myself. That's travel, this is, it's a very different kind of travel, where you buy a ticket and you're there for a month or two weeks and you go home. We were, I was in this situation for over a year, one time, crossing the South Pacific. So that changed me in terms of how resource, how responsible I was to myself in the situation. I mean, I had to rely on myself to get through a lot of things and I think that's what changed. Also, in terms of commitment; following through on things, I learned to do that. Figuring out how to help myself, you know, and that's something that you can learn through travel and see the world.

Ismail: So in general do you think people should stay like rooted in one place, or should they like go and travel and discover other places?

Saville: Well, I I guess, you know, the pad answer would be to see, would be to say that everybody should travel and get to know other cultures, and actually it's not a bad idea. And I think if you can do it after high school or after college, and if you want to continue to do it, you know. Some people, I think a lot of times students just get on that little track of I have to have a job and I have no time, and they become tourists for the one-week time. But I think it's good to go if you can do the gap year or the

year between, so that you see what you really know; because what you know is not just on paper, or in you books, and you find skills within yourself that you didn't know you have.

Ismail: Ok, thank you very much.

Saville: You're welcome.