## Interview conducted: 11.05.21

**Good, let's go straight in so I know that you said that you were living in in like a shared house in in Clapton.**

In Stoke Newington yeah.

**OK sorry that's critical. Bit of information. So what's the deal with that? How many how many people are you living with their?**

I'm just living with two subletting a room actually, so the the three girls in the house. One of them is away, so I'm here for a month. Yeah yeah, only with with other two girls. Yeah, great and you have not been there for very long, right? No, I've been here for about 10 days. Yeah, maybe a little bit but you just gotta few weeks, few weeks left and then you're off. Somewhere else, yeah? Also, what's what's that that place like is, is it? Is it like a full house that's been split into flats or or just stay at your house is above a shop, but it's me to be a house. He's one of the old remaining sort Newton houses that was built to be this way. So downstairs we have a restaurant. Yeah, and houses two stories house with a three bedrooms open kitchen and then there's a balcony that faces the back and the back. Funny enough there is a shed while where men lives in over here.

**That's it, you don't know this man. He's just like a homeless guy presumably?**

believes that he has friends over like completely different vibe are very polite people, but is like the clown a clown like little car 'cause we always say is a tiny shed but they fit about 30 guys partying.

**OK so so I know for a fact that you not kind of lived in Hackney all your life. So where did you grow up? Was that area similar to where you live now?**

No, completely different. I grew up in a Valley in the countryside in Brazil, so my house literally it was a dead end St facing a farm with farmland all over so completely different and completely different natures though 'cause I know that's the topic. Yeah the kind of vegetation and animal life that we see here is completely different. Yeah yeah.

**Thinking about Hackney, I mean what keeps you here? Can you see yourself living here for for a long time?**

Yeah, I lived most of my whole adult life. Pretty much in Hackney. But if I have to pick a place in London, you would either be Hackney or North London. And the reason is marshes and how close the parks are? 'cause they as you know, I used to live in Clapton so you have Hackney downs there. Now I'm here and there’s Clissold park, with all the greenery. I think he's one of the greenest places in London as well as North London.

**Yeah, what's valuable about about green space?**

I think it's it makes me happy in General. I don't know how to put it, but I always had this thing and I I need open spaces to clear my mind and the fact that I can walk in the grass and sit on the grass set under a tree like it's nice if I'm on my own and want to read a book. It's nice if I want to meet friends and we just want to get out of the house, and I've seen many people in in London in general or big cities. They don't have gardens so having parks so nearby that you make such a difference. I so I think that's the main reason. Like I need open spaces and greenery just to relax my mind because I guess that we all give like stress with work and then normal stresses of life and that kind of takes that away.

**Yeah yeah, so I mean, you said you're kind of often visiting these kinds of spaces. What kinds of things do you do? How long do you spend? What happens on a typical visit?**

So our daily visit is a walk so I don't know how long you would let us. 'cause if I'm on my own and I just need to get out of the house, I go for a loop so I don't actually sit down. I just I can't not have any park. I go through one entrance to the circle and get on the other entrance or classical park. Hackney Downs and then just do a loop around. Yeah, and that would be just like a daily thing that I tried to do, like daily. But if I have a bit more time for the weather is nice then whatever I'm doing at home 'cause well my work there is a lot of reading and writing. And I don't do all the writing on the computer, so I can afford to actually say in the open I get some sunshine and just enjoy that. Or if it's a day off and I have no work then going with friends and then God knows how many hours are spent there. Depends on the day and what the weather is like.

**That's interesting, so I mean, say if you did, you do a daily walk this morning?**

Yeah, actually did, I went to Abney Park Cemetery? Funny enough? But yeah, it was a short walk and then after that went towards Clissold Park.

**So what kinds of things did you notice and when you're on that walk? And how would you? How would you describe them? That's a kind of purposefully vague question.**

Yeah, no, actually this one is quite interesting that you mentioned that because considering is a overgrown Cemetery is how the evergreens and the Ivy grow on the graves and how nice it looks. Like there's a grave where I actually took a picture of that. I might actually use it for this project as well. Yeah, it's almost grave that has… it was a discovery I made, but we thought it reminded us of Dionysus because he loves graves and stuff, and then you have this Ivy growing all over and it's really beautiful. Is there such a thing in the bluebells? 'cause obviously the bluebells will last that long and there were so many of them and Hemlock as well, so it's like noticing how the vegetation takes over the graves.

**Yeah, yeah. And then. Obviously you know your house doesn't like open up straight onto the park. What about what kinds of things you noticing when you're walking to and from?**

So park. Sorry, broke down a bit. Did you ask anything? House to the park.

**Yeah, so you're talking about like all the kinds of. Vegetation and stuff that you're seeing there what? What sort of things? I mean, do you do you feel like that kind of nature?**

Because if so, I'm leaving Church Street, so obviously it's a busy street with buses and cars, and you have to go either through Church Street or the High Street to get into Abney Park. So the vegetation that I see…. Theres not even that many trees. Now I think about it, but it's more people's balconies or in shops. 'cause even today we saw that the Funeral Home has palm trees, so that's a good one.

**Yeah, I love that window. Interesting OK cool. So I mean the research question, the main research question of this project that I'm carrying out is basically to find out what people's conceptions of nature and like you know. And my feeling is the that word probably means different things to different people so. Uh, and you know this photo task will be coming from here, but what? What do you? What does that word mean for you?**

The things that it has already brought meaning 'cause they my instinct is to go to escapism and I think about going to the countryside and parks and like Woods and stuff like this. But the same part, I love the idea of seeing nature taking over cities. So like people always talk about how hard is to keep the house plans and then you walk down the road and there's a crack in the pavement and there's some like weeds growing from it which I always love to see that. And the other thing that I might not even go into that kind of thing, 'cause Stoke Newington is a heavy populated area, but I love to watch humans as animals and see the interactions the same way that we watch animals interacting. Yeah, yeah I did that quite a lot because I watched the street from my window and you could just see them living their lives, like how cute, like a man getting his little food and going to the family home as a provider. I like to watch people like I'm watching animals.

**That's funny. That's interesting. Do you feel like you're? You know, it sounds like you've got a well thought out definition almost of what nature is. How has that been constant for you? Or is that something that's changed?**

It definitely changed 'cause as I said, I grew up in the countryside, so for me nature was the ongoing greenspaces animals like we grew up with monkeys coming to the balcony, leopards being spotted on the road and things like this. So coming to the city always don't get the same but. It changed a bit because I started to identify nature in the city, but I guess that in London is I seen foxes and Badgers and animals that you expect to see in the Woods when you're not from the city, and realizing that actually they do come into the city. So yeah, I think it. It's changed, but like in a way that it became more broad to me before when I was a child. If you ask me about nature would describe where it came from, where they are now. I think it can be spotted anywhere.

**OK, that's interesting. And so the last kind of thing that I want to talk about really is. Over the past year, so you know the pandemic has changed all kinds of things in all kinds of different ways. What do you feel like? Your conceptions have changed over the past year or you thinking about things in a different way or seeing. Seeing things differently in terms of nature. Labs.**

I don't think the meaning changed, but I think the the amount. I learned how much like I need it in my life, like I realize that I need a lot more than I thought. I've always knew that I like greenery. I always need a light green spaces, but I moved to France during lockdown during the second one and one of the things that I didn't realize that it isn’t so green- Paris doesn't have that many parks, it’s all paved or with sand, and that hit me really hard and I realized how much he affected me not to have any greenery. Towards the end of my stay there, 'cause I was supposed to have moved out. Oh good, and it mentions for someone saying I might take a train to just the outskirts just to go for a country walk. And I found out that France doesn't have a right to roam. that was kind of like a cut off point saying I can't live in a place like this because I realize how much it affected me and not to have that. So I guess at the meaning of nature didn't change, but the importance of it in my life did

**OK? Yeah, thank you. That's a very well thought through. And then how do you think? How do you think it might change in the future? What do you feel like? It's something that's kind of developing?**

Now I think so 'cause I think people are becoming more aware of like how we actually need it for the environment. Like you see the there's a lot more talk about preserving the Amazon Forest for instance, which is like from the country I come from. With growing up it was an issue and Matto Atlantica which is the big part of vegetation from when I'm from that. Nowadays there's a tiny tiny little bit left. And, you had local talks about how we should be preserved where people didn't really take that seriously and now I see this talk in Europe, which is something I never heard until the last, maybe seven years assault. Then yeah, I think with the whole talk about environment change, global warming and stuff like that. People are actually focusing a bit more on this. An yeah, taking a bus to Epping Forest. I seen a lot of projects going around even on the side of the road of new trees being planted. You can tell their own you 'cause they're small but like that it wasn't an actual project because there are like hundreds and hundreds of them. So I think people are becoming more aware of it and even with recycling and being a bit more mindful about cleaning products or the brand. So by cutting off plastic, fast fashion and stuff in there. So yeah, I think it's changing and maybe with the lock down like realizing how much pollution we have because of aircraft. 'cause an? Just people living their lives and they dumping rubbish around. I think people could see the change 'cause they talked about Venice and how they saw Dolphins in Venice for the first time in God knows how long and you know, saying like wild animals are never coming to town's actually walking into town because of. Like people just not being around this much so I think people are going to be a bit more mindful now.

**Yeah, that's interesting that you bring up those things around 'cause. You were saying earlier. There is already loads of stuff kind of in in the towns and cities. Do you think it was? Do you think that's more about about the actual you know species? Deciding to come because because of human change during the pandemic. Would you think it's just people noticing things differently? Like it's like, you know, you said earlier that the pandemic might have changed. How you, how you see things?**

I think it's a bit of both. I think maybe those fishes were there, but they were just speaking the moments that had no nocturnal animals coming out at night, but like realizing when people are not industries and picking those moments to come out and then suddenly people not being the streets at all and then realizing that they have more space. But because obviously we claim their land, I think when cities are being expanded we obviously take over. I'm not sure environments in general animals are pushed away, and I think that they realize that we weren't around this much, so they kind of started coming back to where they came from. I don't know if it's an instinct, 'cause obviously they're not the exact same animal they left at that point, but I think is then dislike. Claiming the space back, I guess.

**Cool, that's interesting some. Yeah, that's something that I'd like to kind of explore more in the in the second interview that we have. But so yeah. So thank you for those answers. That's pretty much all the questions that I have really. Alexa is anything else that you wanted to. You wanted to raise now you've kind of thought about it a bit.**

Nothing, that's all for now. Only thing that I wanted to ask you about the photos. Would you like me to stick to the neighborhood and my media places or choice? Yeah, so it's going to talk about that so.