

File 20090403.1030: Notes from meeting with Dr Martin:

We talked about me moving back to the USA in July. I gave him the date (28th July) and reiterated that I am aware of the risk of getting lost and not finishing if I'm away from Oxford for the next few terms. I suggested that we call it 'fieldwork' and that supervisors historically probably have developed techniques that work for keeping their DPhil students on track when they're doing fieldwork in Borneo.

We talked about NSPW. I had wanted to submit a paper, but I don't have anything important to say. That's a problem, Dr Martin allowed. I remembered that I still want to write the motivation/background paper for *Crosstalk*, and that that's something I can write anytime; I just haven't because of lack of time.

Dr Martin mentioned that he also is aware of the clock ticking; (implied was, 'why are you not making progress?') I pointed out once again that I am studying for the ISSEP examination currently; that will be over 25th April; after that, I have to start making progress on the AFRL project, and the technique I want to use (using s-exprs to parse a highly formally written specification-like document—in the case of AFRL, a model Security Classification Guide; in the case of my thesis, the Common Criteria and other C&A standards) is highly cross-applicable.

I also said that \$700 for an airplane ticket is relatively cheap (at least compared to the expense of maintaining two houses), and that I will be coming back to visit on a regular (well, technically irregular) basis. I am certainly already planning to be in Oxford in September for NSPW, even though I'm moving in July. Dr Martin also noted that we can have weekly telephone calls. I mentioned Skype.

I explained that I really wish I could stay, that Andrea loves her job at the Bodley, and it kills me to leave now right in the middle of my research. But I'm out of savings, and the cost of maintaining two houses is just too much to continue at this rate. My original plan was to stay in Oxford for two years, six terms, and Trinity term is my sixth term. I wish I didn't have to leave. I went into Dr Martin's office kind of depressed today (from having clicked on 'purchase' to get the plane tickets—he said to me that buying a one-way plane ticket has a kind of finality to it that's never very pleasant). Afterward I went for a walk around Radcliffe Square and sat in the Camera for a while just reading. That helped a little. I sent Dr Martin a short email that said I always come out of meetings with him feeling cheered up.

Next meeting: Thursday, 9th April 2009 right before Good Friday, at 11:00 a.m.

References