

INTERVIEW GUIDE

*Questions prepared
on outline
processor*

The following list of questions was used, largely by myself and Tom Gieryn, as we conducted interviews for the archive. The interviews were largely unstructured; we used the list of questions mainly as a guide.

The main set of interview questions was developed for dealing with active researchers. Following those questions are two sets of briefer, modified questions used as guides for interviewing journalists and administrators.

1. Introductory comments:

I'd like to use this interview to collect your recollections about the cold fusion episode. Toward the end, I'll ask about the material that you have that might be appropriate for our archive. I'll also ask you at the end to look back at the cold fusion episode and reflect on it. But for now, what I'm most interested in is your memories of how your own involvement in cold fusion developed.

2. First, I'd like some quick background information about your training and current position.

- a) Do you have a C.V. that lists that?
- b) If not, let me ask some quick questions:
 - 1) name
 - 2) age
 - 3) position
 - 4) educational
 - a> degree
 - b> year
 - c> discipline
 - 5) area of research
(get down to subdisciplines, actual work; if possible, get a c.v. and list of publications)
 - a> Any earlier fusion research?
 - 1> hot fusion
 - 2> cold fusion
 - 6) Patents?

3. Now, let's go back to the third week of March of this year. Try to remember what you were thinking then.

- a) When and how did you first hear about the Pons & Fleischmann announcement?
- b) What do you think about this way of releasing scientific information?
(prompt: by press conference)
 - 1) good
 - 2) bad
 - 3) indifferent
- c) Had you known anything about earlier research on cold fusion?
- d) How did you initially respond?
(Goal: did they immediately try to do something, or did the desire to take part arise later)

6. Did you do any formal literature searching?
 - a) What kinds of literature searching did you do?
 - 1) mass media
 - 2) technical literature
 - 3) SDI (selective dissemination of information/current awareness)
7. Did you try to "replicate" or do any other experiments or calculations?
(Did they think the idea was worth pursuing, or just a silly idea?)
 - a) what did you do?
 - b) with whom?
 - c) with what equipment?
 - d) with what funds?
 - e) Who made decisions about these things: you, a lab chief, a supervisor?
 - f) What happened to your efforts?
 - 1) If you failed to replicate, to what did you attribute failure?
 - 2) If you succeeded, how did you proceed?
8. What is your continuing activity/interest in the area?
9. Did your work/opinions make it into the press?
 - a) were you interviewed?
 - b) did you reach out or did press come to you?
 - c) what was your reaction to being interviewed/quoted?
 - d) In general, what was your sense of the utility of information in the mass media? How accurate was that information? How complete?
10. Looking back on the whole episode?:
 - a) What has been the scientific result of all of this?
 - b) What's your opinion of Pons & Fleischmann now?
 - 1) their science
 - 2) science by press conference
 - c) Is this typical science?
 - d) Does it remind you of any other episodes in the history of science?
 - e) Is it good science?
 - f) What does all this say about science these days?
 - g) What happens next? Do you have funds to keep pursuing this field? Do you have time?
11. Are there key people you think I should talk with here or elsewhere?
12. Is there anything I didn't ask you about that I should have asked about?