

Jacqueline Pitanguy Oral History Content Summary

Track 1 [duration: 1:12:32] [Session one: 16 September 2015]

[00:00] Jacqueline Pitanguy [JP]. Family background, last of five children, significant distance between JP and siblings. Describes two principles raised with, freedom and responsibility. Father physician with broad interests including literature, mother as cultivated woman with knowledge of life. Describes mother's positive influence on children. Remarks on importance of flexibility to adapt to unexpected. Born in Minas Gerais, Brazil, staying until aged nine. Tells history of Minas Gerais.

[05:00] Describes father's family's farming background as very different from mother's family, from Diamantina, grandfather among first engineers in Brazil, strong sense of culture, valuing universal principles, speaking French, reading latest literature and classics. Mentions grandmother born in 1899. Describes paternal grandmother as brave widow raising three children. Anecdote from when father medical student. Describes parents' meeting and marriage, acknowledging that foundation of love has been important to work on Human Rights and Women's Rights. Describes maternal grandparents, memories of grandfather.

[10:18] Describes growing up in a house full of books, love of poetry, learning to recite. Mentions Agatha Christie, Arsène Lupin, Jorge Amado, Fernando Pessoa, William Shakespeare. Describes playing with friends in hometown of Belo Horizonte, "the street was ours", sense of freedom. Describes radio programme listened to in daily chapters, comparing to TV serials today. Mentions Geronimo

[16:15] Describes spending summers on uncle's farm, instilling sense of the earth, rural life, riding horses, herding cattle with cowboys, listening to fireside stories at night. Describes mother's hometown, Diamantina, colonial city where diamonds discovered, commenting on wealth in 1917 before diamonds discovered in South Africa.

[20:00] Attendance of convent school. Discusses expectation in social context, though not raised in religious atmosphere, suspecting that mother atheist. Remarks that good to be raised in atmosphere where there is doubt. Describes move to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, aged nine when father developed heart problem, when 'the heart still unknown territory'. Attendance of convent school, Colégio Nossa Senhora de Sion, Rio de Janeiro. Mentions President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff alumnus.. Lovely story about unpopular nun and mother's advice to JP. Attendance of Colégio Sacré Coeur de Jesus, Rio de Janeiro, JP's observation that deeply anti-communist, daily propaganda and prayer. Mentions China, Russia. Describes school raising money to send for missions in Africa, JP's observation of poverty at home in Brazil. Describes daily life, silent meals. Remarks that school full of rituals of power.

[25:15] Start of rebellion, leading to expulsion in group of girls. Describes as important moment, acknowledging ability to resist, rebel, achieve goal. Attendance of Colégio Metodista Bennett, Rio de Janeiro and experience of 'delight' of learning without formality and ritual. Describes punishment at previous school, aim of humiliation. Describes parents' supportive response to expulsion. Reflects on experience.

[31:24] Describes responsibilities as member of household. Describes favourite subjects at school, love of Portuguese language and literature, History, Geography, Biology, French, English. Father's death and JP's departure to study in United States of America (USA). Attendance of Pittsford High School, New York State, living with Episcopalian family.

[37:00] Mentions travel to North Carolina, South Carolina. Describes witnessing apartheid. Mentions John F. Kennedy assassination, Cuban missile crisis, discovery of Shakespeare, the Twist, Rock and Roll, Lake Ontario, Vermont. Describes American culture of a small town, shock of peers driving cars. Describes relationship with host. Remarks that personal relationships most important thing in life.

[43:49] Describes wanting to transform the world, impact of apartheid on thinking, poverty and inequality in Brazil, necessity of sense of social justice and responsibility instilled by mother. Describes multi-racial communities of childhood, but all white private schools. Discusses discrimination in Brazil. Discusses sexual division of work in USA. Mentions Smith College, USA. Remarks that women's issues not yet political and public.

[48:00] University entrance exams in Brazil, Study of Sociology and travel to Europe. Describes first job in medical library aged 17, buying sunglasses with first salary. Attendance of Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium. Describes involvement in Latin American student movement. Mentions mother against military coup d'état, Brazil 1964, living in difficult times. Describes attendance of first march. Mentions conservative movement Tradição, Família e Propriedade, Tradition, Family and Property (TFP). Remarks on importance of participation. Describes experience of university in Europe with great professors including Jean Ladrière, freedom, travelling. Mentions Greece. Describes circle of foreign students, meeting Africans, Latin Americans, meeting Chilean husband.

[54:45] Move to Chile, studying at La Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile at time of revolution. Story about moment Salvador Allende elected. Mentions Avenida Central, Santiago. Remarks on privilege and pain of being in places as big historical events unfold. Discusses politics of region. Mentions Augusto Pinochet, South Cone of Latin America, Operation Condor, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile. Describes difficult time of resistance and struggle for basic civil liberties. Describes events in Brazil late 1970s to early 1980s.

[1:00:00] Describes "extraordinary" period of transition in Brazil. Nice comparison of democracy to oxygen. Describes own trajectory as a Marxist, developing understanding that complex variables, then realisation of other power spaces like own gender overlooked. Describes sense of womanhood from first pregnancy, move to Brazil, undertaking research at Sociology Department of Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) on labor force in Brazil. Detail of research exposing discrimination against women. Discusses importance of dealing with oppression in tandem with democratisation, not after. Describes as moment that became a feminist, loneliness in feeling. Describes seeking out others working on women's issues, start of JP's first feminist group.

[1:05:31] Describes group reading and discussing texts. Mentions Betty Friedan, Simone de Beauvoir, movements in USA and France, growing visibility of women, United Nations International Women's Year, 1975. Describes using UN label to enable organisation of week of debates while still under dictatorship, now seen as Brazil's first encounter with feminism. Describes impact of event, emergence of groups, first feminist organisation, Centro da Mulher Brasileira [Brazilian Women's Center]. Discusses significance of moment, and parallel diverse movements for democracy. Mentions Green Party.

[1:10:00] Describes creation of Grupo CERES by group of women. Mentions Mariska Ribeiro, publication of 'Venus Mirror: Social and Sexual Identity', Cidadania, Estudo, Pesquisa, Informação e Ação (CEPIA), Leila Linhares Barsted, Branca Moreira Alves, Sandra Boschi.

Track 2 [duration: 11:13] [Session one: 16 September 2015]

[00:00] Describes permanent sense of fear during dictatorship. Discusses use of legitimate defence of honour in legal framework for acquittal of guilty parties, one of first agendas in feminist movement. Detail of landmark case in Brazil, personal connection with JP.

[05:30] Background of cabinet position as President of National Council for the Rights of Women (CNDM), serving as ministry for women, Brazil. Discusses impact of culture and language, moral interferences in court. Describes research undertaken by Council, campaign and pursuit to Superior Tribunal of Justice, landmark gain. Remarks on new generations taking successes from years of struggle for granted.

Track 3: [duration: 1:38:26] [Session one: 16 September 2015]

[00:00] Describes cabinet position as one of most important experiences of life, learning rituals of power, building alliances, engagement in dialogue, for National Council to be acknowledged and respected by other ministries. Describes move to Brasilia, leaving husband and three children in Rio de Janeiro. Describes historical significance of direct involvement in writing Brazil's new constitution.

[05:05] Reflects on challenged of governmental position. Discusses controversy of work on racial discrimination, violence against women and children in land conflict, reproductive health and abortion. Describes circumstances leading to resignation, 1989. Describes achievement of integration of women's rights into core of country. Remarks that term 'gender' not yet used.

[10:00] Describes structure of National Council, a Ministry with budget, board with representatives from civil society. Describes experience of being only female in Government. Remarks on commitment to mission, not agenda of a political party, enabling productivity. Describes being housed in Ministry of Justice. Discusses women's movement's stance on taking government position, constant need for evaluation.

[16:55] Describes detail of work on Constitution, on Family Planning under observation of Catholic Church. Describes multi-dimensional aspect of work on women. Describes post-war context of work on constitution.

[20:00] Describes new constitution abolishing figure of man as head of family, 1988, impact of change on Family Law. Extension of maternity leave, and first response. Describes strategy for paternal leave with amusing story. Mentions the World Cup. Describes work on land property, extending social benefits to rural women, labour rights to domestic workers. Describes achievement of state recognition and duty of care on inter-family violence, establishing legal framework for national laws on Violence Against Women.

[25:40] Describes creation of special police stations for victims of domestic violence, where recognized as crime. Describes work for women in prison, giving right to breastfeed. Describes constitutional rights regarding Reproductive Health. Describes open relationship with media.

[29:30] Discusses opposition from religious groups, oligarchy, conservatives group. Describes solid support from women, including labour unions with vast membership. Describes extensive educational campaign for schools. Remarks that advantage of being in government, in reaching population, comes with responsibility, because of volume of people reached/affected. Describes travelling throughout country in role, including fishing villages, Amazon.

[34:35] Describes widespread belief among women encountered, of importance of struggle, remarking on strength of women. Describes re-grouping of conservative groups dismantled in democratic movement. Describes mixed feelings on return to Rio de Janeiro following resignation. Establishment of CEPIA recognizing need for strong civil society organisations. Refers to 1990s as decade of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Reflects on achievements of CEPIA. Remarks that key to impact through civil society, advocacy. Describes research and studies carried out to back up advocacy work. Describes study Progress of the World's Women, for UN Women. Mentions 25th anniversary of CEPIA, 2015.

[40:08] Describes planning of advocacy activities. Story about courts holding domestic violence cases in petty crimes court. Mentions Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women 'Convention of Belem Do Para', 1995. Discusses nature of domestic violence. Describes historic CEPIA meeting, leading to legislation on Domestic Violence. Describes in detail route taken, forming coalition, working with lawyers, beginning with creation of well-grounded law project. Mentions Women's Public Bureau, Lula da Silva. Describes success of advocacy with support from Government, Civil Society, Parliament with approval of legislation, 2006.

[47:08] Describes advocacy campaign relating to abortion in case of anencephaly, taken to Supreme Court. Mentions use of mass media. Discusses importance of dialogue with 'the other', including judiciary.

[50:11] Describes funding of organisation, first funding from Ford Foundation for analysis of national statistics in failure to study race and gender as separate. Second

study, 'Women In Figures' involving UN agencies. Describes staff component of organization. Describes use of consultants. Mentions Women's Learning Partnership (WLP). Describes attendance of United Nations conferences. Mentions Bella Abzug. Describes position as visiting professor at Rutgers University, USA, holding Blanche, Edith, and Irving Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies, becoming part of group preparing for United Nations World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, Austria, 1993 [Vienna]. Describes Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University's 'extraordinary role' in networking for Vienna. Mentions 'Women's Rights are Human Rights' slogan.

[55:07] Describes broad inclusion for first time at United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992 [Rio] with large NGO presence. Describes conference most key in her life as United Nations International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, Egypt, 1994 [Cairo]. Describes work with women's coalition, HERA (Health, Empowerment, Rights, and Accountability). Describes 'paradigmatic shift' at Cairo from demography as axis for population issues to reproductive health and rights as axis, attributing shift to advocacy by women in different countries. Describes organisation of feminist preparatory conference for Cairo by CEPIA and International Women's Health Coalition. Mentions Joan Dunlop, so had agenda from 90 countries, for women, on arrival. Remarks that Cairo Plan of Action one of most important United Nations documents, with first use of 'Gender', 'Families' acknowledging different forms, word and concept of 'Reproductive Rights', 'Sexual Health', chapter dedicated to empowerment of women. Remarks that clear example of joint advocacy effort.

[1:00:33] Describes skills developed as movement by Fourth Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 1995 [Beijing]. Describes highlight from Cairo with story about lack of consensus on health related chapter, on issue of abortion. Describes UN term, Group of Friends. Mentions Elsa Berquo. Describes challenge of working group comprising Brazil, USA, European Union, Iran, Pakistan, Argentina, building consensus through language accepted by all for text of paragraph 8.25.

[1:04:48] Describes immediate impact of Cairo Plan of Action in Brazil, introduction of Family Planning Law. Mentions Maria da Penha, Domestic Violence Law. Discusses link between international arena, treaties and necessity of national legislation already in place to enable signature, constitutional work in Brazil enabling progressive positions in Vienna, Cairo, Beijing. Describes membership of National Commission for Population and Development, National Council for Women's Rights, providing 'notorious expertise'. Discusses increasing conservatism in world and backlashes against movement, growth of 'moral politics' in Brazil, rise of Christian extremists, becoming political force. Mentions rise of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) agenda. Describes impact of government's biannual plan for education on women's agenda, other reversal of Cairo Plan of Action, relating to abortion, use of 'gender'. Remarks on strong organisation within LGBT groups, Brazil.

[1:12:05] Discusses factors contributing to success of organisation. Mentions Justice Tribunal of Rio de Janeiro, collaboration with Department of Health, Leila Linhares. Discusses successful work with MacArthur Foundation and impact of cessation of in Brazil. Mentions Carmen Barroso, television campaign for Human Immunodeficiency

Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS). Discusses relationship with donors, problem of need for core fund.

[1:17:25] Describes relationship with WLP. Mentions Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI), Marian Wright Edelman, Afaf Mahfouz, Mozambique. Describes impact of WLP manuals on agenda. Mentions Andrea Romani and Mariana Barsted. Describes horizontal relationship and autonomy with WLP partners.

[1:23:11] Describes CEPIA's development of telephone application (app) for adolescents on Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health. Remarks on complexity of concept of adolescence. Describes other use of technology, developing interactive course on legislation on Violence Against Women, Maria da Penha Law, designed for mobile telephone. Mentions Vivo, facsimile (Fax).

[1:26:40] Reflects on changes in women's movement over years. Mentions Twitter. Remarks on neutrality of technology. Discusses advancement in woman's position. Remarks on generational aspects of movement.

[1:30:28] Discusses importance of building bridges and common agendas. Discusses role of institutions and need to preserve them.

[1:34:30] Discusses change in terms of local and global. Mentions Brazil, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Argentina. Discusses millennium generation. [telephone rings]. Remarks on memory, preservation of history, unchanged humanity.

Track 4 [duration: 05:20] [Session one: 16 September 2015]

[00:00] Describes proudest achievement. Mentions husband, children, grandchildren, Boko Haram, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria or Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), Brazil. Remarks that nothing assured in Human Rights field, importance of readiness to fight. 'There is not such a thing as a state of contemplation of victories'.