



Interviewed: Vivian Rakoff
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(Vivian)

I think I wrote the very first paper to identify a possible problem of children of survivors. Since on [sic] it's gone on to be a growth industry. In brief, I came to Canada. I was a resident at the Jewish General Hospital. I wrote this paper on children of survivors. I wrote papers on family therapy. I wrote papers on adolescent psychiatry and I wrote papers on the place of psychiatry in history. I also wrote a number of review articles around adolescence, which were of a historical, sociological char—kind.

On the avocational side, you might as well hear, I wrote a South African play for radio, which was done in the old days. CBC used to do radio plays. It was about the Xhosa...cattle killing. And I wrote another...and I wrote some plays for television. Just generally, not particularly South African. I did one that has a Jewish connection: Nadezhda Mandelstam—no, no (inaudible) Ida Kamińska, the great Yiddish actress. Her last role was to play Nadezhda Mandelstam in a monologue drama that I wrote for the CBC, which was done here. So I kept a kind of avocational literary side going : occasional poems, book reviews, and that kind of stuff. But I then went on here. I came here. I was director of postgraduate education. I then became chief of psychiatry at St. Michael's for a couple of years and then for ten years I was chief of psychiatry and professor of psychiatry in the University of Toronto.

(Interviewer)

You've had—Obviously, you've had a lot of—You've had quite a career, an illustrious career. What do you consider your most important achievement when you look back?

(Vivian)

I think in particular, I can...I was responsible for bringing a positron emission...scanner to what was then the Clarke Institute. It's now CAMH. This was a huge breakthrough in brain research and I was a committee of one who [raises arms] AGAINST ALL OPPOSITION. And now it's a thriving industry. But I'd like to think that at another level I maintained an interest in the humanistic side of medicine and kept all the options open in the educational project.

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