

Interviewee: Eric Brodie, Dr
Dates: 1985? - 2003
Role(s): Postgraduate(PhD 1985)
Lecturer, latterly Reader, Dept of Psychology.
Married Kate Niven, qv.



Interview summary:

Start 00:00 – Originally came to Stirling to research into weight discrimination on earth. EB ended up doing his research in the weightless environment of space. This was due to a grant that was given to Helen Ross by the Medical Research Council. It was a psychological experiment to be conducted on the first space lab. This was a collaboration between NASA and ESA (European Space Agency). The study was based on the discrimination of mass in a weightless environment.

01:30 – EB's time was divided between Stirling University and Mission Control located in Houston. He monitored astronauts performing certain experiments.

02:10 – The study discovered that astronauts were impaired at discriminating the mass of objects up in space as opposed to when they are on earth. This had implications for future training of astronauts.

03:05 – The study is memorable as EB worked with the shuttle Columbia which did not return from a mission twenty years after he worked with it.

04:14 – EB completed his PhD after his work on the space lab. The group was unable to do further research due to politics and a lack of finances. Britain withdrew funding ESA.

[Ends 04:57]

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Interviewed by:	Bill Inglis
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Summary completed by:	Laura McLoughlin
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