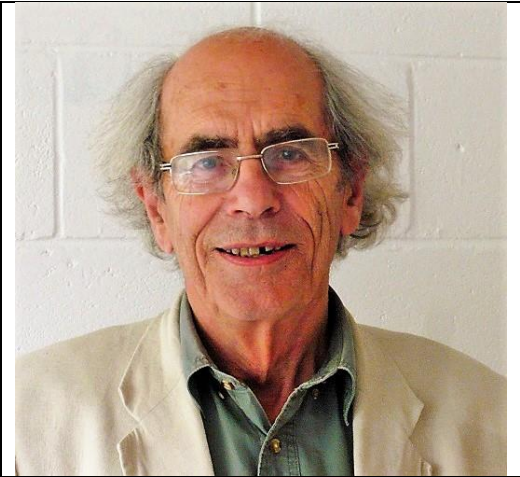


Interviewee: Robin Campbell  
UoS Dates: 1969 - 2009  
Role(s): Lecturer, Dept of Psychology



## Interview summary:

### *Summary of content; with time (min:secs)*

**00:07** – Came to Stirling in 1969 after working in Edinburgh on a research project with Mark Donaldson and Rodger Wells. Had been studying early child language and cognitive development. Interviewed by Peter McEwen, Iain MacFarlane and Michael Moore. No formal contracts then which was a problem for the university later on.

**01:31** – Built up the curriculum as they went along. Others in the department were Peter McEwen, Michael Moore, Iain MacFarlane, Angus Annan, Margaret or Peggy Phemister, Helen Ross and Cliff Henty. Shared a room with Peggy Phemister in Pathfoot B corridor, beside the Philosophers. RC was particularly friendly with Ian Wilson in Philosophy. Thought they would have RC teach child language development or cognitive development but he was instead asked to run a course on animal learning which he knew nothing about. Beloff taught about animal learning and learning theory but didn't like it. Peter McEwen wanted the course to be hands on so RC bought pigeons and Angus Annan made boxes for them. Shared a lot of resources with Biology, it was probably a Biology technician who looked after the pigeons. Only had to teach that for a year and then Cliff Henty took over.

**08:30** – In the first year Tom Cottrell thought that students should get a broader education and so a book was produced with different chapters each about a different subject. The final chapter was by Frank Bradbury and it was on how to make polythene. Leech possibly wrote the Maths chapter. The book was provided as a text and was taught by all staff in tutorials. Students had to take an exam on it. This was Approaches and Methods. It was a good idea but students and staff hated it. Finished after a year or two.

**10:47** – Degree was comprised of part one and part two. Staff were also Advisers of Studies, responsible for students undertaking part one. Regulations were being made up and were difficult to understand. This meant some staff were advising students incorrectly so that they were undertaking a course of studies that wouldn't allow them to complete part one. Part one board meetings were meetings of all the staff, Tom Cottrell and someone from the administrative side of the university. They would look at what courses students were undertaking and if something had gone wrong the adviser would get blamed. Some were given a dressing down by Tom Cottrell in front of everyone.

**14:01** – Tom Cottrell was a colourful character who drove a Lotus car at excessive speeds. He was very involved.

**14:35** – Social side of the university. There was a campus pub called Allangrange which is now the Meadowpark, or it was possibly further up the hill than the Meadowpark. Michael Moore and his wife Joan would organise University wide social events in Pathfoot dining hall. Soon the student organisation got going and moved in to their space in 1970 or 1971. At the time there was no separate staff space, only shared facilities with students but this didn't go on for very long. A lot of mingling with students in the early years.

**19:20** When departments started to move in to Cottrell there was a transition and the character of the university

changed. Staff were split up, felt like the University had been split into two halves. The new building was terrible. Pathfoot was pleasant with nice courtyards and art. Art was chosen by Tom Cottrell and Matilda Mitchell, apart from the donation of Fergussons from his widow. No one liked the Fergussons then. Art that Tom Cottrell and Matilda Mitchell picked was regarded as bizarre and awful. Tom Cottrell's approach to art survives as people still prefer to buy contemporary art for the university.

**22:50** – Airthrey Loch was a fine fishing loch and full of trout. Managed by Fred Holliday of Biology. There was an angling club which stopped, possibly when Fred Holliday left. Algae formed and the fish died. When it was eventually restocked in the 1990s the fish were all eaten by cormorants.

**24:55** – Left the University in 1976 or 1977 to go to Holland for two years. When RC returned things had changed, processes were in place and everything was moving smoothly. Found the early days of mildly managed chaos more interesting.

**25:43** – Queen's visit. Accumulation of errors which resulted in catastrophe. There was a university holiday so the students had nothing to do. Tour didn't begin until after lunch, by which time the students were drunk. There was also a lot of drug use then. Tom Cottrell and Derek Lang had no plan B and so continued under impossible circumstances, with students shouting and waving banners. Tommy Dunn, Tom Cottrell and Derek Lang were all very upset. Must have had a series of effects on recruitment and funding, but RC was blind to them. Aftermath dragged on for years. It resulted in the death of Tom Cottrell.

**30:54** – Expanded to add more staff and some postgraduate teaching in year four. Michael Moore was keen on Mathematical Psychology and Philip Smith, Ranald Macdonald and Alistair Watson were brought in to teach it. Also appointed at that time were Bill Phillips, Peter Hamilton and Ivana Markova.

**34:10** – Returned from Holland and things had changed. A second Professor was appointed, either Alan Baddeley or Neville Moray. Alan Baddeley arrived with a number of people who were slotted in to jobs, including Graham Hitch who was an effective academic and a good teacher. Both Baddeley and Moray were generous people; they often had social events in their homes in Bridge of Allan.

**37:20** – Animal side of the department was strengthened by Bill McGrew who was appointed in 1971 or 1972. Arnold Chamove, another appointment, was a student of Harry Harlow. Harlow was known for what would now be regarded as nasty experiments. Arnold Chamove was set up in the animal research facility, which ran in to trouble almost right away as some in the department didn't like it. It got worse in the 1980s as the monkeys tested positive for B-virus which could be fatal to humans. They had to be removed. Arnold Chamove's research was also questioned in the House of Commons. After that Arnold Chamove's heart wasn't in it and he moved to New Zealand. Bill McGrew continued to run the primate facility for a while but it was closed after a few years.

**45:50** – University is very different now to how it was then. Lord Robbins and Tom Cottrell had an idea of how it should develop but it couldn't develop like that as the way universities were funded changed. Tom Cottrell had a conception of a university as a place that didn't specialise and did everything. Stirling didn't have Medicine or Law, but they had everything else including a proper science faculty. Law has done better than anticipated.

**51:51** – Good friends with first Philosophy Professor Graham Bird.

[Ends 53:33]

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| <b>Interview No:</b>         | SURSA OH / 029    | <p><b>SURSA</b><br/>University of Stirling<br/>Stirling<br/>FK9 4LA</p> <p><a href="mailto:info@sursa.org.uk">info@sursa.org.uk</a><br/><a href="http://www.sursa.org.uk">www.sursa.org.uk</a></p> | <p><b>SURSA</b></p>  <p>Oral History</p> |
| <b>Interviewed by:</b>       | Carolyn Rowlinson |  |   |
| <b>Date of interview:</b>    | 25/08/2014        |  |   |
| <b>Summary completed by:</b> | Aime Jaffray      |  |   |
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