

## OBSERVATION 2 – FIELDNOTES

**(Note: Participant names are not anonymized because the data is released under an open license with full identifiers online at <http://blog.melchua.com/2013/04/22/full-talk-transcript-psst-wanna-eavesdrop-on-my-research/#more-4376>).**

- This is a “demo” interview conducted with my classmate Jake as part of my presentation on radically transparent research in my department seminar. The purpose of the interview is to demonstrate to my audience what a live-transcribed interview looks like.
- It's April 18, the second-to-last week of classes. The setting is a lecture hall with seats for 100 or so people, with a podium at front; my computer is hooked to the podium and displays my slidedeck on one of the two large overhead screens. The other screen displays the live transcription of the entire talk, which includes the interview (the interview is a tiny part of the talk, maybe 5 minutes of a 55-minute seminar).
- We have snacks! This is a normal thing; the student who's taken snack duty for this rotation has put cake and other items off to one side, storebrought, nothing fancy or expensive.
- I need an interview subject for this talk, and I've known that for months but haven't pre-arranged one because I'm pretty sure I won't have trouble finding one ad-hoc on the day of the talk. From being in classes with Jake, I know he thinks fast on his feet and is happy being spontaneous. From conversations with him, I know he's excited about Sarasvathy, a researcher whose book I introduced him to a couple months ago. And he is standing in front of me by the snack table before seminar starts, so I just ask him, and he's game. Yay!
- Jake is a few years older than I am, with wavy red hair and a bit of a beard, average build, wired with nervous energy as a default rule, prone to getting excited about ideas and jumping around discussion topics a lot (I know this from being in classes with him all this year). He studies entrepreneurship education within engineering education.

- Maybe 30 folks are in the room which is an average department seminar turnout. Multiple people who wanted to come (faculty and students) had schedule conflicts and apologized for not being able to make it, so the professor in charge of the seminar series arranged for it to be recorded as a podcast. This is intimidating, but I plan to post the whole transcript and slides up on my blog later, so whatever.
- Jake and I are both talking and gesturing a little faster than we usually do; I think it's because we're both slightly nervous about being onstage, but we don't stop our conversation, we ask clarifying questions of each other, I think we get through totally fine.
- Jake doesn't know when to sit back down, I haven't made that super-clear to him at the beginning, and we have some moments (easily visible in the transcript) where he is unclear whether he should keep hanging out in the front of the stage or go back into the audience. Maybe I should have made those expectations clearer? Nah, we're fine improvising, we trust each other, I don't think the audience is showing signs of being pissed (frustrated looks, confused looks, sighs, etc) and I want an informal atmosphere to this presentation anyway, so people won't be afraid of jumping in with commentary, and so they'll get the idea that what I'm presenting is very much a method-in-progress, so rough edges are actually helpful.