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Title: Paul Satoh Interview
Narrator: Paul Satoh
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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[Mr. Satoh's son Gordon Satoh was present at the interview, and when he speaks, he is denoted as GS]

<Begin Segment 15>

NW: Now, you mentioned to me earlier that there was some racial tension, uh, to be discriminated against in terms of, you know, where to stay tonight, when you were in Chicago, must have left some impression on you. And I think it's true that that's one of those things that shape difference between Japan and America. Japan is a very homogenous society whereas America is very diverse. How do you think about the relationship between men and women? Especially with regard to what society expects man to behave like man. Woman to behave like woman. I think that's another aspect that those societies—maybe both similar to and different from each other.

PS: That's true too, you know, because I very often give both American students and Japanese students lectures. And when I give lectures to the Japanese students, I introduce American society as much as I can from my impression. And then the issue like LGBT, the issues occurs. And they—in Japan they're still—the LGBT is a big taboo. People never talk about it. They will probably be highly discriminated. They think they're only the, you know, artist and that some eccentric people are. But the . . . what I usually tell them—that the thing is, people are people, whatever their sexual orientations. And their belief, for instance for the Catholic or Buddhist, uh, it doesn't really matter because we really have to live in this world together. And uh, you can't really have the attitude—and the “holier than thou” attitude. That probably is the worst thing to do. So, um . . . the . . . my lectures I have at least four, five slides on the statistics about the general LGBT relation of 3.5 percent in particular population groups. And uh, [?] you see the transgenic people. And now they have a transgenic—trans is actually in hormonal sense. And you should not be looked at as—because they have a different orientation, because of their own likings. Probably they can't help. People cannot help. And, the reason for that, we don't know. I think it has something to do with birth control pills. Probably the eggs are soaked in the, you know, the high concentration of progesterone. And that—but nobody would like to study that. How pharmaceutical companies get billions of dollars of money from the birth control pills. If somebody says, maybe that's the reason why you have a different sexual orientation than entire society, you get killed. But, if you look at the fish, the—because of that, the many bays—the Chesapeake Bays, fish usually have one third of the fish population change sex during their development. They become male fish. And to—to get the more propagated themselves. They can't do that anymore. So that certain blend of the fish—the certain strains are dying away. So the farmer does—the aquaculture people does—they put the testosterone on the areas . . . to recover the sexual ratio between . . . And I just mention that to students. Wahn. That fish is all

female to start with? So, that's to say yeah, that's true. But um, this things is very interesting because . . . uh, because of that, in many streams they have very high concentration of testosterone, estrogens, and that is causing the infertile [?] effect, because . . . So the uh . . .

GS: Don't forget the plastic, too.

PS: Huh?

GS: The plastics, they—estrogenic mimics. The plastics for . . .

PS: Yeah, the . . . what plastics, the . . .

GS: Insecticide and plastic.

PS: A couple million tons of that plastics. And also herbicide. And uh, one of the herbicide is uh, the—about 50 times more potent than estrogen itself. So, you know, the amount of the estrogen in the river and the streams—because of the oral contraceptives is probably not much of an effect. Because you have millions of times more coming from the farming ground. But you know, this is the type of things that I usually will give my students.

NW: Do you think that you are thinking about those issues when you were first beginning to get to know American society, or is this something that you thought about later on? More recently?

PS: No, this is pretty much the sa—pretty much the recent things. Uh, the reason for . . .

NW: Mhm. What about your first few years?

PS: Few years, um . . .

NW: Maybe first five, six years of being here? Did you notice any difference in terms of gender? Using . . .

PS: The gender is actually . . . No it's—I'll tell you why. They used to make fun out of those homosexuals. I remember in Detroit there was in a Greek town, there was a couple bars that the—usually, the homosexual goes. And then the bar owners had this—the uh, Bombay [?] beer. And then you see, you can go the other way. And uh, so the graduate school say hey, let's go drink and see how these homosexuals are behaving. And uh, but you know. That's uh, kind of a . . . the . . . discrimination or some kind of a . . . um, well I don't think it was funny what the—the people thought it was funny. Among the uh, graduate students. And uh, when we would go drink, I would never tell my girlfriend I would go there to drink things. But uh . . .

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