**Deposit of 20 interview transcripts**

**The University of Reading.**

**PhD Thesis:**

**“A life history study of the factors that influence the acceptance or rejection of the Big Bang theory and theory of biological evolution among lifelong learners”.**

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**Appendix 1. Barbara. First interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 1 Date of first interview: 29/04/2018 Setting: Reading University**

Please can you tell me your age?

*45*

Are you a student/self-employed/ Employed/ Unemployed/ or other?

*Employed*

What type of work do you undertaken?

*Teaching Assistant at a Berkshire Primary School*

Would you describe yourself as an atheist / agnostic / theist / or other?

*Atheist*

Would you describe yourself as culturally Christian?

*No*

What political party do you think you are most aligned to?

*None*

Did you study at school up to 16/18, or Degree/Masters/Doctorate?

*Degree*

How would you describe your ethnicity?

*White British*

**CONFIRMATION OF UNDRSTANDING OF THE TERMS TO BE USED**

How you would define the Big Bang theory?

*Emm. The point at the beginning of the universe where there was nothing. Then a rapid expansion of particles, that is still expanding.*

How you would define the theory of biological evolution?

*Living things becoming more dominant, and adapted to survive best and passing on those characteristics to the next generation. And all living things are related to each other.*

**CURRENT VIEW OF THE TWO THEORIES**

Do you agree with/accept the Big Bang theory? Yes/No/In part;

Yes, *I agree with it*

Why do you think that?

*Because I don’t believe in creation by God and because of my own personal research on the topic.*

Do you agree with/accept the theory of biological evolution? Yes/No/In part;

*I agree with it. Because of what I was taught and I can see concrete examples of in real life like the different colour of moths.*[note answer to questions below]

Do you think the Big Bank theory is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Intuitive for me. Because it’s based on the fact of the research I have personally looked at and the evidence of continuing expansion*

Do you think the theory of biological evolution is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Intuitive for me because of the knowledge I have from school of the different stages of biological evolution that’s evident in animal species that is imbedded in my belief.* *I am not sure about the start of evolution because although I can see creatures evolving from a more basic form I am not sure how the very basic form came to be on earth. I have read about that the molecules or building blocks of life are present in bits of meteors. Perhaps that the start of biological evolution was on a different planet or somewhere else in the universe. I think I agree with evolution in part.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 1 Date of first interview: 29/04/2018 Setting: Reading University**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No. Very relaxed*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*No*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes.*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is female, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 75.7% employed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population below 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 49% of education participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 37% of no religion/no religion stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 females, part of the group of 6/10 employed/self-employed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 with a Degree, and part of the group of 2/10 no religion/religion not stated.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*No*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes.*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*No*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*Neither. The interview was informative.*

**Appendix 2. Barbara. Second interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 1 Date of second interview: 29/04/2018 Setting: Reading University**

Please tell me a little about your parents/family;

*I am the youngest of three children. My brother is 8 years older than me and my sister is 4 years older than me. My dad managed a shop and my mum was a stay at home parent.*

What do you think were their views on the two theories?

*Science wasn’t something that was discussed in our house particularly, but as my parents both met at Sunday School I would imagine theirs was more of a Christian view.*

What do you think were your siblings’ views on these two theories?

*I would find that hard to say.*

**Preschool years**

What is your earliest memory do you think?

*My dad collapsing and being hospitalised and me looking out of the window as he was taken away in an ambulance. I think I was about 2. An appendicitis.*

Did he recover from that?

*Yes*

Do you recall being read bed time stories?

*No*

Were there any nursery rhymes, religious stories, or songs sung at home?

*Oh yeh. We had a Bible that was a big deal. A big illustrated children’s Bible. At home. To me it was like the size of an encyclopaedia but whether it was or not. It was reasonably tatty, so I presume it was what my older siblings had. I would look at the pictures and read it to myself. I read about the creation story. It wasn’t read to me.*

At the time did you take the Biblical stories as being reality?

*Yes*

**Primary school**

Can you recall your first days at school?

*I can remember my mum going away and the teacher taking me into the classroom.*

Was your primary school a faith-based school?

*No*

What format did your primary school assembly take?

*A Bible story or story with a meaning to it and a hymn and a prayer. One of the hymns we sang at primary school was “When God made the garden of creation”* [the interviewee did not want to sing this, so she wrote it down]. *The hymns and prays had creation stories.*

Did your primary school have designated science lessons?

*Yes*

Where there designated religious study lessons?

*Yes*

Before school lunch did the school children pray?

*No*

What were you taught at primary school were the origins of the universe?

*Biblical*

What were you taught were the origins of humans?

*Biblical*

During your primary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*I believed what I was told about both from the Bible.*

**Secondary school**

Can you recall your first days at secondary school?

*Yeh. I sat in the form room with all the others from different schools.*

Was it a faith-based school?

*No*

How did school assemblies differ from primary school?

*Same. Payers and hymns with creation stories in them.*

Did you study science to 16 or 18?

*Only biology to 16 and then to 18.*

Did you take a religious studies exam at 16 or 18?

*Both. I did Religious Studies at A Level too.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of the universe?

*I don’t remember being taught explicitly about it.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of the universe?

*They didn’t in the same way as primary school because we looked at different religions and their belief systems rather than homing in on Christianity.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of humanity?

*We were taught about Darwin and evolution.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of humanity?

*They didn’t.*

Did your secondary school science lessons allow debate about other explanations of life and the universe other than the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*No, I don’t remember it ever coming up.*

Did your secondary school religious studies lessons allow debate about non-religious explanations of the origins of life and the universe?

*There was one member of the class at A level when we looked at the Old Testament in terms of how it was put together and not as the word of God, how it could have been historically put together by real people. There was one person who found that offensive and would cry and she was kind of asked to stop crying rather than being allowed to express her own beliefs. She didn’t do biology with me.*

Did you ever feel culturally isolated or religiously isolated in lessons at any school or college and if so can you explain the feeling?

*Not me. She definitely felt religiously isolated in lessons because eyes were rolled at her reaction because I would imagine the majority of the class did not have a belief particularly.*

There were feelings in lessons of religious isolation in your school?

*Yes. The school just wanted to crack on following the curriculum. There was no room within the curriculum content as I understood it for people to cry and feel their beliefs had been torn to pieces.*

Did you ever feel you held two views in parallel during science lessons: one scientific and one religious, and if so can you tell me about the two parallel views?

*Yes. I think it was about my personal view because my grandad died when I was at the beginning of secondary school and I personally believed he could see me from the afterlife but at the same time I thought the Bible stories I thought how could that happen that God could make stuff out of nowhere and also because my Grandad died I didn’t necessarily believe in God cause I thought that was harsh but at the same time I thought he could see me from beyond. My beliefs in primary were different. In secondary I had different beliefs all running parallel to each other at the same time.*

What science books and science encyclopaedias do you remember from your childhood?

*I remember using the encyclopaedia we had around the house, but nothing in particular.*

**Adulthood**

Did you attend a university or college?

*Yes. [University name redacted] University*

What subjects did you study and to what level?

*Linguistics and Language Pathology, with Honours. I got a 2:1.*

Did your post school education affect your views of the Big Bang or biological evolution?

*No. I don’t remember being taught anything about the origins of the universe in secondary school. My beliefs about it now are because I felt I had a gap there when I became interested in astronomy. So as an older person I looked into that. And there were anecdotal news stories as an adult. My views on evolution had already formed at secondary school.*

Please tell me about the main events in your life following leaving school/college/university to today*.*

*I had two children, one girl one boy.*

During this period did your religious view/views of religion changed?

*Erm. No.*

How have your views on the two science theories changed?

*I would say from school I had no view on the Big Bang as I didn’t know much about it. I would say that’s changed because I have done my own reading and research as an older person.*

When you have received evidence on either theory have your views ever changed and then changed back?

*No*

Do you think you ever look for evidence that supports your existing views?

*I don’t think so.*

Have you watched TV documentaries or DVDs on the two science subjects?

*Yes*

What are your views of these documentaries/DVDs?

*They were good. I watched documentaries on the origin of the universe that just backed up what I had found out previously. By Brian Cox, and also BBC Horizon. And I watched David Attenborough and Brian Cox on life and evolution.*

Do you think scientists agree or disagree with each other on the origin of the universe and life?

*I think they agree but then I have only watched things that support my own theory.*

What do you know of the Steady State theory of the origin of the universe?

*I know about that, but I don’t think that is right based on what I know.*

What do you know about the Cosmic theory of evolution?

*I think that may be the idea that evolution is wrong and that the first life on earth came from space and then evolved some more when it was on earth. It may be right. Sounds possible to me.*

Do you think it is possible to believe in God and accept the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution? Why?

*I think people that believe in God can believe God started the Big Bang or created the Big Bang and that God started evolution off.*

Why do you think other people accept or reject the Big Bang and evolution?

*I suppose because right now there is real life evidence that the universe is continuing to expand so that backs it up. They might reject it because it is something quite hard to get your mind around. It is something you really have to concentrate on. If you are not willing to invest that concentration it might be hard for you to accept. If you are a Christian it’s not in agreement with the whole creation story. That goes for the Big Bang and evolution.*

Have your religious beliefs ever changed because of new scientific findings?

*At primary school I was taught God was all powerful and could do whatever He wanted, so any Bible story was acceptable to me including creation. But then as I grew up I thought if He was real he would be able to do XY and Z in the world, that He does not do, and so I stopped believing in God. It was that rather than scientific teaching that changed my mind on creation.*

**Feelings about the theories**

How do you feel about the dark cold death of the universe given in the Big Bang theory? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy

*I am unconcerned.*

Why do you feel this way?

*I will not be there then. In a common-sense way.*

How do you feel about biological evolution theory and its implications for the place humanity is within the range of living things? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy

*I am unconcerned.*

Why do you feel this way?

*Because I find that humanity being special or having a special place is hard to picture.*

**Participant’s own summary**

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept the Big Bang theory?

*I would say because of my own scientific reading and things that I have watched that back up that theory.*

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept/reject the theory of biological evolution?

*There are such obvious examples. I remember being taught. Months evolving different colour by evolution is a concrete example of evolution in action. It is a concrete belief for me because I can see a visual example.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 1 Date of second interview: 29/04/2018 Setting: Reading University**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No. Very relaxed*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*Yes. The participant laughed and said she did not want to sing a primary school hymn, so she wrote it down.*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes.*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is female, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 75.7% employed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population below 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 49% of education participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 37% of no religion/no religion stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 females, part of the group of 6/10 employed/self-employed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 with a Degree, and part of the group of 2/10 no religion/religion not stated.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*Some of early childhood. Not relevant.*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes.*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*Yes. Repetition of some questions if not heard.*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*Neither. The interview was interesting and informative.*

**Appendix 3. Howard. First interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 2 Date of first interview: 1.05.18 Setting: community centre**

What is your age?

*83*, I am *retired*

What work did you do before retirement?

*Retired Teacher*

Would you describe yourself as an atheist / agnostic / theist / other?

*I believe in God*

What is your religion?

*Christian. Church of England.*

Would you describe yourself as culturally Christian or practicing Christian?

*Both*

Are you practicing or attend a place of worship?

*Yes*

How often?

*Sundays*

What political party do you think you are most aligned to?

*Conservative.*

Did you study at school up to 16/18, or Degree/Masters/Doctorate?

*Degree*

How would you describe your ethnicity?

*White British.*

**CONFIRMATION OF UNDRSTANDING OF THE TERMS TO BE USED**

How you would define the Big Bang theory?

*An explosion at the start of time. Everything coming from a small point. It’s still getting bigger.*

How you would define the theory of biological evolution?

*Everything evolving from previous forms. Survival of the fittest. Darwin’s theory of natural selection.*

**CURRENT VIEW OF THE TWO THEORIES**

Do you agree with/accept the Big Bang theory? Yes/No/In part:

*No*

Why do you think that?

*Because the universe has always been here. There was no Big Bang.*

Do you agree with/accept the theory of biological evolution? Yes/No/In part:

*Partly*

Why do you think that?

*Because God played a part in evolution. He started it and looked after it.*

Do you think the Big Bank theory is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Neither. It’s not true.*

Do you think the theory of biological evolution is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Perhaps intuitive. It makes sense.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 2 Date of first interview: 1.05.18 Setting: community centre**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

No. Relaxed.

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

No

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

No

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

Yes

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is male, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 19.5% retired in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 20% of total UK population over 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 49% of education participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 50% of Christian stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 males, part of the group of 3/10 retired, part of the group of 3/10 over 65,part of the group of 5/10 with a Degree, and part of the group of 5/10 Christian.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

No

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

No

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

No

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

No

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

No

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

No

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

Yes

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

No

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

Yes

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

Yes

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

Yes

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

No. Informative.

**Appendix 4. Howard. Second interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 2 Date of second interview: 1.05.18 Setting: community centre**

**Parents/Family background**

Please tell me a little about your parents/careers;

*I grew up in Middlesex with my parents. My father was in the army in the war. I have three sisters.*

What do you think are/were their views on the two science theories?

*They were Christians and they believed in the Bible.*

Why do you believe they thought this?

*Because they were Christians.*

Please tell me a little about your wider family/siblings:

*I had three sisters.*

What do you think are/were their views on these two theories?

*They are all Christians and believe what the Bible tells us.*

**Preschool years**

What is your earliest memory do you think?

*Growing up in Middlesex.*

Do you recall being read bed time stories?

*Yes*

Were they nursery rhymes, religious stories, songs?

*Bible stories and songs about Jesus.*

At this age do you remember being read or told stories of how the world and life came about, and if so what were they?

*Yes. Bible stories. The Book of Genesis.*

At the time were these accounts believed by you?

*Yes, and they still are.*

**Primary school**

Can you recall your first days at school?

*No*

Was your primary school a faith-based school?

*No*

What format did your primary school assembly take?

*Prayers and a Bible reading and hymns.*

Did your primary school have designated science lessons?

*No*

Where there designated religious study lessons?

*No*

Before school lunch did the school children pray?

*Yes*

What were you taught at primary school were the origins of the universe?

*God created it.*

What were you taught were the origins of humans?

*Creation*

During your primary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*I believed what is in the Bible. The Book of Genesis.*

**Secondary school**

Can you recall your first days at secondary school?

*No*

Was it a faith-based school?

*No*

How did school assemblies differ from primary school?

*They were the same. The Headmaster would talk. There would be a Bible reading and a hymn. Then it would end with a prayer.*

Did you study science to 16 or 18?

*18*

Did you take a religious studies exam at 16 or 18?

*I am not sure if I took an exam in Religious Studies.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of the universe?

*That was not taught in science at school.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of the universe?

*The Lord created it.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of humanity?

*I think evolution.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of humanity?

*God created Adam and Eve*

During your secondary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*God created the universe and God played a part in evolution I think.*

Did your secondary school science lessons allow debate about other explanations of life and the universe other than the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*No. They were science lessons. You never discussed religion in science lessons.*

Did your secondary school religious studies lessons allow debate about non-religious explanations of the origins of life and the universe?

*No*

Did you ever feel culturally isolated or religiously isolated in science lessons at any school or college and if so can you explain the feeling?

*No*

Did you ever feel you held two views in parallel during science lessons: one scientific and one religious, and if so can you tell me about the two parallel views?

*Yes. I think I have my Christian beliefs and perhaps parallel to those I have what I know about science. Sometimes they don’t agree with each other. I feel that now and I thought that when I was at school too.*

What science books and science encyclopaedias do you remember from your childhood?

*The ones in the library.*

**Adulthood**

Did you attend a university or college?

*Yes*

What subjects did you study and to what level?

*Degree in maths.*

Did your post school education affect your views of the Big Bang or biological evolution?

*No*

Please tell me about the main events in your life following leaving school/college/university to today:

*I was married, and we had three children.*

During this period how have your religious view/views of religion changed?

*Perhaps yes. I think evolution may have been started and guided by God.*

How have your views on the two science theories changed?

*Perhaps my views on evolution have changed to it having happened and been started and guided by God.*

When you have received evidence on either theory have your views ever changed and then changed back?

*Yes. Sometimes. I think that often happens. You have deeply held Christian beliefs and then you look at evidence from science or TV programmes and you change your mind for a bit. Then you change your mind back again to your traditional views.*

Do you think you ever look for evidence that supports your existing views?

*I think everybody does that. That’s just being human.*

If you follow a particular religion what does that religion teach about the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*I think you can believe what you like in the Church of England.*

Have you watched TV documentaries or DVDs on the two science subjects?

*Yes*

What are your views of these documentaries/DVDs?

*They were interesting. I don’t necessarily believe in them, but they are interesting. Some of the presenters talk to loudly or there is noisy music in the background. Thump thump thump music you know.*

Do you think scientists agree or disagree with each other on the origin of the universe and life?

*Of course they disagree. When do scientists agree?*

Why do you think this?

*Because they think different things. Two scientists are like two politicians. Same evidence but completely different opinions. You see it in the papers and in the news. Scientists say one thing one week and another the next.*

What do you know of the Steady State theory of the origin of the universe?

*That’s the opposite to the Big Bang. The universe has always existed. There was no Big Bang.*

What do you know of the Cosmic theory of evolution?

*No idea.*

Do you think it is possible to believe in God and accept the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution? Why?

*Yes, I am sure many Christians do. I think you can believe pretty much anything these days and go to church.*

Why do you think other people accept or reject the Big Bang theory?

*Because they think it’s right based on their opinion and what they have read.*

Why do you think other people accept/reject the theory of biological evolution?

*They have probably watched programmes about it on TV or they got taught it at school.*

Have your religious beliefs ever changed because of new scientific findings?

*Yes. I used to believe in the creation story in Genesis. Now I think God started evolution and guided it too.*

**Feelings about the theories**

How do you feel about the dark cold death of the universe given in the Big Bang theory? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy

*That does not sound like a nice end to everything. I don’t like that idea.*

How do you feel about biological evolution theory and its implications for the place humanity is within the range of living things? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy

*I do not feel happy about that view. We do have a special place. God created us to look after the earth.*

**Participant’s own summary**

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept/reject the Big Bang theory?

*I think the universe did not start with a Big Bang. I can remember a scientist that said it was wrong. Can’t remember his name.*

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept/reject the theory of biological evolution?

*I think evolution is right, but that God started it and helped it along. There is lots of evidence for evolution.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 2 Date of second interview: 1.05.18 Setting: community centre**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

No. Relaxed.

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

No

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

No

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

Yes

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is male, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 19.5% retired in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 20% of total UK population over 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 49% of education participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 50% of Christian stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 males, part of the group of 3/10 retired, part of the group of 3/10 over 65,part of the group of 5/10 with a Degree, and part of the group of 5/10 Christian.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

No

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

No

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

No

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

No

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

Yes. Occasional historical information.

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

No

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

Yes

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

No

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

Yes

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

Yes

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

Yes

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

No. An interesting and informative interview.

**Appendix 5. Peter. First interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 3 Date of first interview: 08/05/2018 Setting: community centre**

What is your age*?*

*53*

Are you a Student / Self Employed / Employed / Unemployed / Retired?

*Employed*

What work do you do?

*A charity executive*

Would you describe yourself as an atheist / agnostic / theist / other?

*Theist*

What is your religion?

*Christian, Baptist*

Would you describe yourself as culturally Christian as well as practicing Christian?

*Yes, I think so.*

Are you practicing, do you attend a place of worship?

*Yes, I am a member of a local Baptist church*

How often do you attend?

*Sundays and mid-week*

What political party do you think you are most aligned to?

*I joined the Lib Dems after the Brexit vote*

Did you study at school up to 16/18, or Degree/Masters/Doctorate?

*I am educated to Masters level with an MBA and a Diploma at Bible College.*

How would you describe your ethnicity?

*White British*

**CONFIRMATION OF UNDRSTANDING OF THE TERMS TO BE USED**

How you would define the Big Bang theory?

*The world must have started somehow. I think God started the world including possibly by a Big Bang type of event. Expanding. It does not put me at odds with my Christian faith.*

How you would define the theory of biological evolution?

*We can see evidence of evolution scientifically. Evolving. Moths in the industrial revolution. The darker ones did better than the lighter coloured ones because of the soot.*

**CURRENT VIEW OF THE TWO THEORIES**

Do you agree with/accept the Big Bang theory? Yes/No/In part and why?

*It does not put me at odds with my Christian beliefs. God could have started both the Big Bang and evolution. I am prepared to work with scientific theories and with the Bible.*

Do you agree with/accept the theory of biological evolution? Yes/No/In part and why?

*Again, I am willing to work with scientific theories. They are theories that can be proved wrong at any point in the future. We can see evidence of evolution.*

Do you think the Big Bank theory is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Its intuitive. People are trying to trace back to what we can find. To find evidence.*

Do you think the theory of biological evolution is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Again, I think people are looking for theories that fit the facts, so intuitive.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 3 Date of first interviews:08/05/2018 Setting: community centre**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*No.*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is male, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 75.7% employed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population under 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 49% of education participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 50% of Christian stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 males, part of the group of 6/10 employed/self-employed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 with a Degree, and part of the group of 5/10 Christian.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*Yes.*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*No*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*No. Informative interview.*

**Appendix 6. Peter. Second interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 3 Date of second interviews:08/05/2018 Setting: community centre**

**Parents/Family background**

Please tell me a little about your parents/careers:

*Dad was a naval officer and came out of the navy about the time I was born. Mum basically looked after the home although she was also a tutor. I have siblings. Mum died when I was 16. Dad eventually remarried. Basically, a stable and loving home.*

What do you think are/were their views on the two science theories?

*We were all root Christian, but we were not heavy church goers as kids. My father would have looked to the Bible.*

**Preschool years**

What is your earliest memory do you think?

*A concord stamp on an envelope.*

Do you recall being read bed time stories?

*Yes*

Were they nursery rhymes, religious stories, songs?

*A mix I think.*

At this age do you remember being read or told stories of how the world and life came about, and if so what were they?

*Yes. A children’s Bible. Broadly Christian and Biblical.*

At the time were these accounts believed by you?

*Yeh.*

**Primary school**

Can you recall your first days at school?

*Yes. My teacher was surprised I could read already. Mum taught me how to read*

Was your primary school a faith-based school?

*C of E aided. It was attached to the local Anglican church.*

What format did your primary school assembly take?

*Some linking to the Bible as there were visits to the local church around the corner.*

Did your primary school have designated science lessons?

*No*

Where there designated religious study lessons?

*Don’t think so.*

Before school lunch did the school children pray?

*Don’t know.*

What were you taught at primary school were the origins of the universe?

*It was broadly Biblical.*

What were you taught were the origins of humans?

*The same. Broadly Biblical.*

During your primary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*I don’t recall questioning what I was taught at that stage at all. So Biblical.*

**Secondary school**

Can you recall your first days at secondary school?

*Yes. It was bigger. And it was more specialised.*

Was it a faith-based school?

*There was a formal Anglican link.*

How did school assemblies differ from primary school?

*They were broadly the same.*

Did you study science to 16 or 18?

*Physics to 18 and other sciences to 16.*

Did you take a religious studies exam at 16 or 18?

*No, I don’t think I took an exam. To 14 or 16 I think.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of the universe?

*It was not taught. I guess not on the curriculum then.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of the universe?

*Biblical.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of humanity?

*Biology included evolution theory.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of humanity?

*Biblical.*

During your secondary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*I was confirmed as Anglican during that time. I didn’t at that time question evolution. The Big Bang was not taught.*

Did your secondary school science lessons allow debate about other explanations of life and the universe other than the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*No.*

Did your secondary school religious studies lessons allow debate about non-religious explanations of the origins of life and the universe?

*Fuzzy hazy memory. Just a Biblical framework.*

Did you ever feel culturally isolated or religiously isolated in science lessons at any school or college and if so can you explain the feeling?

*No.*

Did you ever feel you held two views in parallel during science lessons: one scientific and one religious, and if so can you tell me about the two parallel views?

*Yes. I was not pushing it to resolve the two views of the Bible and science. There was no need to decide between one or the other. I think later as adults we try and resolve stuff better. At school you are compartmentalising, not necessarily because you want to keep them apart but because you have no need to put them together. You are taught stuff in biology and different stuff in religious studies, but you don’t have to resolve the two. I think that parallel learning stops mostly in adult hood. I am sure there are things we don’t resolve but mainly adults try and come to a coherent view.*

What science books and science encyclopaedias do you remember from your childhood?

*There was encyclopaedia Britannica.*

**Adulthood**

Did you attend a university or college?

*University and Bible College*

What subjects did you study and to what level?

*MBA in business administration and Diploma in Biblical and Cross-Cultural Studies.*

Did your post school education affect your views of the Big Bang or biological evolution?

*Yes. Although most of your views are already formed. I did look into literal six-day creation at this point.*

Please tell me about the main events in your life following leaving school/college/university to today:

*Worked in insurance for two years. Got engaged. Married. Then children.*

During this period how have your religious views or science views changed?

*They are pretty well formed. I keep reading but no radical changes. Lennox puts out reasons to believe as a Christian. He engages in debates with other people. He is a man of integrity and scientific rigor. You go back to Newton and gravity. Why did Newton believe in gravity? Because he believed in a rational God who makes sense, who wants to engage with humanity. In creating a rational world, it all makes sense. If you don’t believe in a rational God, there is no reason why any scientific laws should work. A lot of the early scientists were Christians. They enjoyed discovering the wonders of the world, gravity and onwards. I think that can be true for evolution as well. Darwin for example was a committed giver to Christian missionary charities. He was sympathetic to Christian ministry in South America. To use Darwin’s evolution to exclude the Christian God is not a true reflection of what Darwin believed. The gap between God and science is more recent. As Christians we believe God existed before the world and there must have been some way how it all came to be. How did this table get to be here?* [Peter taps the table three times].*We trace it back through time and expansion of the universe and the rest. I have no problem if God chose to put the world into being through the Big Bang. And evolution likewise. There may be issues like what counted as the first humans. The creation story in the bible tells us what God wants us to know. It is not trying to tell us everything. It’s not a scientific handbook. There may well have been bits not included in the Bible story about how humans came to be. Christians work that through. We are trying to work through what is said in the Bible with what is scientifically evidenced.*

When you have received evidence on either theory have your views ever changed and then changed back?

*Yes. It depends on the evidence. Sometimes you may consider a non-Biblical thing and then go back to the Biblical that is familiar. But there is a double interpretation. I use the Bible to see what the world looks like and I use the world to see how to understand the Bible.*

Do you think you ever look for evidence that supports your existing views?

*Yes, but I am hopefully open to evidence that challenges.*

If you follow a particular religion what does that religion teach about the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*There is not a strong line taught. Within my church there are some who are convinced God created the world in six days and then had a rest on the seventh day, six literal 24-hour days, and they will take that from reading of the scriptures and they say it’s got to be that otherwise all the rest falls apart, in terms of Biblical theology. Others say no there is plenty of space for an understanding of evolution and the Big Bang, the world and life had to start somehow and there is evidence of dinosaur bones, some like to explain them through the Flood in early Genesis, others happily accept there is a scientific rational and we work our Christian understanding through that. It’s a broad church and on those issues there is no doctrinal line. There are movements within the wider church including in the evangelical church that is a Biblical creation movement that is convinced you have to believe in six-day creation or else all the rest falls apart. But there is a substantial body that don’t see that as a view, who are much happier to work through scientific explanations with our understanding of God.*

Have you watched TV documentaries or DVDs on the two science subjects?

*I watch the Christmas lectures. I think they are fascinating. More recently Attenborough’s Blue Planet. He is more of a convinced atheist I think. But it is still fascinating stuff. The more we learn about our world, like migrating penguins that then come back to the exact same spot, fascinating. The basic Christian view is that we are special, and we have a responsibility to care for, steward, the creation. Some Christians think the world is going to pot so therefore make sure people know God instead, but the bigger view, the more responsible view is how we care for creation and this care is a sign about what we think about God. He has given us the responsibility. That is the bigger view.*

Do you think scientists agree or disagree with each other on the origin of the universe and life?

*Often scientists claim too much, a current theory is assumed to be the truth and everything else is rubbish. I think you find great debate within the scientific community and a lot of pressure to perform, to publish and to claim the high ground. There are all sorts of issues within the scientific community in terms of ethics and how you claim stuff. There is turmoil in the scientific community. There is among some elements a rubbishing of Christian belief and theistic belief and yet there are a substantial number of high quality scientists who are Christian theists. There are some in my church. High performing scientists with an integrity of Christian belief, like Lennox.*

What do you know of the Steady State theory of the origin of the universe?

*Don’t know it.*

What do you know of the Cosmic theory of evolution?

*Don’t know it.*

Do you think it is possible to believe in God and accept the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution? Why?

*Yes, it’s possible. There may be some limits in terms of causality. Evolution and the Big Bang explain the occurrences but not the causes. Some say you can exclude God others say God started it off. God operates on a different level, in terms of initiative and reasons. The occurrences can be explained if God initiated them.*

Why do you think other people accept or reject the Big Bang theory?

*Most people want to accept the Big Bang because it fits scientific evidence. They want an explanation for the origins of life. For some people that exclude God they then have a reason for their existence without having to be a good person. Some people reject it because they feel threatened that there is an explanation without God. But God may well have used these methods to set the world and universe up and running.*

Why do you think other people accept/reject the theory of biological evolution?

*There are similarities. There is a sense of threat because we don’t get told about evolution or the Big Bang in the Bible. Therefore, it could be seen as a threat, undermining the faith, but I don’t think it has to.*

Have your religious beliefs ever changed because of new scientific findings?

*My childhood views were uninformed and largely unquestioning, then I came to Christian faith age 19, and I got more intellectual rigor I think by that, to challenge and discover, the need to find answers, to see how things hold together. I keep trying to find out. Galileo challenged ideas of the planets, and the church at that point was feeling threatened, even though the findings are consistent with the Christian faith.*

**Feelings about the theories**

How do you feel about the dark cold death of the universe given in the Big Bang theory? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy:

*Christian theology does think about the end of the universe as well. Some people think the world is going downhill anyway so ditch the physical world problems and just concentrate on the spiritual. But the bigger wider view and I think more valid is God is interested in us caring for creation. The rules of thermodynamics, what is declining, how did creation come out of that, because there is some energy to create and then there is decline. In theological terms there is the beauty of creation and then decline with sin and misery. There are elements of decline in the universe. There is a spiritual theological point of view that one day this world will come to an end and there will be a new heaven and earth.*

How do you feel about biological evolution theory and its implications for the place humanity is within the range of living things? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy:

*That concerns me because it affects so many things. The status of humans is fundamental to Christian theology and Jewish theology and probably Islamic theology. So, I think if we say humans are just another animal, kill your grandmother off because she is a burden on the state. There are lots of issues of how we see life, I see life as very special. One idea looks at what was special about the first humans. In the context of evolution what do we count as the first human? Are there elements we are not told about in the Bible? When do we see humanity, that is a key moment. How do we class the first humans and what is special about them? That is a whole big debate. In scripture we are given stuff that is important, and we have to interpret what God has given us.*

**Participant’s own summary**

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept/reject the Big Bang theory?

*I am prepared to run with the Big Bang. I can see it is a valid possibility. it is the big theory for origins scientifically at the moment, so I will run with it till someone thinks of a better one. If this is right, then it’s how God brought about creation.*

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept/reject the theory of biological evolution?

*I think the same. It’s a theory I am prepared to run with it. I can see a role for evolution. Darker butterflies thrived more in the industrial revolution because there was more soot. They became dominant over lighter coloured butterflies. I can see that’s evolution based on environment. Evolution explains a lot, but it does not explain reasons of origin.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 3 Date of second interview:08/05/2018 Setting: community centre**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*Yes. When the interviewee was talking about the table and where it came from he knocked on it three times.*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is male, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 75.7% employed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population under 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 49% of education participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 50% of Christian stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 males, part of the group of 6/10 employed/self-employed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 with a Degree, and part of the group of 5/10 Christian.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*Yes. Some minor historical.*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*No*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*No. It was a fascinating interview giving a lot of information.*

**Appendix 7. Dean. First interview transcript and post interview checklist.**

**Participant number: 4 Date of first interview: 16.05.2018 Setting: Community centre**

What is your age?

*43*

Are you a Student / Self Employed / Employed / Unemployed / Retired?

*Employed*

What area are you employed in?

*Telecommunications*

Would you describe yourself as an atheist / agnostic / theist / other?

*I believe in God*

What is your religion?

*I am a Muslim, Sunni.*

Would you describe yourself as culturally Muslim or practicing Muslim?

*I was culturally Muslim when I was younger. I am not now. I am now a Muslim.*

Do you attend a place of worship?

*Yes*

How often?

*I go every day*

What political party do you think you are most aligned to?

*I do not. You know there is no segregation between politics and religion. There was a state of Islam that Muhammad, peace be upon him, was ruling. We don’t have segregation of politics and religion. Unfortunately, nowadays politics is not a pristine form of politics. There is the corrupt and lying. That is why some scholars say we like the judiciary. We must not betray. I support who supports my religion.*

Did you study at school up to 16/18, or Degree/Masters/Doctorate?

*A Bachelors of Science in telecommunication.*

How would you describe your ethnicity?

*Arabic*

**CONFIRMATION OF UNDRSTANDING OF THE TERMS TO BE USED**

How you would define the Big Bang theory?

*Yes, I know about that. It is a theory. Expansion. There had to be a start of the universe. It is a theory.*

How you would define the theory of biological evolution?

*For me Darwinian evolution is a theory. It is just a theory. There are many scholars who say it is completely wrong. There is micro and macro evolution. If you say adaptation. Adaptation is part of the DNA. There is a Gnome for everyone.* *There is adaptation.* *Micro, which is adaptation can happen. It’s not a big deal. But Macro I do not accept. There is no evidence for it. In terms of Darwin there are variations in the theory and gaps and not all scientists agree with exactly the same. Gravity is a fact. You can measure everything about it, but Darwin is still a theory. Micro evolution can happen.*

**CURRENT VIEW OF THE TWO THEORIES**

Do you agree with/accept the Big Bang theory? Yes/No/In part and why?

*Partly. In terms of logical theory there was nothing and then the universe came and expanding. It makes sense. But it’s a theory and it can change obviously. There are some scientists that reject it. To be honest it’s a theory. It is in the Koran.*

Do you agree with/accept the theory of biological evolution? Yes/No/In part and why?

*Micro evolution, which is adaptation can happen. But Macro evolution I do not accept. I believe Allah created Adam by His hands.*

Do you think the Big Bank theory is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Intuitive yes. It is a theory. It makes sense.*

Do you think the theory of biological evolution is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*It is not intuitive. Something then becomes something else. It is not intuitive.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 4 Date of first interview: 16.05.2018 Setting: Community centre**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

No

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

No

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

No

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

Yes

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is male, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 75.7% employed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population under 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 49% of education participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 7% Muslim stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 males, part of the group of 6/10 employed/self-employed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 with a Degree, and part of the group of religious1/10 Muslim.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

No

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

No

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

No

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

No

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

No

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

No

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

Yes

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

No

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

Yes

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

Yes

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

No

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

No. It was informative.

**Appendix 8. Dean. Second interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 4 Date of second interview: 16.05.2018 Setting: Community centre**

**Parents/Family background**

Please tell me a little about your parents:

*My parents are normal people. They are not scientists. Religiously they are normal. My father does not have a beard. They are cultural Muslims. They believe God is one, we make some sins, you could believe what you believe.*

Please tell me a little about your wider family/siblings:

*They are similar to my parents. Some of them are culturally Muslim. Some are Muslim. Some yes, some no. Have you heard about Noah? Some of his sons did not believe in God. They, my family, my friends, are the root of my life. Allah has a wisdom, and everyone makes his choice and he will be accountable for his choice. After they put him in the grave he will see his whole life. There is nothing to compare to the punishment of Allah.*

**Preschool years**

What is your earliest memory do you think?

*Very nice memories. For me I made a disaster with my grandparent’s house. They used to store rice. I was young. I destroyed the storage. It spreads, the rice. My grandmother come in and she asked what is happening and she started to laugh.*

Do you recall being read bed time stories?

*Yes*

Were they nursery rhymes, religious stories, songs?

*From the Koran, stories from the Koran and the Prophets.*

At this age do you remember being read or told stories of how the world and life came about, and if so what were they?

*Yes, what is written in the Koran. Creation.*

At the time were these accounts believed by you?

*Yes.*

**Primary school**

Can you recall your first days at school?

*Yes. It was a good school. In Egypt.*

Was your primary school a faith-based school?

*Yes. It was a Christian school.*

What format did your primary school assembly take?

*Religious.*

Did your primary school have designated science lessons?

*Yes*

Where there designated religious study lessons?

*Yes. The Christian children would have theirs and we would have ours.*

Before school lunch did the school children pray?

*Yes*

What were you taught at primary school were the origins of the universe and humans?

*What was written in the Koran. Creation.*

During your primary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*In primary school years what was written in the Koran. Creation.*

**Secondary school**

Can you recall your first days at secondary school?

*Yes, it was the older part of the same school. It was very good.*

Was it a faith-based school?

*Yes. It was a Christian school. In religious areas we were taught separately from the Christians.*

Did school assemblies differ from primary school?

*No. They were religious.*

Did you study science to 16 or 18?

*Till I went to university.*

Did you study religious studies to 16 or 18?

*Again, till I went to university.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of the universe and life?

*The Big Bang was not taught. Evolution was taught.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of the universe?

*Creation by Allah.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of humanity?

*Evolution.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of humanity?

*Creation.*

During your secondary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*I did not believe in evolution. I believed in creation of the universe and Adam.*

Did your secondary school science lessons allow debate about other explanations of life and the universe other than the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*Yes. We had discussions. We would ask the teacher how is this true, they would say this is a very well-known scientific theory.* *We had discussions and could talk about creation. We did have to know evolution to get good marks. But I did not believe it.*

Did your secondary school religious studies lessons allow debate about non-religious explanations of the origins of life and the universe?

*Yes. No problem.*

Did you ever feel culturally isolated or religiously isolated in science lessons at any school or college and if so can you explain the feeling?

*No.*

Did you ever feel you held two views in parallel during science lessons: one scientific and one religious, and if so can you tell me about the two parallel views?

*Yes. You had to. To get good marks. We had discussions about creation, but we did have to know evolution to get good marks.*

What science books and science encyclopaedias do you remember from your childhood?

*Just lots of books.*

**Adulthood**

Did you attend a university or college?

*Yes. I went a year early to university. In Alexandria.*

What subjects did you study and to what level?

*Bachelor of Science.*

Did your post school education affect your views of the Big Bang or biological evolution?

*No.*

Please tell me about the main events in your life following leaving university to today.

*I moved to Russia then Egypt then England. I got married and had children.*

During this period how have your religious views changed?

*Yes. At one point I considered atheism. Atheism was appealing. Why should I not be free and enjoy my life, but I became more depressed. Then when I moved to the UK I was 35. That was before I got married and had my children. Then at 35 I became a Muslim.*

How have your views on the two science theories changed?

*Yes. I now think both are theories. The Big Bang may be how the universe was created.* *On evolution I think Micro, which is adaptation can happen. But Macro I do not accept. If science is true it will not contradict religion. And visa versa.*

When you have received evidence on either theory have your views ever changed and then changed back?

*Yes. Theories are theories. They are theories. Your view can change back.*

Do you think you ever look for evidence that supports your existing views?

*Yes, but I also see others. I watch all. If I speak to someone I would be ignorant. It would not be fair. I have to read about others.*

If you follow a particular religion what does that religion teach about the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*Different Muslims believe different things. Some think the Big Bang and evolution are right. Some think they are wrong.*

Have you watched TV documentaries or DVDs on the two science subjects?

*Yes*

What are your views of these documentaries/DVDs*?*

*I do not agree with some.*

Do you think scientists agree or disagree with each other on the origin of the universe and life?

*They disagree with each other. Especially on theories. The Big Bang and evolution are theories. Scientists disagree with each other.*

What do you know of the Steady State theory of the origin of the universe?

*I heard about it. But many scientists did not put it as a candidate.*

What do you know of the Cosmic theory of evolution?

*This is another theory, but the same. It is not put up as a candidate.*

Do you think it is possible to believe in God and accept the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution? Why?

*There are some Muslims who do. They believe that.*

Have your beliefs ever changed because of new scientific findings?

*Yes.*

**Feelings about the theories**

How do you feel about the dark cold death of the universe given in the Big Bang theory? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy

*Not happy. That will not happen because there is judgement.*

How do you feel about biological evolution theory and its implications for the place humanity is within the range of living things? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy

*Not happy. It is not true. Darwinian theory cannot explain the morals or ethics of humans. I don’t believe we are animals.*

**Participant’s own summary**

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept/reject the Big Bang theory?

*The Big Bang may be an explanation. But God started it.*

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept/reject the theory of biological evolution?

*On evolution I think Micro evolution, which is adaptation can happen. Evidence. But Macro I do not accept. I do not think there is evidence.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 4 Date of second interview: 16.05.2018 Setting: Community centre**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

No

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

No

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

No

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

Yes

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is male, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 75.7% employed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population under 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 49% of education participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 7% Muslim stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 males, part of the group of 6/10 employed/self-employed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 with a Degree, and part of the group of religious1/10 Muslim.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

No

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

No

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

No

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

No

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

No

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

No

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

Yes

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

No

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

Yes

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

Yes

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

No

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

No. It was a fascinating interview. Very informative.

**Appendix 9. Jill. First interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 5 Date of interview: 23.05.2018 Setting: interviewees house**

Please can you tell me your age?

*I am 69. I am 70 soon.*

Are you retired?

*Yes, I am.*

What did you do before you retired?

*Well, I have done a variety of things. Between being 16 and 21 I worked for Lloyds Bank. I call that my long ‘weary years’. Then through a fortunate process I was able to go off to university and do a theology degree. Then I trained as a Methodist Deaconess which is when I met my husband. After we had our third child I did a year’s PGCE and trained to be a teacher. So, I was a teacher and I was also a church school inspector. I also then ran my own consultancy on religious education and collective worship. I was able to help some schools pull themselves up to get an OFSTED good or even better.*

Would you describe yourself as an atheist, agnostic, theist?

*I believe in God.*

What is your religion?

*Christian, Methodist but also Church of England, as I have a licence in the Church of England and my main pastoral focus is there, but my main preaching and teaching is in the Methodist Church. I am a preacher on the Circuit Plan and I am a tutor for local preachers in training, so I have to help them through all their studies.*

Would you describe yourself as culturally Christian and a practicing Christian?

*Hmmm. No. Let me tell you about this. My father was an absolute atheist and he would not have anything to do with church. His constant theme song was ‘bloody bible thumpers bloody hypocrites’. He wouldn’t have anything to do with religion at all. How I came into the scheme of things was as a child I had a very very bad stammer, so I was very short on friends because it was so difficult to speak to me. I passed the 11 Plus and went to the local girls’ grammar school. I still didn’t have any friendship groups because of the school switch problem. When I was in my third year at secondary school it just so happened that in my form group there was a girl who came from generations of Methodists and at their church they were having the first round of the Stewardship Campaigns and their minister had said that everyone on Stewardship Sunday should bring somebody that was not a regular church goer. I think I was an easy target because I didn’t have any friends or connections. So, she asked me if I would go. She said, ‘my mum says you can come to tea first’. So anyway, my Dad was fuming and furious and stompy, but my mum felt sorry for me, here was I 14 with no friends. My mum was like the majority of the population with some vague idea that there probably is a God, but she had never been to church so she had no background in religion, but she was not against things like my father was. So, I started going to the church with my friend and then two years later I asked to be baptised, much to my father’s displeasure and horror. He would not speak to me, it was horrible. Then I became a member of the Methodist church and that’s how things progressed from there.*

What place of worship do you attend?

*I attend a Methodist Church and a C of E church. It’s the remnants of the 1960s and 1970s, I still believe in the Ecumenical Movement you see. Unless people experience things ecumenically they are never going to get fired up about it and quite frankly these days people don’t bloody care, and everyone is terribly parochial. So, what I try to do is, when I am a worship leader and when I am preaching, I try and bring bits from the other churches tradition into it. I know it’s very very very tiny and miniscule, but in my own way I am trying to live that ecumenical life that I want other people to try and emulate.*

What political party do you think you are most aligned to?

*Well, I have been a member of the Lib Dems for a long time and when we first moved here ten years ago I was quite active. I went door to dooring. I was up there on poling day. But I have fallen out with the Lib Dems over religious issues, because two years ago at their conference they voted to do away with collective worship in school and also, they became very iffy about religious education. I thought, I know compared to all the political issues in the world this may seem like a small thing, but for me I thought this is a deal breaker as far as I am concerned because the whole of my personal life pivots on that religious faith. And I know that children are not getting insight into anything religious. I am not just talking about Christian, I am talking about a whole range of faith things, and that’s the experience now in schools. So, I wrote to my local party person and copied it to the higher ups outlining why I could no longer support them and I didn’t have a single reply back. Except the local man sent me a copy of what they had said at the conference, which I already knew. I am not aligned now to any political party and I find that really hard because I do believe that women should have a political voice and be able to you know, voice that to their children and their grandchildren and stand up for it. I find myself in a complete quandary.*

How would you describe your ethnicity?

*White British.*

**CONFIRMATION OF UNDRSTANDING OF THE TERMS TO BE USED**

How you would define the Big Bang theory?

*I would say thinking back billions of years there was not anything except something very very tiny that contained all the seeds of everything. To me it’s a bit like a seed germinating and ‘bumph’ and out it comes. And the universe is still expanding. And that’s how I have a real link with my God because the God I believe in cannot help creating. That is his whole nature, creating. And therefore, you have to believe that the universe is expanding because that’s His whole nature.*

How you would define the theory of biological evolution?

*I would say that species, animals, all kinds of life and creatures have adapted over time to their circumstances and therefore they have changed biologically over all that long period of time adapting to their environments.*

**CURRENT VIEW OF THE TWO THEORIES**

Do you agree with or accept the Big Bang theory, yes, no or in part? And why?

*I accept it. I see God standing outside of time and there was a point when our Creator God set tings in motion. I don’t like the Genesis six-day creation story because I don’t think God is in a hurry like we are. We want everything done today and God is saying ‘have a look at the universe kids’. God is in a much slower pace than you lot that want everything done today. God is saying ‘just chill out a little bit and let things flow along, give yourself some time to do things’.*

Do you agree with or accept the theory of biological evolution, yes, no or in part and why?

*I accept it. Again, God is not in a hurry. This is a world in process and in progress. We are so egotistical, we say we are top of the tree. Who knows what phases comes next. There will be more changes, biological and whatever in the course of time. God is not in a hurry.*

Do you think the Big Bank theory is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Yes, its intuitive. If I had never heard of the Big Bang and you had come to me and asked what about the universe, I would never say ‘oh it always was’. I would say ‘I believe in this Creator God and I think there was a time when he just started things off’.*

Do you think the theory of biological evolution is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Indeed, its intuitive, because it’s how He did it.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 5 Date of first interview: 23.05.2018 Setting: interviewees house**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No. It was very relaxed.*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*No.*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is female, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 19.5% retired in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 20% of total UK population over 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 49% of education participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 50% Christian stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 females, part of the group of 3/10 retired, part of the group of 3/10 over 65,part of the group of 5/10 with a Degree, and part of the group of 5/10 Christian.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*No*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*No*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*No. However the interview was very relaxed with cups of tea and cake.*

**Appendix 10. Jill. Second interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 5 Date of second interview: 23.05.2018 Setting: interviewees house**

**Parents/Family background**

Please tell me about your parents and siblings.

*My dad was an atheist, I am not sure about my mum. None of my siblings or family was religious or had a faith. My dad used to say to me, he didn’t like me at all, he said I was a bloody throw back. And my maternal grandad said I was mad. But that was their way of deflecting the questions. They don’t have to think about it themselves because they say that person is mad or that person is crazy. My parents and my siblings did not even think about evolution or the Big Bang. I am the only person in my family that has passed any exam at all, so they are not thinkers. They just go day to day, day to day, day to day.*

**Preschool years**

What is your earliest memory do you think?

*My earliest memories were just of being afraid, because my dad was just such a horrible horrible man. My brother used to react to my home environment by just being very angry, shouting and screaming and throwing things. I just withdrew. That’s why I had a stammer I think. I withdrew into an internal world. Because I was terrified. And if ever I looked like I was going to cry he put his pointing finger at my face and said, ‘if you bloody cry I will give you something to bloody cry about’. So, my brother and I, well I guess today you would say it was my father being abusive.*

Do you recall being read bed time stories?

*No, never, never, never.*

Any nursery rhymes, religious stories, songs in the house?

*Oh no, never.*

At this age do you remember being read or told stories of how the world and life came about, and if so what were they?

*No, never. It was never brought up.*

At that time what do you think you believed?

*Nothing. I did not come across anything religious or thinking about things until I was at school.*

**Primary school**

Can you recall your first days at school?

*It was so different to home life. I remember I loved the hymns at school. I am sure at that age I did not understand them. I was a very early reader. I was intellectually bright, but I did not have any encouragement so to be. But I was a really fluent reader at 5 to 6, I could just pick it up. It was so different. Secure. When I taught at school I was so good because I knew children lived in this other world. And at nine o’clock they were supposed to step from that world into another world. Assembly was needed. There had to be sometime between nine and half past nine for them, to get them and embed them into a different kind of environment, so they would be prepared to learn. If your heart and brain are scrambled up because of fear or because you have not had enough to eat or something, neglect, how can they learn?*

Was your primary school a faith-based school?

*No.*

What format did your primary school assembly take?

*Hymns, prays, bible reading. That was absolutely standard then. It was expected to be like that.*

Did your primary school have designated science lessons?

*Never had any science lessons.*

Where there designated religious study lessons?

*No.*

Before school lunch did the school children pray?

*No*

What were you taught at primary school were the origins of the universe?

*Nothing at all.*

What were you taught were the origins of humans?

*Nothing at all.*

During your primary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*Nothing. It just did not come up at school or home.*

**Secondary school**

Can you recall your first days at secondary school?

*Yes, I do indeed. I was terrified. I had this stammer and I had been in a small primary school and now I was in an enormous grammar school. And it was very embarrassing cause the other girls, it was a girl’s grammar, they all had nice pencil cases, nice everything and I got bugger all. And if I needed a new pencil or new pen I practically had to beg my father for some money to go down the local shop. And because of our circumstances, I understand now, washing and drying was not easy, so I had one skirt that had to last all term. My granddaughters have five and two spares. You know. So, I guess I was non-too plain. So that’s horrible.*

Was it a faith-based school?

*No*

How did school assemblies differ from primary school?

*Similar. The headmistress always did it, sailing into silence. There would be a hymn and there would be a prayer and there would be a Bible story, New Testament based, not Genesis. She might at the end of it draw out a moral, ‘and this is why you shouldn’t fight in the playground’. But that was it.*

Did you study science to 16 or 18?

*16*

Did you take religious studies to 16 or 18?

*16*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of the universe and life?

*Nothing. You did this experiment or that experiment or this is this frog or that frog. You cut it open and you looked inside. But it was never related back to anything. Origin of the universe never came up. We didn’t do evolution.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of the universe and life?

*Nothing. It was mainly New Testament. You learnt these Bible stories and your test was you could write it all out*

During your secondary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*I never thought about it. I was 14 when I started going to church but that was New Testament and at school it did not come up as a topic. I was 16 and I wanted to be baptised and made a member of the church. But it was all New Testament not Old Testament. When I was 18 I knew I had a nagging to become a preacher. I knew that was what I was to become.*

Did your secondary school science lessons or religious studies lessons allow debate about any explanations of life and the universe?

*No. We were never allowed to talk in lessons. The modus operandi at the grammar school was the teacher would stand at the front, would tell you what you needed to know, and you wrote notes that you then used for the homework project or you wrote notes and you did a little experiment. Talking was frowned upon and it was even frowned upon to put up our hand to ask a question. They would say ‘well you should have been listening’.*

Did you ever feel culturally isolated or religiously isolated in science lessons at any school or college and if so can you explain the feeling?

*No. It was never really an issue. It was assumed everybody was vaguely Christian. But the culture going back 55 years people were more leery that they weren’t church goers and people like my dad were the exception.*

Did you ever feel you held two views in parallel during science lessons: one scientific and one religious, and if so can you tell me about the two parallel views?

*No. people did not discuss religion. In the same way back then people did not talk about sex. It was one of those things that was just in the background.*

What science books and science encyclopaedias do you remember from your childhood?

*None*

**Adulthood**

What happened after you left school at 16?

*I worked for Lloyds Bank for a few years from 16 then I felt a call to do something else, a bit more church based. I knew I could not do it without A levels. While I was wondering this I saw an advert in the Methodist Recorder that the Joseph Rank organisation had given some grant money to the Methodist mission in the east end of London to help young people who had not got the education qualification they needed. What they were offering was for ten young people to go in for a year, you went in in September, and they would coach you to do two A levels in the mornings and in the afternoons and evenings you worked on the missions. They would give you accommodation and a hot meal a day. So, between September and the exams in May we were coached for these A Levels. I was 21. They were Sociology and RE.*

What university did you go to and what did you study?

*Birmingham university. A degree in theology.*

Did your post school education affect your views of the Big Bang or biological evolution?

*Yes. It was not till I was at university that I had any experience of discussing religious things. Oh my god this was marvellous. I loved the seminars at university. I felt oh my god. I read Genesis was not written first, it was written during the Babylonian exile. Looking back now I never believed in the seven days of creation. I looked on it as a bit of poetry.*

Please tell me about the main events in your life following university to today.

*At 24 I met my husband. He had done a degree in physics and he had taught science at a comprehensive school. We had three children. We now have grandchildren. I had various jobs and now I am retired, and we moved ten years ago.*

How have your views on the two science theories changed over this period?

*I didn’t know about them at school and at university and after that you learn things. I found out about them through reading or discussions or television documentaries. I agree with them now.*

When you have received evidence on either theory have your views ever changed and then changed back?

*No. I have always thought we should never be afraid of looking at new stuff. Christians should be people that look for truth. Jesus said I will lead you into truth, we should not be frightened of looking into things if we are secure in our faith it will not knock our faith down. Anything people say may enhance our ideas and give us a bigger view. Who in their right mind can think with my puny little brain ‘oh I know everything there is to know about God’. Sometimes you may not like people but and what they think but get over it.*

Do you think you ever look for evidence that supports your existing views?

*I look for everything and look at all views.*

What does your religion teach about the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*Within Methodism and the C of E it is very broad. There are some people that do not engage their brain. They are in their little comfort zone. But others within both churches like to read and like to discuss. You can accept both theories and be a Methodist or member of the Church of England.*

Have you watched TV documentaries or DVDs on the two science subjects?

*Yes*

What are your views of these documentaries and DVDs?

*Very good. Brian Cox and David Attenborough.*

Do you think scientists agree or disagree with each other on the origin of the universe and life?

*There are scientists that disagree with other scientists because however clever people are at the end of the day people are still people. Scientists hold onto positions and they do not like their positions weakened by acknowledging there are strengths in other people’s positions.*

What do you know of the Steady State theory of the origin of the universe?

*Yes. I have heard of that, but I think the Big Bang happened.*

What do you know of the Cosmic theory of evolution?

*Yes. There is a lot of rubbish on Sky TV about life on earth originating somewhere else and then coming here.*

Do you think it is possible to believe in God and accept the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution? And why?

*Yes, I do indeed. The first Methodist minister I worked with said I was anti-Bible. I am not anti-Bible at all. I think there are different ways of looking at the Bible. I said to him what about fossils? Yes, you can believe in God and be a Christian and accept the Big Bang and evolution.*

Have your religious beliefs ever changed because of new scientific findings?

*Yes, because when I became a Christian I did not know about these theories. Then years after I heard about them and my views changed, and I think God used the Big Bang and evolution in his plan for us.*

**Feelings about the theories**

How do you feel about the dark cold death of the universe given in the Big Bang theory? Are you happy, unconcerned, not happy?

*I am a bit uneasy about it. What I believe is when our bodies die we go onto another level of existence, Heaven, I have no idea where it is, how it is accessed. It gives me a headache to think about it. That is different from the physical world that will end. The spiritual world is separate and different.*

How do you feel about biological evolution theory and its implications for the place humanity is within the range of living things?

*Evolution does not deplete the human position. I think God calls upon humankind to do their best according to the stage they are at. Children gradually take care of their environment, gradually take responsibility for their own actions and grow into that. At our level of evolution, we are called by God to look after the world, because we have interfered with it so much.*

**Participant’s own summary**

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept or reject the Big Bang theory?

*I believe in the Big Bang because it makes intellectual sense to me that that is how the universe started in the absence of any other ideas that make any sense to me. When the scientists said we live in an expanding universe it made even more sense. It makes logical sense because God’s chief nature is creation.*

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept or reject the theory of biological evolution?

*I accept it. If mankind stopped being so egotistical about it saying God must have created us as we are, hang on, look at the mess we have made of the world, look at the mess of our lives, do you really think this is the best that God can do? I think they are in for a shock that things are going to continue to evolve from here. God is not in a hurry. Things evolve slowly and gently and also, I think it is an act of a merciful God that shows us things have evolved and so people should have a bit of faith in the process.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 5 Date of second interview: 23.05.2018 Setting: interviewees house**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No. It was very relaxed and nice. Cups of tea and cake too.*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*Yes. When Jill was describing her father being angry she explained he pointed his finger in her face and so to illustrate this she pointed her finger.*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is female, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 19.5% retired in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 20% of total UK population over 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 49% of education participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 50% Christian stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 females, part of the group of 3/10 retired, part of the group of 3/10 over 65,part of the group of 5/10 with a Degree, and part of the group of 5/10 Christian.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*Only minor historical details. Also, if her mother believed in God.*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*No*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*No. However the interview was very relaxed. Cups of tea and cake. Beautiful house too.*

**Appendix 11. Ella. First interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 6 Date of first interview: 26.06.2018 Setting: Community Centre**

Please can you tell me your age?

*19*

Are you employed or a student or unemployed?

*I am employed. I work in a shop.*

Would you describe yourself as an atheist or agnostic or theist or other?

*I believe in God.*

What is your religion?

*I’m Catholic.*

Would you describe yourself as culturally Christian as well as a Catholic?

*Erm. Yeh I guess so cause my parents are too.*

Do you attend a church?

*Yeh but not every week. Just sometimes.*

What political party do you think you are most aligned to?

*Not sure really.*

Did you study at school up to 16 or 18?

*18.*

How would you describe your ethnicity?

*White British I think.*

**CONFIRMATION OF UNDRSTANDING OF THE TERMS TO BE USED**

How would you define the Big Bang theory?

*We did a bit about it at school. Everything started off like this [hand gesture of something very small between her thumb and first finger] and then it kind of went bang and got bigger [hand gesture using both hands from being together to both hands arm’s length wide apart]. And it’s still getting bigger. They thought that it might go back but now they think it will keep going.*

How would you define the theory of biological evolution?

*We did that in school too. It’s kind of how things evolved from their ancestors over millions and millions of years. So, birds evolved from dinosaurs and humans evolved from apes or something. The more they changed the better and stronger they were. And animals that didn’t change colour could be seen and so could be caught easily. So, animals that changed survived. That’s survival of the fittest.*

**CURRENT VIEW OF THE TWO THEORIES**

Do you agree with or accept the Big Bang theory in whole or in part?

*Yeh I agree with it. It happened. It has evidence like the universe is expanding.*

Do you agree with or accept the theory of biological evolution in whole or in part?

*Yeh I agree with that too. There’s evidence like fossils and the birds on the islands Charles Darwin went to. The beaks are different on each island and the tortoises are different on each island because they have evolved differently on each island.*

Do you think the Big Bank theory is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Erm intuitive or not. Intuition. Yeh I think intuitive cause it makes sense. It’s kind of obvious it happened.*

Do you think the theory of biological evolution is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*That’s intuitive too cause it makes sense. You can see how faces are similar. When you see a baby monkey and its mum it’s just like a human. So yeh intuitive. It makes sense.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 6 Date of first interview: 26.06.2018 Setting: Community Centre**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No.*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No.*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*Yes. The interviewee used hand gestures to explain the definition of the Big Bang. This was a suitable way of helping her explain her understanding of the theory.*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes.*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is female, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 75.7% employed/self-employed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population under 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 51% of education non-participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 50% Christian stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 females, part of the group of 7/10 employed/self-employed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 without a Degree, and part of the group of 5/10 Christian.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No.*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No.*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*No.*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No.*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes.*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*No.*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes.*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes.*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes.*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*No. Interesting interview from a younger participant.*

**Appendix 12. Ella. Second interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 6 Date of second interview: 26.06.2018 Setting: Community Centre**

**Parents/Family background**

Please tell me a little about your parents and siblings.

*Mum and dad. Both work. And I have three brothers.*

What do you think are their views on the two science theories?

*Don’t know. Never talk about science with them.*

**Preschool years**

What is your earliest memory do you think?

*Holidays I guess. Camping. That was fun.*

Do you recall being read bed time stories?

*Yeh.*

Were they nursery rhymes, religious stories, songs?

*Yeh. We would do songs and rhymes and a story book and a game, like snap.*

At this age do you remember being read or told stories of how the world and life came about, and if so what were they?

*Bible stories I guess. God created the world and Adam and Eve and then there was the flood. All the animals going in two by two.*

At the time were these accounts believed by you?

*Yeh. I was little. I believed them.*

**Primary school**

Can you recall your first days at school?

*Yeh. A bit scary. I cried a lot.*

Was your primary school a religious school?

*Yeh it was a Catholic school.*

What format did your primary school assembly take?

*A song or a hymn and a story.*

Did your primary school have designated science lessons?

*Don’t think so.*

Where there designated religious study lessons?

*Err not sure. Kind of. We would go to church too.*

Before school lunch did the school children pray?

*No.*

What were you taught at primary school were the origins of the universe and life on earth?

*God created it.*

During your primary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*I guess I believed what I was told. God created everything.*

**Secondary school**

Can you recall your first days at secondary school?

*Yeh it was massive.*

Was it a religious school?

*Yeh Catholic.*

How did school assemblies differ from primary school?

*Same. More boring.*

Did you study science to 16 or 18?

*16*

Did you take a religious studies exam at 16 or 18?

*16*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of the universe?

*We did a project on it. The Big Bang. It was a Catholic priest that figured it out. Can’t remember his name.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of the universe?

*I don’t think we were.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of humanity?

*We were taught evolution in biology lessons.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of humanity?

*Can’t remember. I don’t think it was in the lessons.*

During your secondary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*I guess what was told us by the teachers. So, we evolved. And the universe started with the Big Bang.*

Did your secondary school science lessons allow debate about other explanations of life and the universe other than the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*Yeh. We talked about God in science lessons sometimes. The teacher said God maybe started the Big Bang and evolution. I think God did do that too.*

Did your secondary school religious studies lessons allow debate about non-religious explanations of the origins of life and the universe?

*Don’t remember. I don’t think we learnt about that in those lessons.*

Did you ever feel culturally isolated or religiously isolated in science lessons at any school?

*No.*

Did you ever feel you held two views in parallel during science lessons: one scientific and one religious?

*No.*

What science books and science encyclopaedias do you remember from your childhood?

*Just books in school.*

**Adulthood**

Did you attend a university or college?

*No.*

Please tell me about the main events in your life following leaving school.

*I got a job. I go on holidays. And we got a dog.*

During this period have your religious view or views of religion changed?

*No.*

Have your views on the two science theories changed in this period?

*No.*

When you have received evidence on either theory have your views ever changed and then changed back?

*No.*

Do you think you ever look for evidence that supports your existing views?

*No.*

If you follow a particular religion what does that religion teach about the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*I think the Pope said they happened. I think it’s ok to believe in them if you are a Catholic.*

Do you agree or disagree with these views?

*Yeh I think they happened.*

Have you watched TV documentaries or DVDs on the two science subjects?

*Not really.*

Do you think scientists agree or disagree with each other on the origin of the universe and life?

*Don’t know.*

What do you know of the Steady State theory of the origin of the universe?

*Don’t know about that.*

What do you know of the Cosmic theory of evolution?

*Don’t know about that.*

Do you think it is possible to believe in God and accept the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution and why?

*Yeh of course you can. God started the Big Bang and then he started evolution.*

Why do you think other people accept or reject the Big Bang and evolution?

*Don’t know. It’s up to them. They can believe what they want.*

Have your religious beliefs ever changed because of new scientific findings?

*I guess so. I believe in the Big Bang and evolution. But when I was young I didn’t.*

**Feelings about the theories**

How do you feel about the dark cold death of the universe given in the Big Bang theory? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy

*Not bothered.*

How do you feel about biological evolution theory and its implications for the place humanity is within the range of living things? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy

*Not bothered.*

**Participant’s own summary**

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept the Big Bang theory?

*Cause it happened and there’s evidence like galaxies moving apart and the universe is getting bigger so at one point it must have been together and small.*

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept the theory of biological evolution?

*Cause there’s evidence for it. Fossils and Darwin and stuff.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 6 Date of second interview: 26.06.2018 Setting: Community Centre**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No. Good setting.*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No.*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*No.*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes.*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is female, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 75.7% employed/self-employed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population under 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 51% of education non-participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 50% Christian stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 females, part of the group of 7/10 employed/self-employed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 without a Degree, and part of the group of 5/10 Christian.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No.*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No.*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*Only minor details.*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No.*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes.*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*No.*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes.*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes.*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes.*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*No. An interesting interview from a younger participant.*

**Appendix 13. Josh. First interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 7 Date of first interview: 2/7/2018 Setting: Temple Hall**

Please can you tell me your age?

*Yeh I’m 18.*

Are you a student or working or looking for a job ?

*I am looking for a job.*

Would you describe yourself as an atheist or agnostic or theist?

*I believe in God.*

What is your religion?

*I am Hindu.*

Would you describe yourself as culturally Hindu or practicing Hindu or both?

*Both.*

What political party do you think you are most aligned to?

*Erm, none of them.*

Did you study at school up to 16 or 18?

*18*

How would you describe your ethnicity?

*Err, British Indian.*

**CONFIRMATION OF UNDRSTANDING OF THE TERMS TO BE USED**

How would you define the Big Bang theory?

*It’s how the world and universe started. Everything was together, small and together. Then it exploded and kind of went everywhere, in all directions. Then the stars and planets formed. And galaxies.*

How you would define the theory of biological evolution?

*That comes from Charles Darwin. Everything that lives can trace back to one thing at the start. So, if you take us and go back and you take another animal and go back we will have the same ancestor. Over time some types of animals die out and the ones that don’t die out keep going and survive.*

**CURRENT VIEW OF THE TWO THEORIES**

Do you agree with or accept the Big Bang theory in whole or in part and why?

*Yeh it’s true. I was taught about it at school.*

Do you agree with or accept the theory of biological evolution in whole or in part and why?

*Yeh that’s true too. That was in biology.*

Do you think the Big Bank theory is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Err its intuitive. Cause it seems right.*

Do you think the theory of biological evolution is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*That intuitive too. Its believable.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

Participant number: 7 Date of first interview: 02/07/2018 Setting: Temple hall.

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

No. Very relaxed. Quiet hall.

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

No.

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

No.

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

Yes.

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is male, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 4.8% unemployed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population under 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 51% of education non-participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the third largest religious group, (Hindu), stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 males, part of the group of non-retired1/10 unemployed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 without a Degree, and part of the group of religious1/10 Hindu.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

No.

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

No.

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

No.

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

No.

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

No.

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

No.

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

Yes.

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

No.

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

Yes.

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

Yes.

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

Yes.

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

No. It was an interesting interview in an interesting Temple.

**Appendix 14. Josh. Second interview transcript and post interview check list.**

Participant number: 7 Date of second interview: 02/07/2018 Setting: Temple hall.

**Parents/Family background**

Please tell me a little about your parents and family.

*I live with my mum and dad and brother.*

What do you think are their views on the two science theories?

*Don’t know. We all don’t talk about science.*

When you do chat what do you talk about?

*Football.*

**Preschool years**

What is your earliest memory do you think?

*Maybe at the temple. Or going to school.*

Do you recall being read bed time stories?

*Yeh.*

Were they nursery rhymes, religious stories, songs?

*Yeh all them.*

At this age do you remember being read or told stories of how the world and life came about, and if so what were they?

*Yeh lots of stories about that. In my religion there are lots of different stories about that.*

At the time were these accounts believed by you?

*Yeh.*

**Primary school**

Can you recall your first days at school?

*Yeh. Didn’t like it. I wanted to stay at home.*

Was your primary school a faith-based school?

*No.*

What format did your primary school assembly take?

*Just like a school assembly. Telling us stuff or warning us about things.*

Did your primary school have designated science lessons?

*We did science but not in a science lesson.*

Where there designated religious study lessons?

*No. There was someone that came into school talk about religion.*

Before school lunch did the school children pray?

*No.*

What were you taught at primary school were the origins of the universe?

*We had someone come in about that. I think he said about the Big Bang.*

What were you taught were the origins of humans?

*We did some stuff on Charles Darwin. A project.*

During your primary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*At primary school. I think I believed the stories I had been told by my parents and at the Temple. I didn’t really get into science till I was at my next school.*

**Secondary school**

Can you recall your first days at secondary school?

*Yeh. It was ok.*

Was it a faith-based school?

*No.*

How did school assemblies differ from primary school?

*Same.*

Did you study science to 16 or 18?

*16*

Did you take a religious studies exam at 16 or 18?

*We did that early. I think 15.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of the universe?

*Science. I think the Big Bang.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of the universe?

*Can’t remember that coming up at all.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of humanity?

*Evolution.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of humanity?

*The lessons weren’t like that. It was about festivals and the history of religions.*

During your secondary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*I guess what we did in science. The universe came from the Big Bang and we evolved.*

Did your secondary school science lessons allow debate about other explanations of life and the universe other than the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*No. It was just science.*

Did your secondary school religious studies lessons allow debate about non-religious explanations of the origins of life and the universe?

*No. That didn’t come into it.*

Did you ever feel culturally isolated or religiously isolated in science lessons at any school or college and if so can you explain the feeling?

*No.*

Did you ever feel you held two views in parallel during science lessons or school: one scientific and one religious, and if so can you tell me about the two parallel views?

*Yeh. You kind of keep them apart. The creation stories in my religion are different to science. Science is different. You kind of have two boxes in your mind. You put your religion in one and the science you are taught in the other. As a Hindu you kind of have boxes in your mind already because we have so many different stories of creation. Lots of different ones. They are different and they each tell a different way the universe was created. So, you already are able to have different things in your mind at the same time if you know what I mean. So, when you then start doing science its easy. You put that in a new box in your brain. So, you have lots of things that you believe. Lots of them are not, [pause], they are not compatible with each other, but you still believe them all. Being a Hindu is more about trying to be a good person.*

What science books and science encyclopaedias do you remember from your childhood?

*The school books. And the library ones.*

**Adulthood**

Do you think you will attend a university or college?

*Not sure.*

During your life so far how have your religious views changed?

*They haven’t.*

During your life so far how have your views on the two science theories changed?

*I didn’t know about them when I was young. Then I got taught about them at school. So, what I think about them has changed.*

When you have received evidence on either theory have your views ever changed and then changed back?

*No.*

Do you think you ever look for evidence that supports your existing views?

*No.*

What does your religion think about the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*It depends who you speak to. Different Hindus believe different things. You can accept science and the Big Bang and evolution and be a Hindu. That’s not a problem. It’s not a religion that says you can only believe one thing that is in one book and that’s it. You can believe what you want.*

Have you watched TV documentaries or DVDs on the two science subjects?

*I think we watched stuff on them at school on TV in the classroom.*

What are your views of these documentaries/DVDs?

*Yeh they were alright. They were good.*

Do you think scientists agree or disagree with each other on the origin of the universe and life?

*I think the agree. I think so.*

What do you know of the Steady State theory of the origin of the universe?

*I don’t know about that one.*

What do you know of the Cosmic theory of evolution?

*I don’t know about that.*

Do you think it is possible to believe in God and accept the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution and why?

*Yeh. There is no problem in being a Hindu and accepting science. I am a Hindu and I also believe in science.*

Have your religious beliefs ever changed because of new scientific findings?

*No. They are different things.*

**Feelings about the theories**

How do you feel about the dark cold death of the universe given in the Big Bang theory? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy

*Not concerned about it.*

How do you feel about biological evolution theory and its implications for the place humanity is within the range of living things? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy

*Not concerned about that.*

**Participant’s own summary**

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept the Big Bang theory?

*Because I was taught about it. There is evidence that it happened. The universe is getting bigger.*

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept the theory of biological evolution?

*I was taught about it in school. There is evidence for it. Fossils. Dinosaurs. How animals evolved. It’s true.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 7 Date of second interview: 02/07/2018 Setting: Temple Hall.**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

No. Very relaxed. Quiet hall.

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

No.

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

No.

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

Yes.

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is male, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 4.8% unemployed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population under 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 51% of education non-participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the third largest religious group, (Hindu), stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 males, part of the group of non-retired 1/10 unemployed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 without a Degree, and part of the group of religious 1/10 Hindu.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

No.

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

No.

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

No.

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

No.

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

No.

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

No.

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

Yes.

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

No.

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

Yes.

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

Yes.

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

Yes.

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

No. It was an interesting interview in an interesting Temple.

**Appendix 15. Sue. First interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 8 Date of first interview: 10/07/2018 Setting: Community Centre**

Please can you tell me your age?

*31*

Are you employed?

*Yes. I work in retail.*

Do you believe in God?

*Hmm. [pause]. I am an agnostic.*

Do you practice a religion?

*I am a Buddhist.*

Would you describe yourself as culturally Buddhist?

*No. I converted to Buddhism some years ago. I am not culturally anything.*

What political party do you think you are most aligned to?

*Labour.*

Did you study at school or college up to 16 or 18, or go to university?

*18.*

How would you describe your ethnicity?

*Hmm. I suppose if I had to it would be white British.*

**CONFIRMATION OF UNDRSTANDING OF THE TERMS TO BE USED**

How would you define the Big Bang theory?

*It’s a theory of how the universe came to be here from a Big Bang [uses her hands to show getting bigger].*

How would you define the theory of biological evolution?

*That’s another theory. It’s the theory of how living things have evolved over millions of years from other living things that are now extinct.*

**CURRENT VIEW OF THE TWO THEORIES**

Do you agree with the Big Bang theory and why?

*Yes, I think it happened because there is evidence for it.*

What would you say the evidence is?

*I would say because it is expanding.*

Do you agree with the theory of biological evolution and why?

*Yes, I think that happened too. Because there is evidence for it.*

What do you think is the evidence for it?

*Fossils I think.*

Do you think the Big Bank theory is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Its intuitive. Because it seems right that over time things change.*

Do you think the theory of biological evolution is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Its intuitive for the same reason. Over time things change.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 8 Date of first interview: 10/07/2018 Setting: Community Centre**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No.*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No.*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*Yes. Hand gestures to help explain the Big Bang.*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes.*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is female, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 75.7% employed/self-employed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population under 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 51% of education non-participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the fourth largest religious group, (Buddhist), stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 females, part of the group of 6/10 employed/self-employed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 without a Degree, and part of the group of religious 1/10 Buddhist.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No.*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No.*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*Only minor bits of information.*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No.*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes.*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*No.*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes.*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes.*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes.*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*No. It was an interesting interview from a different religious perspective.*

**Appendix 16. Sue. Second interview transcript and post interview check list.**

**Participant number: 8 Date of second interview: 10/07/2018 Setting: Community Centre**

**Parents/Family background**

Please tell me a little about your parents and siblings.

*I grew up with my mum and my brother and sister just down the road. No different to most people. Not religious. They were not political either.*

What do you think are their views on the two science theories?

*I would not know. I have never discussed science with them. Religion yes but not science.*

**Preschool years**

What is your earliest memory do you think?

*I have a few memories of being very small. In the garden playing. And visiting places.*

Do you recall being read bed time stories?

*Not really. No.*

At this age do you remember being read or told stories of how the world and life came about, and if so what were they?

*No. I don’t remember any.*

**Primary school**

Can you recall your first days at school?

*Yes. Mixed memories. Some happy and some not happy I think.*

Was your primary school a faith-based school?

*No.*

What format did your primary school assembly take?

*I think we had one per week. The headmaster gave information and a talk I think.*

Did your primary school have designated science lessons?

*No.*

Where there designated religious study lessons?

*No.*

Before school lunch did the school children pray?

*No way.*

What were you taught at primary school were the origins of the universe and life?

*I don’t think we were taught anything about that at primary school.*

During your primary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*I don’t think I believed anything specifically. We did Christmas and Easter but nothing more.*

**Secondary school**

Can you recall your first days at secondary school?

*Yes. It was ok. I enjoyed it. Especially looking back at it.*

Was it a faith-based school?

*No.*

Did school assemblies differ from primary school?

*No, I don’t think so.*

Did you study science to 16 or 18?

*16*

Did you take a religious studies exam at 16 or 18?

*16*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of the universe?

*I am not sure. I am not sure we did it.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of the universe and life?

*I don’t think that came up in the lessons.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of life?

*That would have been evolution.*

During your secondary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*Maybe God. Maybe evolution.*

Did your secondary school science lessons allow debate about other explanations of life and the universe other than science theories?

*No.*

Did you ever feel culturally isolated or religiously isolated in science lessons at any school or college and if so can you explain the feeling?

*No.*

Did you ever feel you held two views in parallel during science lessons: one scientific and one religious, and if so can you tell me about the two parallel views?

*No.*

What science books and science encyclopaedias do you remember from your childhood?

*Just the science books at school.*

**Adulthood**

Please tell me about the main events in your life following leaving school.

*I did a bit of travelling. I have had a few different jobs. I moved out. That’s about it.*

During this period how have your religious views changed?

*Quite a bit. I have always been interested in religion and thinking. Then a few years ago I started looking at Buddhism.*

How have your views on the two science theories changed?

*I think quite a bit too. I only really started to be interested in it when I was older. I think both are true.*

When you have received evidence on either theory have your views ever changed and then changed back?

*No.*

Do you think you ever look for evidence that supports your existing views?

*Not really. I enjoy reading about lots of things.*

What does your religion teach about the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*Nothing. It does not teach about science. Buddhism is about being a better person, helping others, doing what you can to stop suffering. That’s more important. I think most Buddhists are ok with evolution and the Big Bang. I think they are ok too.*

Have you watched TV documentaries or DVDs on the two science subjects?

*Yes. I think the ones by Brian Cox are the best.*

Do you think scientists agree or disagree with each other on the origin of the universe and life?

*I think they sometimes disagree. The only way you can go forward in knowing what is true is by changing what you believe sometimes.*

Do you know about the Steady State theory of the origin of the universe?

*No*

Do you know of the Cosmic theory of evolution?

*No.*

**Feelings about the theories**

How do you feel about the dark cold death of the universe given in the Big Bang theory? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy

*That’s life. That’s what happens.*

How do you feel about biological evolution theory and its implications for the place humanity is within the range of living things? Happy/Unconcerned/Not happy

*That does not concern me either. Neither of those things concern me. Being a good person, helping others. That is more important.*

**Participant’s own summary**

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept the Big Bang theory?

*There is no evidence against it. It has evidence for it.*

How would you sum up the reasons why you accept the theory of biological evolution?

*The same. There is no real evidence against it but there is evidence for it.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

**Participant number: 8 Date of second interview: 10/07/2018 Setting: Community Centre**

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No.*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No.*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*No.*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes.*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is female, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 75.7% employed/self-employed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population under 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 51% of education non-participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the fourth largest religious group, (Buddhist), stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 females, part of the group of 6/10 employed/self-employed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 without a Degree, and part of the group of religious 1/10 Buddhist.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No.*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No.*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*Only minor bits of information.*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No.*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes.*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*No.*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes.*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes.*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes.*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*No. It was an interesting interview.*

**Appendix 17. Ann. First interview transcript and post interview checklist.**

**Participant number: 9 Date of first interview 23/07/2018 Setting: Community Centre**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF PARTICIPANT**

Please can you tell me your age?

*Yes, I am 72*

Are you retired?

*Yes.*

What did you do before you retired?

*Different jobs over the years. Office work and administration at a local company.*

Would you describe yourself as an atheist or agnostic or theist?

*I am not sure. I think about it from time to time.*

Do you follow a religion at all?

*No. I think most religions are a load of rubbish. No time for them.*

Would you describe yourself as culturally religious in any way?

*No. I am culturally British.*

What political party do you think you are most aligned to?

*Probably Conservative I think.*

Did you study at school up to 16 or 18, or university?

*To 18 then I left and started work.*

How would you describe your ethnicity?

*White British*

**CONFIRMATION OF UNDRSTANDING OF THE TERMS TO BE USED**

How would you define the Big Bang theory?

*It’s an idea that some scientists have come up with. They think it’s the start of the universe and there was a big bang.*

How would you define the theory of biological evolution?

*Some scientists think that humans evolved from some monkey or ape like creature. And other animals evolved from other animals long ago.*

**CURRENT VIEW OF THE TWO THEORIES**

Do you agree with or accept the Big Bang theory?

*No. It all sounds a bit farfetched to me. It’s a bit like God. What made God? What made the thing that made God? It’s the same with the universe. What made the Big Bang? What made the thing that made the Big Bang? It’s all ideas and theories. No one really knows. It’s all guesswork.*

Do you agree with or accept the theory of biological evolution?

*No. For the same reason. It’s all too farfetched for me to accept. There are too many gaps. I saw a book the other day that said humans may have come from space. If they did then they did not evolve. They arrived. So, no. It’s just another idea. All guesswork.*

Do you think the Big Bank theory is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*It’s not intuitive. It’s just a theory.*

Do you think the theory of biological evolution is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Same I think. It’s not intuitive because it’s a theory. There are lots of theories.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

Participant number: 9 Date of first interview: 23/07/2018 Setting: Community Centre

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No.*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No.*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*No.*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes.*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is female, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 19.5% retired in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 20% of total UK population over 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 51% of education non-participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the37% no religion/religion not stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 females, part of the group of 3/10 retired, part of the group of 3/10 over 65,part of the group of 5/10 without a Degree, and part of the group of 2/10 no religion/religion not stated.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No.*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No.*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*Only minor details.*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No.*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes.*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*No.*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes.*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes.*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*No.*

**Appendix 18. Ann. Second interview transcript and post interview checklist.**

**Participant number: 9 Date of second interview: 23/07/2018 Setting: Community Centre**

**Parents/Family background**

Please tell me a little about your parents and family and siblings.

*I grew up with my parents in London with my brother.*

What do you think were their views on the two science theories?

*No idea.*

Was your family religious in any way?

*Not really. We never went to church.*

**Preschool years**

What is your earliest memory do you think?

*Growing up in London. Playing in building sites. There were lots of them in those days.*

Do you recall being read bed time stories?

*Yes, I think so.*

Were they nursery rhymes, religious stories, songs?

*Nursery rhymes and stories I think. Not religious ones.*

At this age do you remember being read or told stories of how the world and life came about, and if so what were they?

*No.*

**Primary school**

Can you recall your first days at school?

*I think so. I can’t remember in detail though.*

Was your primary school a faith-based school?

*No.*

What format did your primary school assembly take?

*We sang, and I think we had the Lord’s Prayer.*

Did your primary school have designated science lessons?

*No.*

Where there designated religious study lessons?

*No.*

Before school lunch did the school children pray?

*We might have done I think.*

What were you taught at primary school were the origins of the universe and life?

*We were not taught about that at that age.*

During your primary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*I probably thought God created everything at that age.*

**Secondary school**

Can you recall your first days at secondary school?

*Yes. I liked school.*

Was it a faith-based school?

*No.*

How did school assemblies differ from primary school?

*I think they were very similar. Bigger in number.*

Did you study science to 16 or 18?

*16*

Did you take a religious studies exam at 16 or 18?

*I don’t think I did.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of the universe?

*I don’t think that ever came up in the lessons.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of the universe?

*Probably God.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of humanity?

*Probably evolution I think.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of humanity?

*God I think.*

During your secondary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*At that time. In secondary school. I guess I believed in God and he created everything.*

Did your secondary school science lessons allow debate about other explanations of life and the universe other than the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*No.*

Did your secondary school religious studies lessons allow debate about non-religious explanations of the origins of life and the universe?

*I don’t remember.*

Did you ever feel culturally isolated or religiously isolated in science lessons at any school or college and if so can you explain the feeling?

*No.*

Did you ever feel you held two views in parallel during science lessons: one scientific and one religious, and if so can you tell me about the two parallel views?

*No.*

What science books and science encyclopaedias do you remember from your childhood?

*There were books at school and at home and at the library.*

**Adulthood**

Did you attend a university or college?

*No.*

Please tell me about the main events in your life following leaving school to today.

*I moved with work a few times. I have had different jobs. Then I retired.*

Were all your jobs in offices?

*Yes. Mostly.*

Did you travel on holidays?

*To Cornwall. Yes.*

During this period how have your religious views of religion changed?

*I think I have lost what little faith I had as a child. I am very wary of religions.*

How have your views on the two science theories changed?

*I think I have never really thought that much about them. I am very sceptical of them.*

When you have received evidence on either theory have your views ever changed and then changed back?

*Oh yes. Lots of times. I think one thing one day then something else the next.*

Do you think you ever look for evidence that supports your existing views?

*Everyone does that. It’s human nature to do that.*

Have you watched TV documentaries on the two science subjects?

*Yes, from time to time I think.*

What are your views of these documentaries?

*They are interesting. The Blue Planet and all of David Attenborough’s programmes. There was a woman that did a series on humans, but I did not take to her style.*

Do you think scientists agree or disagree with each other on the origin of the universe and life?

*They disagree all the time. One minute you hear this opinion and the next there is exactly the opposite opinion. Look at the papers. Look at the news. They say one thing one day and another scientist says another the next.*

Have you heard of the Steady State theory of the origin of the universe?

*Many years ago, I think I remember that. That’s another theory. Might be true.*

Have you heard of the Cosmic theory of evolution?

*Yes. That’s about life coming from space. Could have happened. It could have happened at any time. At the start or in the middle. I remember a book about life coming from comets and recently I remember a book about an animal in the sea coming from space. I cannot remember if it was a squid or octopus. Then I read recently that humans could have come from space. It’s all possible. You never know.*

**Feelings about the theories**

How do you feel about the dark cold death of the universe given in the Big Bang theory? Happy, unconcerned, not happy?

*I am not concerned. It’s just a theory.*

How do you feel about biological evolution theory and its implications for the place humanity is within the range of living things? Happy, unconcerned, not happy?

*Not concerned. The theory might be wrong. You never know.*

**Participant’s own summary**

How would you sum up the reasons why you reject the Big Bang theory?

*Because it’s just another theory. I am very sceptical of science theories.*

How would you sum up the reasons why you reject the theory of biological evolution?

*The same. It’s just a theory.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

Participant number: 9 Date of second interview: 23/07/2018 Setting: Community Centre

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No.*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No.*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*No.*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes.*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is female, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 19.5% retired in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 20% of total UK population over 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 51% of education non-participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 37% no religion/religion not stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 females, part of the group of 3/10 retired, part of the group of 3/10 over 65,part of the group of 5/10 without a Degree, and part of the group of 2/10 no religion/religion not stated.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No.*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No.*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*Only minor details.*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No.*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes.*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*No.*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes.*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes.*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*No.*

**Appendix 19. Roger. First interview transcript and post interview checklist.**

**Participant number: 10 Date of first interview: 26/07/2018 Setting: Interviewee home**

Please can you tell me your age?

*52*

Please can you describe your job?

*Gas engineer*

Do you believe in God?

*Yes.*

Please can you tell me your religion?

*I am an evangelical Christian.*

Would you describe yourself as culturally Christian and practicing Christian?

*Yes. Both.*

Do you attend a place of worship?

*Yes, on Sundays and other times*

What political party do you think you are most aligned to?

*Conservative*

What qualification did you pass for your job after you left school?

*City and Guilds and HND*

How would you describe your ethnicity?

*White British*

**CONFIRMATION OF UNDRSTANDING OF THE TERMS TO BE USED**

How would you define the Big Bang theory?

*I think some scientists would say billions of years ago the universe started from a big bang [hand gesture of expansion] and eventually the earth was formed.*

How would you define the theory of biological evolution?

*Kind of molecules to man. Evolution of animals eventually getting to humans. Genetic changes along the way.*

**CURRENT VIEW OF THE TWO THEORIES**

Do you agree with or accept the Big Bang theory in whole or in part?

*No.*

Why do you think that?

*It’s never been proved. It’s a theory not a fact.*

Do you agree with or accept the theory of biological evolution in whole or in part?

*No*

Why do you think that?

*Again, because it has not been proved. It’s just a theory.*

Do you think the Big Bank theory is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*It’s not intuitive. It did not happen.*

Do you think the theory of biological evolution is intuitive or counter-intuitive and why?

*Not intuitive either. It did not happen.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

Participant number: 10 Date of first interview: 26/07/2018 Setting: Participant’s house

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No.*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No.*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*Yes. Hand actions to indicate expansion of the universe.*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes.*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is male, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 75.7% employed/self-employed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population under 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 51% of education non-participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 50% Christian stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 males, part of the group of 7/10 employed/self-employed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 without a Degree, and part of the group of 5/10 Christian.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No.*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No.*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*Minor details of life history.*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No.*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes.*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*No.*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes.*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes.*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes.*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*No.*

**Appendix 20. Roger. Second interview and post interview checklist.**

**Participant number: 10 Date of second interview:26/07/2018 Setting: Interviewee home**

**Parents/Family background**

Please tell me a little about your parents and siblings?

*I grew up with my parents and brother. We are all Christian. My parents have moved away from the area in recent years in their retirement.*

Would you say your parents and brother hold similar views to you about the two theories?

*Yes.*

**Preschool years**

What is your earliest memory do you think?

*Being read the Bible. I had a children’s Bible.*

Do you recall being read bed time stories?

*Yes, from my Bible.*

At this age do you remember being read or told stories of how the world and life came about, and if so what were they?

*Yes, Bible stories. The creation by God.*

At the time were these accounts believed by you?

*Yes, and they still are.*

**Primary school**

Can you recall your first days at school?

*Hmmm. Not really. I can’t remember.*

Was your primary school a faith-based school?

*No, it wasn’t.*

What format did your primary school assembly take?

*The Lord’s Prayer and a Hymn and the Headmaster would talk to us. I remember my friend spoke to me in the Lord’s Prayer once and we were both pulled to the side and told off.*

Did your primary school have designated science lessons?

*No.*

Where there designated religious study lessons?

*No.*

Before school lunch did the school children pray?

*No.*

What were you taught at primary school were the origins of the universe and life?

*What was in the Bible I think.*

During your primary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*God created everything as in the Bible.*

**Secondary school**

Can you recall your first days at secondary school?

*Not really. I can’t remember much about that. I remember not looking forward to it and I didn’t want to go.*

Was it a faith-based school?

*No.*

How did school assemblies differ from primary school?

*Very similar I think. We didn’t have many especially in the later years.*

Did you study science to 16 or 18?

*16.*

Did you take a religious studies exam at 16 or 18?

*16.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of the universe?

*I think it mentioned the Big Bang.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of the universe?

*I don’t remember.*

What were you taught in science lessons was the origin of life?

*I think we were taught evolution.*

What were you taught in religious studies lessons was the origin of humanity?

*I don’t remember sorry.*

During your secondary school years what did you believe were the origins of the universe and humanity?

*God created the universe and all things just like it says in the Bible.*

Did your secondary school science lessons allow debate about other explanations of life and the universe other than the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*No. It was very factual.*

Did your secondary school religious studies lessons allow debate about non-religious explanations of the origins of life and the universe?

*I don’t really remember that.*

Did you ever feel culturally isolated or religiously isolated in science lessons at school and if so can you explain the feeling?

*Yes, and so did my children when they were at school. We all believe in the Bible. It depends I guess on if your teacher has a faith too. Teachers tend to have quite strong views on this. The teacher puts into the lesson their viewpoint and sometimes knows they are doing it. It happened with my son. In the end they are theories, but they teach them as a fact. That’s not right. You end up just not talking in science lessons, so people don’t look at you.*

Did you ever feel you held two views in parallel during science lessons: one scientific and one religious, and if so can you tell me about the two parallel views?

*Yes. Because you are not really being true to yourself. You believe but you have to say something else to pass the test or exam. You are playing a game to get a good mark.*

What science books and science encyclopaedias do you remember from your childhood?

*Just ones at school.*

**Adulthood**

Did you attend a university or college?

*Yes, to do my City and Guilds and HND.*

Did your post school education affect your views of the Big Bang or biological evolution?

*No.*

Please tell me about the main events in your life following leaving college to today.

*I did a lot of travelling. Then I met my wife and we had three boys. I now have my own business.*

During this period how have your religious views changed?

*They haven’t.*

How have your views on the two science theories changed?

*They haven’t either.*

When you have received evidence on either theory have your views ever changed and then changed back?

*No.*

Do you think you ever look for evidence that supports your existing views?

*I am sure I do.*

What does your religion teach about the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*Some people think you can be a Christian and accept the theories but that is wrong. I believe in what is in the Bible.*

Have you watched TV documentaries or DVDs on the two science subjects?

*Yes. I like David Attenborough. I think he is good and I think with age he has changed his mind on things like the chap from Reading University, Professor Flew. He changed his mind and went from being an atheist to believing in design by God of the universe and life. I also have a DVD set on creation from Creation Ministries.*

Do you think scientists agree or disagree with each other on the origin of the universe and life?

*They disagree, and they change their mind. With age you change your mind just like Flew.*

Do you know of the Steady State theory of the origin of the universe?

*No.*

Do you know of the Cosmic theory of evolution?

*No.*

Do you think it is possible to believe in God and accept the theories of the Big Bang and biological evolution?

*No. You should believe in one or the other. If you are a Christian you should believe in the Bible and creation.*

**Feelings about the theories**

How do you feel about the dark cold death of the universe given in the Big Bang theory? Happy, unconcerned or not happy?

*I don’t believe in it so none of those.*

How do you feel about biological evolution theory and its implications for the place humanity is within the range of living things? Happy, unconcerned or not happy?

*Again, I don’t believe in it so none of them.*

**Participant’s own summary**

How would you sum up the reasons why you reject the Big Bang theory?

*Because it’s a theory and not a fact. God created the universe as it says in the Bible.*

How would you sum up the reasons why you reject the theory of biological evolution?

*It’s a theory and it’s not a fact. I believe what it says in the Bible.*

**POST INTERVIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER AFTER THE INTERVIEW)**

Participant number: 10 Date of second interview: 26/07/2018 Setting: Participant’s house

**Interaction**

Did the physical setting have any effect on the study?

*No.*

Did any prior interaction affect the study?

*No.*

Was there any non-verbal communication or event?

*Yes. Hand actions to indicate expansion of the universe.*

Was the verbal/vocal behaviour suitable?

*Yes.*

**The participant**

How was this participant representative of the population?

*The participant is one of the approximately half of the population that is male, (Birth ratio of Great Britain, 2011/2015), one of the 75.7% employed/self-employed in the UK, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 80% of total UK population under 65, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), one of the 51% of education non-participation in higher education in England, (Office of National Statistics, 2017), and one of the 50% Christian stated in the 2011 Reading Census, (Office of National Statistics, 2011).*

How did this participant assist the study in being representative?

*The participant forms part of the group of 5/10 males, part of the group of 7/10 employed/self-employed, part of the group of 7/10 under 65,part of the group of 5/10 without a Degree, and part of the group of 5/10 Christian.*

Was there any evidence of misinformation, evasion, deception?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of self-deception of the participant?

*No.*

Was there any evidence of a “front” being presented?

*No.*

Was there any suggestion that information was not revealed?

*No.*

Was there any information or period that was forgotten or could not be recalled?

*Minor details of life history.*

Were any accuracy checks needed in the interview or after?

*No.*

Was there consistency in the information given by the interviewee?

*Yes.*

At any point was clarification asked for either by the researcher or participant?

*No.*

**The researcher**

Was your demeanour (clothing, speech, body language) suitable?

*Yes.*

Was your personality (warmth, hostility, anxiety) suitable?

*Yes.*

Did you avoid any expectation of answers?

*Yes.*

Did any information from the interview “please” you or “not please” you?

*No.*