

Unit 10: Video 4 Transcript

Q9 What are some examples of respectability in tourism?

A: When I looked at the tourists, there were things that I was seeing that surprised me to some extent. And I think partly because I spent so much time with them, with the Methodists, so, again, the interest in theatre.

One young woman who went, she was from Guelph from a quote unquote “respectable middleclass family.” She went to England in the late 1860s to carve out a career for herself as a writer, and she stayed with family members there. So, of course, that would have helped. And then she ended up working as a governess for some point in, I think it was in Germany. And she wrote to her parents in Guelph about how much she was drinking every night with her aunt and uncle. And that she was going to bed drunk and waking up with a, you know, hangover. And I thought what—and I thought, well, because you’ve spent an awful lot of time with the Methodists, and particularly in Toronto, I think too if you look at different cities and, you know, even in Ontario or Quebec, Anglophone culture looks a little bit different.

For example, the folks in Montreal or in places where, say, people were members of the Anglican Church, and that is something I find explaining to my students that these denominations actually made a difference. That being an Anglican could mean, yes, that you were—you did not go to balls. You did not have that kind of social—you know, your social life revolved around the church or certain kinds of voluntary organizations. But in some cases, going to balls, dancing, I mean, this was how you met your future marriage partners. And enjoying things that we would think they, you know, that they would shun.