

## Interview with Carlo Prescott Prison Consultant and Head of the Adult Parole Board, Stanford Prison Experiment



In a recorded telephone interview conducted in July of 2018, Carlo Prescott was asked about an April 28, 2005, op-ed essay, entitled "The lie of the Stanford Prison Experiment," that was submitted under his name to *The Stanford Daily* student newspaper. Recent critics of the study have treated the 2005 op-ed as authentic, even though the essay was written in a voice very different from Mr. Prescott's, and Mr. Prescott himself has denied having anything to do with it (for further information on the op-ed and the

motivation of its author, see Professor Zimbardo's [Response to Recent Criticisms](#)). To set the record straight, Professor Zimbardo's personal assistant, Taylor Langley, contacted Mr. Prescott by telephone and, with his permission, recorded a brief statement for public distribution.

**Langley:** So, critics of the Stanford Prison Experiment are claiming it was all a lie. These critics argue that Carlo Prescott, a paid prison consultant during the study, wrote a *Stanford Daily* article claiming the experiment was flawed and dishonest. We are here today on July 11, 2018, talking to Mr. Prescott himself to get the truth. Um, so, I just want to ask you one question, and the first one is, did you write or personally collaborate on the *Stanford Daily* campus newspaper article?

**Prescott:** To my knowledge, I've never endorsed nor do I intend to ever have involved myself in something adverse, uh, adverse and derogatory to the Stanford Prison Experiment. As to my comments: absurd. About Philip Zimbardo? Totally and absolutely absurd. I don't know why it isn't—well, maybe I'll get a chance to tell you what I think later.

**Langley:** Yeah, thank you. Um, and the second question is: Are the negative allegations made in your name true?

**Prescott:** No. Positively, absolutely, without any hint.

**Langley:** Okay. Um, so, why didn't you request a retraction from the *Stanford Daily* newspaper?

**Prescott:** Basically, because I don't get a daily delivery. [Laughter]

**Langley:** [Laughter] Yeah.

**Prescott:** [Laughter] You sound like somebody in Washington calling about my opinion about this Mexico thing. Ah, because I don't get the Stanford paper, and because it never come to my attention. For some reason the enmity that was shown towards the experiment and towards in particular my friend and brother, Philip Zimbardo, are absurd. But understand clearly, the answer is emphatically, "No."

*July 11, 2018*

Note: To hear or download an mp3 audio recording of this interview, please visit:

<http://www.prisonexp.org/links/#responses>