

Time to Think

Open University Journeys in British and Irish prisons during the years of conflict, 1972-2000

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Rosemary Hamilton**

Interviewed by: **Pat Jess**

Date of interview: **07/09/2011**

Important

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this transcript, however no transcript is an exact translation of the spoken word, and this document is intended to be a guide to the original recording, not replace it.

In some cases, interviewees may have made changes to the transcript.

Personal/sensitive information regarding individuals who may be living has been removed from transcripts where necessary.

Copyright and Permissions

Rights owned or controlled by The Open University.

All use of this transcript in part or in full requires prior permission from The Open University Archive.

Please contact university-archive@open.ac.uk to discuss possible use of the content.

Clip title: I do recall being absolutely terrified about the prospect of doing this!

Duration: 00:01:39

Clip start point in full interview: 00:12:26

Clip end point in full interview: 00:15:16

Interview identifier: 080_T_01

Description:

Rosemary Hamilton, Regional Director of The Open University 1992-2010, tutored the Science Level One course in the prisons from 1976-1982. She recalls her feelings about her first prison tutorial which was in the Compounds of the Maze and Long Kesh Prison and describes meeting her student.

Transcript:

The two occasions that I do remember, and the very first occasion that I went into a prison environment, was to the Maze [Compounds the Maze and Long Kesh Prison]. And I do recall being absolutely terrified about the prospect of doing this, for a number of reasons. The first reason was that I just had no idea what I was going to face and who I was going to face. I had no idea whether this person would be willing to talk to me. I had no idea whether this person was going to have questions for me, or areas that he wanted help with. And I know this project is talking about students in prison as a result of the conflict; but very often when I went into a prison environment, I was not actually aware of why the person was there and I think that was absolutely right and proper. I think that was the way that it should have been. That we were there to provide academic support, irrespective of why that person ended up in the situation that they did. Because I wasn't sure what the format would be of the tutorial, I probably prepared enough material to be sitting in there with him for about two weeks solidly— so that I knew I would always have something to talk about and something to go over. In the event, I feel that I had one of the best tutorials I have ever had. The student was so interested in what he was studying.