

PhD Pioneers: The Living Experiences of The Open University's First PhD Graduates

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Professor Julia Goodfellow**

Interviewed by: **Elizabeth Currie**

Date of interview: **20/04/2021**

Important

The content of oral history interviews is personal, experiential and interpretive, relying on the memories, perceptions and opinions of individuals. While all reasonable attempts are made to avoid inaccuracy, interviews should not be understood as statements of fact or opinion endorsed by The Open University.

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.

phd_005_001_02

Clip 2

I think the OU is so part of my life, it's not just about my PhD. To me the OU is so important. I mean other members of my family have got OU undergraduate degrees, it's always been there. And having been at Birkbeck for 20 years and become Deputy Head of Birkbeck, which has a similar ethos but of course is 100 years older or so, it's just absolutely such a positive vibe for me that people who hadn't had the possibility of going to university.

I guess my career took off at Birkbeck, which I felt, I was there for much longer, I was there for 20 years. It has a whole history and again just a very powerful history about being there for people who didn't have the privilege of going to university when they were younger. So we were only, we were teaching at night, we taught six to nine o'clock at night. We did our research in the day, so you could divide your research off and your teaching off, and I went through the academic system there. I ended up getting a professorship, University of London professorship, becoming head of department and then becoming Deputy Head at Birkbeck.