

## 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: **Eoghan MacCormaic**  
Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**  
Date of interview: **11/07/2011**

#### **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.

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**Clip title:** There are things out there that you never had time to think about

**Duration:** 00:01:29

**Clip start point in full interview:** 00:09:34

**Clip end point in full interview:** 00:11:03

**Interview identifier:** 008\_S\_01

**Description:** Eoghan MacCormaic recalls how he found certain Geography courses very interesting and reflects on how those courses, and education more generally, helped him see patterns in things he would not have thought of before.

**Transcript:**

It was a Geography type course. There was a bit about urban planning and spatial planning going on, which again I found very interesting at the time because there were things like, the names now they just come flashing back to me, Jenny [laughs], but there was Weber and Losch and Christaller. And I am sure when people do any type of education, whether they do it through The Open University or simply just starting to read, you do realise that there are things out there that you never had time to think about and that you can see patterns in them. Now if you just accept everything that you read, then that is no good either, you know, you have to learn how to criticise and look at some of that, but there certainly were interesting things. The 'Urban Change and Conflict' one was a good course. I did 'War and Change' after that, there were elements of that that dealt with film, propaganda, music. I know there was a whole row went on for a long time because a tape went missing, and the system said that the tape had gone missing and I was saying the screws [prison officers] had taken it, I don't know where the tape went to in the end up. But there was, the fact was that we were getting new types of resources coming in and seeing things, the integration of things like picture and sound and words all this coming together, I found that very good as well, it was a good course as well to do. I did another Geography course after that.