

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: **Peadar O'Cuinneagain**
Interviewed by: **Pat Jess**
Date of interview: **29/08/2012**

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: It challenged my whole belief system

Duration: 00:01:47

Clip start point in full interview: 00:16:36

Clip end point in full interview: 00:18:21

Interview identifier: 029_S_01

Description: Peadar O’Cuinneagain recalls how the third level Philosophy course, ‘Life and Death’ challenged his belief systems and thought processes and how much he enjoyed the subject matter, the support of his tutor and their tutorials.

Transcript:

—and the ‘Life and Death’ one [A310] because it also posed questions to me, and it made me sit back and think and in a fundamental way. It challenged my whole belief system. You know, ‘What were you before you were born?’ I says “Well now, there’s a question” and I says, “I was nothing” So says he to me, “What are you when you die?” I says, “Well, you know my spirit, my soul.” I get into all this sort of line of talk and defiance, and I knew that the tutor was sort of smiling at me and he was indulging me and he was just stringing me along, but I really thought that his tutorials were absolutely brilliant. Probably wasn’t reflected in my assignments or whatever, but I really enjoyed him and his line of questioning and it was never antagonistic or hostile. It was always very sort of “Well lets probe a bit deeper” and “That’s breaking it down”. In many ways, he was like a hypnotist, because it was a form of hypnosis because he was hitting me with questions that I was going, “Do people think like that?” in my innocence, and I would have been in my twenties, by the way. So, yes I really, really enjoyed that and also, I know it is a bit, ‘Life and Death’ like- it is heavy, it is heavy stuff and mine is probably just superficial, but I enjoyed it.