

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: **Doros Michail**
Interviewed by: **Pat Jess**
Date of interview: **28/01/2013**

Important

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Clip title: Education in the prison wasn't just The Open University

Duration: 00:01:52

Clip start point in full interview: 00:32:21

Clip end point in full interview: 00:34:11

Interview identifier: 055_T_01

Description: Open University Psychology Tutor Doros Michail reflects on how Open University teaching was not the only kind of education going on in the prisons and how many students had done second level exams such as O and A levels in prison before going on to study with The Open University.

Transcript:

I think as far as the students are concerned, it made a difference. I think it is important to also look at the education regime within the prisons as being not just The Open University, because I was aware when I was being escorted in buses- there were mini buses. They were carrying ten, twelve tutors throughout the prison environment, and there were 'A' level teachers, and there were college teachers and there were basic, you know, teachers trying to teach prisoners how to read and write and do very basic kind of mathematics. So there were a number of education, there was education going on at various levels throughout The Open University- now we were at the top level. You know, I remember having conversations, obviously school teachers, asking, saying, "What are you teaching?", "Cognitive Psychology with The Open University" and they look at you and say, "Oh, that is high level kind of course". Of course we didn't think of that in those terms, but they were only teaching maybe GCSE [General Certificate of Secondary Education] Maths or teaching someone how to read and write. But everyone who was there was putting the same amount of effort into their students, and I think it is important for us to understand that, because no doubt some of the students that ended up doing Psychology, doing any degree with The Open University, probably started ten years before, doing O levels and A levels and then thinking, "Well maybe I can do a degree course, and maybe I can do an Open University degree course". So, no doubt there were a number of building blocks that were building on our students before they came to us.