

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: **Pat Jess**
Interviewed by: **David Smyth**
Date of interview: **27/01/2015**

Important

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Clip title: I was going in to tutor students

Duration: 00:01:24

Clip start point in full interview: 00:10:11

Clip end point in full interview: 00:11:39

Interview identifier: 076_T_01

Description:

Pat Jess, former Open University Staff Tutor in Geography in Ireland, responds to a question about tutoring 'terrorists' from David Smyth, one of the students she tutored in the Compounds (the Maze and Long Kesh Prison) in the 1980s.

Transcript:

Pat, you would have been going into the prison when the Troubles were going on and you would obviously have been aware of that. How did you deal with the emotional or the psychological aspect of dealing and interacting with men who had committed and been convicted of violent acts who were classified as high risk and as terrorists?

I was going to tutor students. I think I remarked before that I was also tutoring students in a study centre, as we called them, in a town in Northern Ireland and you could say that I didn't know who I was talking to when I was with those students and in fact, I didn't know who I was talking to when I was in the Compounds or anywhere else because we didn't know. We knew in a very broad sense, yes. The students were in prison, presumably for a reason. I might have come many, some years later to recognise that as problematic as to whether, what the reason was and whether there was a reason, but people were in prison but they were students and it shouldn't and didn't really matter to me where they were.