

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: **Stephen Robinson**
Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**
Date of interview: **02/06/2017**

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: I didn't talk about it to friends for many years

Duration 00:01:10

Clip start point in full interview: 00:15.33

Clip end point in full interview: 00:17:16

Interview identifier: 081_T_01

Description: Stephen Robinson taught Open University students on Social Psychology modules between 1989 and 2000 in the H Blocks of the Maze and Long Kesh Prison. In this clip he is asked whether or not he divulged to his family and friends the fact he taught in the Maze, which during the Troubles, was seen by many people as a potentially dangerous environment in which to work.

Transcript:

And when you went into the Maze [H Blocks of the Maze and Long Kesh Prison] in the late '80s, '90s that was, it was towards the end of the Troubles I suppose. Would you have talked to your family? Would you have talked to people about going in or would it have been something you just kept quiet about?

I didn't really talk about it. I think I may have told my parents at some point. I didn't make a particular point of telling them, but I think I may have told them. I probably didn't tell too many people and I guess there was a thought around that, that just from a security point of view and I guess yes, in the Troubles you were aware that you were going into prisons in difficult times and difficult situations and could that be an opportunity for you to take information or be forced to do something. So I didn't talk about it to friends actually for many years. Funny, I did tell a couple of good friends recently. I can't remember the context of the conversation, why that came up, and people that I have known for years but didn't even know that I had been in there.