

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: **Tony Gallagher**

Interviewed by: **Pat Jess**

Date of interview: **12/09/2012**

Important

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Clip title: Experiences of tutoring

Duration: 00:01:20

Clip start point in full interview: 00:06:19

Clip end point in full interview: 00:07:39

Interview identifier: 082_T_01

Description:

Tony Gallagher, Open University Associate Lecturer, describes his experiences of tutoring students in the Compounds and H Blocks (the Maze and Long Kesh Prison) in the 1980s and how a Republican student appeared to cascade learning from tutorials to others in the Wing of the H Blocks

Transcript:

It was usually one-to-one. The very first experience with the two students, one I think was a UVF prisoner and one I think was an Official IRA prisoner. Because of their particular affiliations, they were prepared to meet in- I think it was a Library Compound- and so the tutorials I had with them were together in what I think was the Library Compound in the middle of the whole Compound section of the prison [the Maze and Long Kesh Prison]. And so we met there, and it was the two of them plus a Prison Warden. I am just trying to think now, I think virtually every other student that I worked with in the prison was on a one-to-one basis. In the H Blocks, prisoners were in different sections and even if they were in the same block, I don't think they were allowed to have a tutorial together. I can't quite remember, but my memory of the H Block tutorials were almost all one-to-one. And the two women prisoners that I tutored in- one in Armagh, one in Maghaberry- they were both one-to-one. Although one of the things that was interesting was I remember that at least one of the prisoners seemed to, after we had a tutorial, seemed to go off and have another tutorial with some of the other prisoners because he always came back at the next tutorial with a list of questions that had come up in the other tutorial [laughs], which I thought was always quite interesting.