

PhD Pioneers: The Living Experiences of The Open University's First PhD Graduates

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Professor Julia Goodfellow**

Interviewed by: **Elizabeth Currie**

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Professor Julia Goodfellow Interview

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Clip 2

I think the OU is so part of my life, it's not just about my PhD. To me the OU is so important. I mean other members of my family have got OU undergraduate degrees, it's always been there. And having been at Birkbeck for 20 years and become Deputy Head of Birkbeck, which has a similar ethos but of course is 100 years older or so, it's just absolutely such a positive vibe for me that people who hadn't had the possibility of going to university.

I guess my career took off at Birkbeck, which I felt, I was there for much longer, I was there for 20 years. It has a whole history and again just a very powerful history about being there for people who didn't have the privilege of going to university when they were younger. So we were only, we were teaching at night, we taught six to nine o'clock at night. We did our research in the day, so you could divide your research off and your teaching off, and I went through the academic system there. I ended up getting a professorship, University of London professorship, becoming head of department and then becoming Deputy Head at Birkbeck.