

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 Sheehan**
Interviewed by: **Joanna McMinn**
Date of interview: **19/10/2011**

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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Pat Sheehan Clip

Clip title:	Moral Philosophy is relevant in the political world.
Duration:	00:01:47
Clip start point in full interview:	00:18:55
Clip end point in full interview:	00:20:42
Interview identifier:	028_S_01

Description: Pat Sheehan studied Social Sciences and Philosophy with The Open University in the Republican Wings of the H Blocks in the 1990s. In this clip Pat reflects on the value to the political world in which he worked of studying Philosophy.

Transcript:

— and I think having that degree behind you does give you a lot of confidence. Not the degree in itself, I don't think, but that process of studying and learning. And particularly the fact that I have been involved in politics - not necessarily party politics, but involved in the whole political situation here, and a lot of my degree would have been connected to Politics or Sociology or issues in the Moral Philosophy course that would be relevant in the political world. All of that certainly gives you a sense of confidence, gives you that bank of knowledge that you wouldn't have had beforehand, and certainly in terms of the two Philosophy courses that I did; they in particular help you to construct arguments. And I mean all of the courses do that, but I think the Philosophy courses more than anything help you get rid of all the nonsense and the rhetoric and help you to construct arguments, and also listen to other arguments and realise that sometimes the arguments that you thought were correct aren't necessarily correct. So all of that, I think, helps in your own self-development and your ability to interact with the world around you, and that is the way that I would say studying in the OU helped me.