

## 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: **Student K**

Interviewed by: **Written by participant**

Date of interview: **13/02/2018**

#### **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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## Student K Clip

<b>Clip title:</b>	Speaking as an historian
<b>Duration:</b>	N/A
<b>Clip start point in full interview:</b>	N/A
<b>Clip end point in full interview:</b>	N/A
<b>Interview identifier:</b>	112_S_01

### **Description:**

Student K studied History with The Open University in the Official Republican Compounds (the Maze and Long Kesh Prison) in the later 1970s. He reflects on the significance of his OU study and on using it to gain entry to Trinity College Dublin.

### **Transcript:**

Speaking as an historian, I can see now that I had the good fortune to enrol in, and to benefit from, the world's first long distance learning (and truly 'open') university, in the twilight years of the British post-war, Keynesian, consensus economy and society – just before the ravages of Thatcherism set in. I was also fortunate to make it to Trinity [Trinity College Dublin] whose admission policies towards mature students and ex-prisoners, were then easily the most advanced in these islands. When my friend, who, unlike me, had an OU degree, was interviewed for a place in college, someone in the History Department, remarked 'if you do as well as the last fellow from there, we'll be very pleased'. He thought however that the professor seemed to think that Long Kesh and The Open University were one and the same 'there'. He embellishes I'm sure, but it's too good a story to let go to waste.