



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

...is a forum that encourages debate on a wide range of research findings, with the overall aim of promoting evidence-based policy and law-making within Northern Ireland



Prisons Memory Archive

**The Role of Oral History in
Societies Emerging from
Political Conflict:
A case study.**

Oral History recommendations –

- ‘We Will Remember Them’, Report of the NI Victims’ Commissioner, Sir K. Bloomfield Report (1998)
- Report of the Consultative Group on the Past (Eames-Bradley) (2009)
- Hass-O’Sullivan recommendations (2014)



- Up to 50 community, or academic initiatives
- Accounts of the Conflict (Ulster University)
- Healing Through Remembering – Storytelling Network
- Prisons Memory Archive – prison story one of many.



- 2006 Armagh Gaol - 2 weeks
 - 2007 Maze and Long Kesh Prison – 3 weeks
 - Prisons as framing devices for themes and location.
-
- 175 walk and talk for an archive
 - 300 hours of audio visual material
 - Briefing and de-briefing

- **Protocols:**
- **Co-ownership**
- ‘shared authority’ (Papadopolous)
- risks and rewards
- **Inclusivity**
- Prison officers, tutors, chaplains, visitors, prisoners.
- **Life storytelling**
- Co-authorship

- John Hetherington, Prison Officer.
- 3 hours
- Tour of the prison
- Memories at times 'emotional'
- Courage and honesty
- <http://prisonmemoryarchive.com/place/page/5/>

- Funding and iterations:
- Heritage Lottery Fund (recordings)
- Community Relations Council – www.prisonmemoryarchive.com
- DEL PhD scholarships – installations and films;
- We Were There and Armagh Stories.



- Screenings and reception:
- Armagh Local History Library
- Cross community women's group
- Ex-service personnel



- Governance:
- Management Group – co-ownership
- Public Records Office NI
- Partnership – PMA, QUB, PRONI
- HLF funding
- 3 year programme of Preservation,
- Accessibility and Engagement.



Recommendations:

1. Co-ownership
2. Inclusivity
3. Life-storytelling
3. Preservation
4. Accessibility
5. Engagement
6. Governance





Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)





Northern Ireland
Assembly



Queen's University
Belfast



The Open
University



Ulster
University

Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

...is a forum that encourages debate on a wide range of research findings, with the overall aim of promoting evidence-based policy and law-making within Northern Ireland