

L12: ANNA MACCAFFERTY INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Interviewee: Anna MacCafferty
Interviewer: Dr Fearghus Roulston
Interview summariser: Prof Liam Harte
The interview was recorded across two audio files that were spliced together to create a single audio file.

L12: Anna MacCafferty	Start time: 00:00:00	Finish time: 02:05:56	Duration: 02:05:56	Brief description of content:
00:00–09:59	Born in Derry in 1953, the fourth of six children. The death of her mother when Anna was nine led to the children being partly looked after by a family friend who had children of her own. Her father, a 'very successful' pharmacist, developed a drink problem after his wife's sudden death. Discusses aspects of her family history, including the eventful life of her eldest sister. States that, at her mother's insistence, she started primary school before she was four years old.			
10:00–19:59	Explains that she started studying for the eleven-plus when she was nine and one year later went to Thornhill College, the 'grammar school where all Catholic girls went in Derry'. Although she 'totally hated' it at the time, she now thinks she received 'a much better education than I gave it credit for'. Says that by the age of twelve she 'knew it was over' between her and the Catholic church, the 'last straw' being the abolition of the Latin mass. Describes the strict regime at Thornhill and getting expelled for a dress code infraction. Recalls sneaking out to discos 'all over the country' in her early teens, unbeknown to her father.			
20:00–29:50	Describes becoming pregnant by an older Protestant man, getting expelled from Thornhill, being sent to a mother and baby home in Belfast and giving birth at seventeen to a son, Des, who was adopted. She then returned to Derry and worked in her father's pharmacy, which by the early 1970s 'had the most prescriptions of any other chemist [...] in the British Isles apart from Boots'. This was because the Troubles had triggered a high demand for depressants and medication to treat the effects of CS gas. Her experience of the mother and baby home had made her 'a total rampant feminist', yet she was also 'a lunatic by that stage with grief', having tried and failed 'to run away with the baby'. By eighteen, she was set on moving to London, having enjoyed the summer of 1970 there with her one of her sisters. The two interview audio files were spliced together here.			
29:51–39:50	After working for some months in the pharmacy she went to Belfast Tech in September 1970 to do her A-levels, but didn't sit the exams because she was 'just a mess'. Describes her parents as 'rampant nationalists' who supported Eddie McAteer. Recalls being in Derry for the civil rights march of early October 1968, considered by many as the start date of the Troubles, and seeing her cousin 'bleeding all over profusely' after loyalists ambushed the People's Democracy march at Burntollet bridge on 4 January 1969. Describes the subsequent 'indiscriminate' violence of the RUC in Derry and her father's view that the deployment of the British Army in August was 'a good invasion' because 'the English people aren't like the RUC or the unionists, they don't hate us'.			
39:51–49:50	Insists that Derry, not Belfast, was the birthplace of the Troubles and claims that many of those arrested in the city in July 1972 as part of Operation Motorman 'were just young fellas having a good time'. Recalls moving to London with Raymond, the father of her son, who worked for an engineering firm in Derry.			

	They first lived in Stoke Newington, then Islington. Describes the conditions of their rented accommodation, the racially diverse tenantry and the various jobs she did, which included a stint at a 'wonderful literary agency'.
49:51–59:50	Recalls news of Bloody Sunday reaching her in London, her shock that her friend Jim Wray had been killed, her father telling her of 'bullets whistling past his head' and 'queues round the block to join the IRA'. Discusses the background to Bloody Sunday, stating that despite not being in Derry at the time she was 'very closely involved with it' nonetheless. Reveals that Raymond was unfaithful and violent towards her, and that they 'never had any money, mostly cos he drank it', which led to them living in squats. Regrets allowing herself to 'be bullied by such a silly wee man'. Explains that her 'life changed overnight' in 1974 when she rented a flat in Holland Park with her new partner, Dave, and got a job with 3i, for which company she worked until 2004, rising to the position of assistant treasurer.
59:51–01:09:50	States that she eventually got bored with her work at 3i and studied for a banking degree part-time. Explains that, on being forced to vacate their flat, she and Dave resorted to sharing squats again, something she hid from her boss. Describes an altercation between Raymond and Dave in one of the squats she shared. She and Dave eventually moved in with his mother in Fulham, and while living there in 1974 she was visited by Special Branch officers. Her suspicion that one of her work colleagues had reported her to the police meant that she found herself sitting in her office wondering which 'one of you thinks I'm a murderer'.
01:09:51–01:19:50	Years later her boss revealed that it was he who had been suspicious because she had been off work when an IRA bomb had exploded in England, a disclosure that angered her, not least because she has always been a 'total pacifist'. Describes how Des managed to make contact with her in the early 1990s, much to her delight, which led to their reunion in Belfast, where he had just finished his degree studies at Queen's. By now Anna and Dave were married and had a daughter, Nell, in 1988. Recalls how her father's pharmacy 'got blown up a lot' during the Troubles because it was 'across the street from the army recruiting office'. Explains that her father's family were 'IRA in the old days, the old IRA', and that their support for the Provisionals was more 'mental' than material.
01:19:51–01:29:50	Further discusses aspects of her family's republican history. Recalls occasions when she was verbally abused in London because of her accent, reflecting: 'we were all identified with IRA no matter who we were'. Says she 'got used to the casual racism, but that's not because of the Troubles, that's just normal [...], people making Irish jokes and stuff'. At 3i she 'had the first all-female dealing desk in the City of London', which was most unusual in a macho culture where racism and sexism were endemic. Further discusses the origins and history of 3i. Explains that she and David purchased their first flat in 1976, got married in 1985 and later bought a house in Caterham in Surrey.
01:29:51–01:39:50	Explains her involvement with the Woodcraft Folk, which she unwittingly joined when her daughter was six and ended up being the district treasurer for the Tolworth and Kingston branch twenty-five years later. She finds working with the children and young people who join the organisation quite rewarding and 'great fun in a masochistic way'. Expresses regret that no branches exist in NI, where she feels they are needed, as is integrated schooling, 'the only thing that's going to work'.
01:39:51–01:49:50	Recalls being so pleased when the Good Friday Agreement was signed that she 'went out and bought a peace lily', but is now concerned about the destabilising impact of Brexit. Maintains that 'every family in Northern Ireland' has been affected by the Troubles. Describes her father's vocal opposition to the British

	<p>Army's erection of checkpoints close to his property. Explains that her family 'didn't support the IRA, ever, they were murderers and thugs and thieves, but we had sympathy for the fact that at least they were on our side'. Discusses her frequent return visits to Derry during the 1970s and 1980s, usually accompanied by Dave, who was sometimes the target of anti-English feeling.</p>
01:49:51–01:59:50	<p>Recalls visiting Spiddal in Co. Galway with Dave in the early 1980s and feeling unsafe in a pub there. States that few of her English friends understand NI or the Troubles, 'same as they didn't understand about Brexit and the border'. Says she is 'really, really worried' about NI now and regards Brexit as a 'total disaster for, for, well, for all, everybody'. While she has considered moving back to NI, she doubts that she would be able to leave London after living there for thirty-nine years. Explains that her daughter, who has an Irish passport, is 'very proud of being English', but also 'loves her Irish roots'. Reveals that Des now lives in Tooting and that they see each other regularly, but that Raymond recently died.</p>
01:59:51–02:05:56	<p>Explains that Raymond moved back to Derry, became 'very Orange' in his later years and was imprisoned for his involvement in a post office robbery. Singles out the shooting dead of Jim Wray on Bloody Sunday as one of the most shocking moments of her life. Considers the Saville Inquiry and subsequent apology by the British prime minister to be 'too little too late'. Claims that sectarianism is still prevalent in Derry and that the two communities are more polarised than in the pre-Troubles era, but sees no easy way of creating greater social integration.</p>