



Transcript: Russell - experiences of teaching

And you've done quite a lot of teaching as a PhD student so were you fairly confident about the teaching side of things?

I wouldn't say, I mean even now I can get a bit nervy when I go in sometimes. I wouldn't say I got comfortable with the teaching for a good couple of years after I finished the PhD, I would say. And that was partly to do with, because it's you and lots of people, and you've got to know all this stuff. So first of all there's this idea of 'how am I going to remember all this, what if someone asks me a difficult question?' Secondly it's just a kind of social thing, you know, you're going to meet lots of new people and that can be quite a nervy thing in any situation. After a while I kind of got used to that but even now it can be a bit nervous and you just don't feel like talking to twelve people at ten o'clock in the morning but other times, yeah, it's fine. I wouldn't say I got comfortable with it for a while, it takes quite a long time, and another thing linked to that is the age, I think once I'd got a bit older, hit thirty I felt there was enough time difference between me and the students to make it obvious that I didn't just look like one of them, I'd stood up and was doing it and it's nonsense really and it's, what do you call it, symbolic is probably not quite the right word but I kind of felt it was obvious that I was the teacher and they were the students, and so I felt more comfortable in that position. So it took time.