



**The award-winning newsletter of
students and staff of UCC's
Department of Government and
Politics**

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GOVERNMENT TIMES



**Commissioner Máiréad McGuinness to
deliver Philip Monahan Memorial
Lecture 2024.**

See page 6.



**Details of Annual Patrick O'Sullivan
Essay Competition announced.**

See page 14.



**The undergraduate dissertation is a
great opportunity. Valuable advice by
Catriona Reid.**

See pages 15 and 16.

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Welcome to issue 81 of *Government Times*. As you will read, there is a lot happening! On Thursday, we welcome Rhun ap Iorwerth, leader of Plaid Cymru, to deliver the latest lecture in the Jean Monnet Series, organised by Dr. Mary C. Murphy. What a great event this promises to be; we kick-off at 4.00 p.m. in G18, Áras na Laoi. All are welcome to attend. A big focus of this issue is the 24th Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture with Commissioner Máiréad McGuinness on 9 April. In the next issue of *Government Times* we will carry a full report from our annual showpiece event. Of course, this lecture series honours Philip Monahan who came to Cork 100 years ago following the (in)famous dissolution of Cork Corporation.

At *Government Times* HQ we are always grateful for contributions from current under-graduates, post-graduates and alumni. To this end, we have a piece from the *Government and Politics Society* who have enjoyed a highly successful year. Recent graduate, Catríona Reid, offers timely advice on how to approach the final year dissertation while PhD candidates, Aoife Deane and Claudia Hihetah, tell us what they have been working on. Thank you for all of the contributions, I hope you enjoy this issue.



Rhun ap Iorwerth and Claudia Hihetah

Dr. Aodh Quinlivan

Editor, *Government Times*

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PUBLIC LECTURES BY STAFF



THE DEAD HAND



A Historical Perspective on
Local Government in Ireland

Dr Aodh Quinlivan

Centre for Local and Regional Governance
University College Cork

Rosscarbery and District History and Heritage
Society

On 15 December, **Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** delivered a lecture in Dublin to the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA). Emmanuelle reflected on the second presidential term of Emmanuel Macron in light of challenges posed by civil unrest in France and the country's experiences with migration. Last Thursday night, 15 February, **Dr. Aodh Quinlivan** presented to the Rosscarbery and District History and Heritage Society. In a wide-ranging talk, Aodh covered the development of local government and local democracy in Ireland since the foundation of the State.



ELECTORAL COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Dr. Theresa Reidy has been appointed to the management board of the National Election and Democracy Study (NEDS) of An Coimisiún Toghcháin (The Electoral Commission). The five-person board will oversee the design and delivery of a longitudinal study of voters and non-voters at each election and referendum. The NEDS project will establish an open access portal with data and reports on elections and referendums, and many aspects of Irish democracy.

For further information, go to: <https://www.electoralcommission.ie/latest-news-and-research/electoral-commission-research-proposals-published/>



Leader of Plaid Cymru at next UCC Jean Monnet Lecture Series



The next lecture in the Jean Monnet Series will be delivered by Rhun ap Iorwerth, leader of the Welsh political party, Plaid Cymru. He will speak to the theme: **Wales' Constitutional Future: The European Dimension.**

The lecture is at 4.00 p.m. on Thursday 22 February in G18, Áras na Laoi. No prior registration is necessary.

Commissioner Máiréad McGuinness to deliver Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture on 9 April 2024



The 2024 Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture takes place at 11.00 a.m. on **Tuesday 9 April 2024** in UCC's Aula Maxima. Further details to be announced. Please check our web site at <https://www.ucc.ie/en/government-and-politics/> and our X/Twitter feed at @GovUCC.

Máiréad McGuinness's road to the Commissioner's office

<https://www.rte.ie/news/politics/2020/0908/1163968-mairead-mcguinness/>

Mairead McGuinness has had a long and varied career.

A native of Ardee, Co Louth she was the first woman to qualify with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Economics from University College Dublin in 1980. Journalism was her initial calling and she began her career in RTÉ, initially as a radio producer and later a researcher on the *Late Late Show*. She later became a presenter on *Ear to the Ground* and hosted the reality TV show, *Celebrity Farm*.

The mother-of-four also worked as a journalist with the *Irish Farmers Journal* and was editor of the *Irish Independent's* farming supplement. In 2004, she turned to politics, announcing her intention to run as a Fine Gael candidate in the European parliament elections. The move was controversial at the time because she was running alongside sitting Fine Gael MEP Avril Doyle in what had traditionally been a one-seat constituency for the party. Both women were elected with Ms McGuinness topping the poll.

However, she was not as successful in her bid for the Dáil in 2007, failing to win a seat in Louth. Four years later in 2011 she set her sights on Áras an Uachtaráin, but she lost out on the party nomination to Gay Mitchell. In 2014 she was elected a vice-president of the European Parliament, one of fourteen.

Three years later she was elected first Vice-President of the European Parliament and was re-elected to the post in July 2019, a post she has remained in since. She was one of two candidates put forward by the Irish Government after the President of the European Commission requested the names of a woman and a man to be considered for the next Irish Commissioner.

In September 2020, Ursula Van Der Leyen announced that Máiréad McGuinness had been chosen to be the Commissioner in charge of financial services and financial stability.



 ELECTIONS 2019

MAIREAD
MCGUINNESS

FINE GAEL

MIDLANDS-NORTH-WEST



ELECTED

RTÉ News

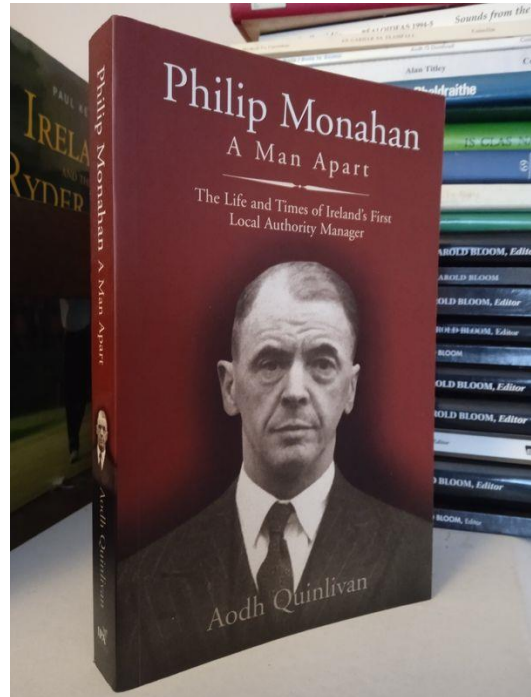
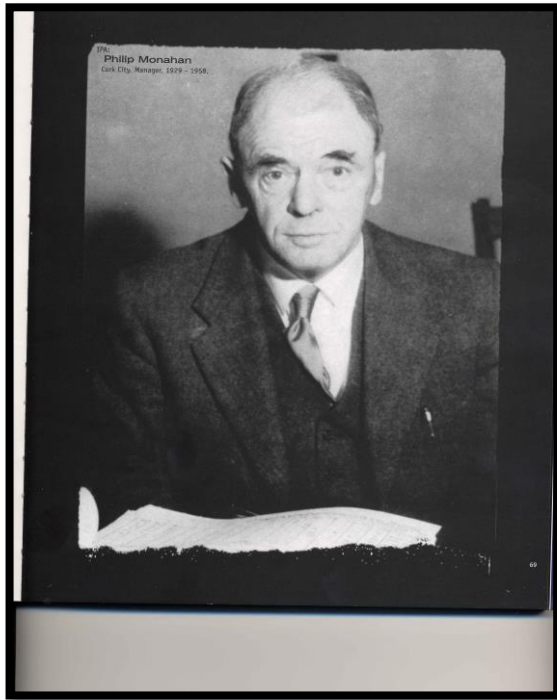
Philip Monahan Lecture Series



Each academic year the Department of Government and Politics at University College Cork hosts a prestigious public lecture to celebrate the memory of Philip Monahan. Monahan was Ireland's first local authority manager and he served as City Commissioner and then City Manager in Cork from 1924-1959. Monahan set the highest standards of probity and integrity in public administration and he defined the role of City Manager and the practice of public management in Ireland. The lecture series was inaugurated in 1997 and, as can be seen from the list below, has attracted some very distinguished speakers.

1. **Professor Tom Garvin**, Department of Politics, University College Dublin (1997/1998)
2. **Dr. John Hume**, Nobel Peace Prize Winner (1998/1999)
3. **Francesco Rutelli**, Mayor of Rome (1999/2000)
4. **John Dennehy**, Secretary General, Department of Education and Science (2000/2001)
5. **Professor Robert Putnam**, Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University (2002/2003)
6. **Dr. Mary McAleese**, President of Ireland (2003/2004)
7. **David Begg**, General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions (2005/2006)
8. **David Norris**, member of Seanad Éireann (2006/2007)
9. **Robert Faucher**, Deputy US Ambassador to Ireland (2007/2008)
10. **Dermot McCarthy**, Secretary General to the Irish Government (2008/2009)
11. **Ivana Bacik**, member of Seanad Éireann (2009/2010)
12. **Charlie Bird**, RTÉ broadcaster (2010/2011)
13. **Emily O'Reilly**, Ombudsman and Information Commissioner (2011/2012)
14. **John Bercow MP**, Speaker of House of Commons (2012/2013)
15. **Enda Kenny TD**, Taoiseach (2013/2014)
16. **Professor Brigid Laffan**, Schuman Centre, EUI (2014/2015)
17. **Colm O'Gorman**, Amnesty International Ireland (2015/2016)
18. **Vice Admiral Mark Mellett**, Chief of Staff, Defence Forces (2016/2017)
19. **Carol Monaghan MP**, Scottish National Party (2017/2018)
20. **Professor Fiona Mackay**, University of Edinburgh (2018/2019)
21. **Fr. Peter McVerry**, Peter McVerry Trust (2019/2020)
22. **Brian O'Donovan**, RTÉ Washington Correspondent (2020/2021)
23. **Professor David Runciman**, University of Cambridge (2022/2023)

Who was Philip Monahan?



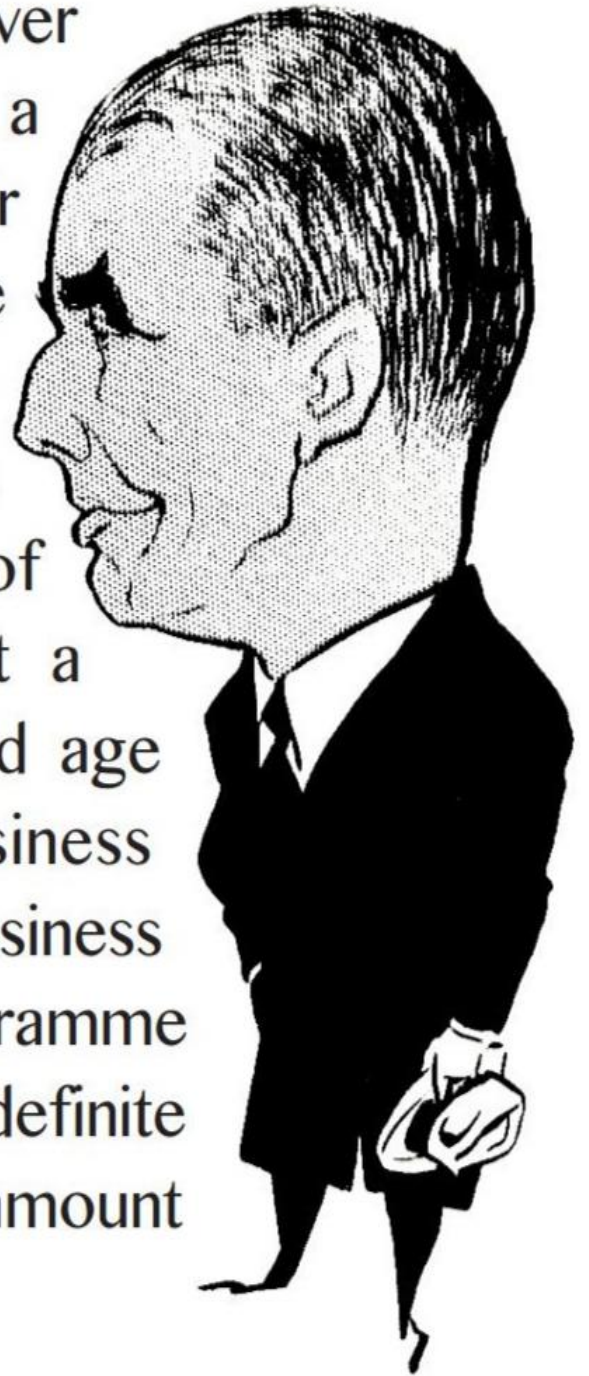
Philip Monahan, 1893-1983

Philip Monahan's life was interwoven with significant figures and events in Irish political and cultural history. Heavily involved in the Irish Volunteers and Sinn Féin, Monahan was imprisoned by the British authorities on three occasions. During his third incarceration he shared a cell with Éamon de Valera in Lincoln Jail and assisted in his escape. Following his release Monahan served as an elected representative on Drogheda Borough Corporation, where he was elected as Mayor, and on Louth County Council. He took the pro-Treaty side in the Civil War and was shot in the neck in 1922.

After recovering, he was sent to Kerry as Commissioner in 1923 by Minister Ernest Blythe to replace the dissolved county council and to administer Republican Kerry on behalf of the Irish Free State government. His final move was to Cork, where he managed the city for thirty-five years. His greatest achievements were the initiation of the Corporation's new housing programme, the eradication of the slums and the creation of the differential rent system. As Commissioner and subsequently City Manager, Monahan set high standards of probity and integrity in public administration – *suaviter in modo, fortiter in re* – flexible in method, constant in principle. He defined the role of the City Manager and the practice of public management in Ireland.

Quinlivan, Aodh (2006), *Philip Monahan - A Man Apart: The Life and Times of Ireland's First Local Authority Manager*, Dublin: Institute of Public Administration

“I am neither a slave driver nor a sweater. I expect a fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay, in the office and in the streets. The Corporation is not an institution for relief of unemployment, it is not a waiting room for the old age pension; it is a business concern, to be run on business lines, with a definite programme of work to be done in a definite time, and for a definite amount of money” –



Philip Monahan
Cork Commissioner
11 November 1924

Who will win our student awards?

On the occasion of our 24th Annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture, the Department of Government and Politics student awards will be presented – BSc Government and Political Science Student of Year; BSc Government and Political Science Graduate of Year; Patrick O’Sullivan Essay Winner. Whose names will be added to these prestigious lists?

THOMAS WHALEN STUDENT OF YEAR AWARD



2000	Holly Hardwicke
2001	Elizabeth Harrington
2002	Peter Ryan
2003	Hannah Lane
2004	Ann-Marie Tierney
2005	Denis Twomey
2006	Andrea Merrigan
2007	Darragh Mehigan
2008	Patrick Higgins
2009	Tracey O’Rourke
2010	John Kenny
2011	Pádraig Mac Consaidín
2012	Louis O’Keeffe
2013	Jack Corbett
2014	Michael Lyons
2015	Richard Creedon
2016	Anja Tossenberger
2017	Lewis O’Shea
2018	Colum Buckley
2019	Luc O’Leary
2020	Sinéad McMahon
2021	Jennifer Flynn
2022	Conor Brennan



Anja Tossenberger, Student of the Year 2016, with the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Des Cahill.

RICHARD HASLAM GRADUATE OF YEAR AWARD



- 2003 Holly Hardwicke
- 2004 Elizabeth Harrington
- 2005 Jeremiah O’Sullivan
- 2006 Brenda Keating
- 2007 Tim McCarthy
- 2008 Matthew Ryan
- 2009 Colm Diamond
- 2010 Neepa Sodhi
- 2011 Laura Murphy
- 2012 Tracey O’Rourke
- 2013 John Kenny
- 2014 Pádraig Mac Consaidín
- 2015 Jack Barry
- 2016 Eoin Quill
- 2017 Michael Lyons
- 2018 Laura Cummins
- 2019 Amy Brett
- 2020 Ciaran Dineen
- 2021 Sami Chakchouk and David Collins
- 2022 Laura O’Keeffe and Luc O’Leary

The 2013 Graduate of the Year, John Kenny, with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD



The 2015 Graduate of the Year, Jack Barry, with Colm O’Gorman of Amnesty International Ireland.



PATRICK O'SULLIVAN ESSAY WINNER



2002	Andrew O'Leary
2003	Donal Holohan
2004	John O'Sullivan
2005	John O'Sullivan
2006	Cormac Cahill
2007	Ian Mawe
2008	Niall Duggan
2009	Andrew Aherne
2010	Declan Keating
2011	Pádraig Mac Consaidín
2012	John Somers
2013	Pádraig Mac Consaidín
2014	Don O'Neill
2015	Luke Foley
2016	Emily O'Regan
2017	Nathan Board
2018	Nathan Board
2019	Diarmaid Hanley
2020/2021	Robert O'Driscoll
2022/2023	Ava Ní Loingsigh

A youthful Niall Duggan receives the Patrick O'Sullivan Shield from Dermot McCarthy, Secretary General to the Irish Government, in 2008.



Emily O'Regan, Patrick O'Sullivan Essay Winner 2016, with the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Des Cahill.

Patrick O'Sullivan Essay Writing Competition

2023/2024 Academic Year

This essay writing competition celebrates the life and spirit of Patrick O' Sullivan, who tragically died on 3 March, 2001. Patrick should have been amongst our first group of students who graduated in September 2003. Patrick had a deep interest in politics and he also possessed a great sense of humour. We try to combine both of these elements in this annual essay competition.

Awake, not woke ...



500-word essay, 1-2 pages

Please supply your name and class year on a separate cover page

NO need to adhere to academic assignment guidelines re: referencing etc.

Essays can be as light-hearted and as irreverent as you wish!

Submit to: a.quinlivan@ucc.ie by 5.00pm on Friday 22 March.

The writer of the winning essay will receive the **Patrick O' Sullivan Perpetual Shield**
at the Annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture on 9 April.

NOTE: This competition is open to all under-graduate students who take Government or Politics modules.

Advice on writing your undergraduate dissertation

By **Catriona Reid**, BSc Government and Political Science graduate 2023

Dissertation: ‘An analysis of climate change message framing and its implications for levels of motivation for collective climate action in young people living in Ireland’ (supervised by Dr. Clodagh Harris)



When I think of my motivation for choosing this degree, it was because I wanted to help effect real change on the issue that is closest to my heart, which is the climate emergency. At the time, I thought that party politics was the way to do that (I was in the Green Party for 8 years and ran as a candidate in 2019), and while I still feel that party politics is an essential part of the equation, by fourth year, my interest in politics developed into an interest in political and social research – specifically, how social research could help address climate change.

The research dissertation at the end of fourth year was my favourite part of the degree. I loved the freedom it gave me to explore the intersection of society, politics and climate change and I chose to approach the topic by examining the role of climate communication in engaging young people in climate action. I held a focus group to capture a debate between a group of young people on their thoughts on climate change and what messages would motivate them to action – picking up precious experience and skills along the way which helped me a lot down the road.

Communication is so much broader than just what we read in the press or what we see on social media – there is a wider question around how best to engage meaningfully with the public and communities. I have been very lucky to have had the opportunity to delve deeper into this question in the last few months working as a research assistant in MaREI, the SFI centre for climate, energy and the marine.

Since I started in MaREI the main project I have been working on is called Teaching Resources for Youth-informed Biodiversity Education (TRYBE for short!). This is a legacy project from the 2022 Children and Young People's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss – on TRYBE, we have been co-creating educational resources for primary and post-primary schools on biodiversity in Ireland informed by the Assembly recommendations.

This includes an activity book, lesson plans, and an activity calendar – all of these resources have had direct input and guidance from children and teachers and I can honestly say that it has been incredibly meaningful and fulfilling to be a part of this wonderful team.

Thinking back, my dissertation was a vital stepping-stone to where I am now, so my best advice to current students is:

- **Pick your topic as early as possible** – start brainstorming in second year, then pick your topic in third year and chat to a lecturer to double check that it is suitable and realistic – then you go into fourth year already knowing what your dissertation will be about, and in fourth year you can fine-tune the details and approach.
- **Find a gap in the existing research** – this means doing a lot of background reading and you'll have time to do this in third and fourth year. Sites like [Connected Papers](#) are invaluable for doing this.
- **Don't be afraid to work with people** – conducting focus groups or interviews is a fantastic way to learn new skills and apply the theories you have been learning about in the classroom to real life, and it demonstrates initiative and originality.
- **Timing is key!** – you'll get about 10 weeks to do your dissertation, so plan out those weeks before Christmas and arrange to meet your supervisor in the first week of classes. Come prepared with questions and anticipate the questions they might ask you!

For any more advice, or if you're interested in research as a career, you can always reach out to me at creid@ucc.ie (and very best of luck!) 😊

Catriona works as a Research Assistant in MaREI - the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine – at University College Cork. Currently, she is working on the TRYBE project where she has been assisting with the co-creation of education resources for primary and post-primary children on the themes of biodiversity and climate action - <https://www.marei.ie/people/catriona-lulia-reid/>.

**READ MORE ABOUT *TRYBE*
ON PAGE 29.**

100 YEARS AGO, SEÁN FRENCH WAS ELECTED LORD MAYOR OF CORK

Thursday, 30/01/2024

Seán French was elected as Lord Mayor of Cork 100 years ago today. While he served 12 terms, **Aodh Quinlivan** and **John Ger O'Riordan** explain why it wasn't smooth sailing for French

Analysis 9

Commemorating Cork's longest-serving mayor

ON THIS day 100 years ago, January 30, 1924, Seán French was dramatically elected Lord Mayor of Cork for the first time. He would go on to become the city's longest-serving, 12-term lord mayor, while also winning election on two occasions to Dáil Éireann.

French was initially elected to Cork Corporation in January 1920, with a mere 73 first-preference votes, in a turbulent period that followed — with the deaths of Lord Mayor MacCurtain, Lord Mayor MacSwiney, and the burning of Cork — he worked steadily in the corporation, earning a reputation as a straightforward, honest talker at committee and full council meetings.

He entered public life at a time of national stress, but the turmoil also presented opportunities and he did not lack the ambition, or the confidence, to take them. However, his ambition was initially halted by the Anglo-Irish Treaty and the Civil War, his staunch anti-Treaty stance led to his arrest on September 12, 1922 and he was sent to the Newbridge Internment Camp.

French returned to Cork Corporation 15 months later, with renewed determination. The resignation of Lord Mayor Donald O'Callaghan opened a door and French made it known at an internal Sinn Féin party meeting that he was interested in becoming lord mayor; he duly received the party nomination.

However, the Sinn Féin split due to the Treaty meant that his election was not a foregone conclusion.

French was hopeful of support from the Labour Party councillors but he knew he was facing a tough battle in the mayoral contest. This was confirmed when the Cork executive of Cumann na nGaedheal released details of a letter it had issued to all party members and pro-Treaty members of the Corporation. The letter — as printed in the *Cork Examiner* on Tuesday, January 29 — stated that councillor Barry Egan had been unanimously chosen as the mayoral candidate.

With battle lines firmly drawn, tensions were high as members gathered in the council chamber of Cork Corporation on January 30. Seán French had spent the previous days intensely lobbying his colleagues but had doubts as to how some of them would vote, especially the Labour Party members.

The *Cork Examiner* (January 31, 1924) reported that the public gallery was "well filled" and that there was an "outburst of applause" when a group of councillors — including the two main protagonists, Seán French and Barry Egan — entered the chamber.

Councillor Daniel Gambble proposed Seán French as lord mayor for the coming 12 months, claiming that his "outstanding abilities" were known to all of the members. French was encouraged when Labour's alderman William Barry Egan was proposed and seconded by alderman Edward Coughlan and alderman Patrick Higgins respectively, both elected under the Sinn Féin banner in 1920. The scene was now set before the vote was called, a councillor Allen complained that party members were being coerced into voting against their political opinions.

Alderman Kemsley, who had seconded the nomination of Seán French,



In 1920, Seán French was appointed as lord mayor following a tight contest against Barry Egan. French earned 23 votes, Egan received 22.

objected to his colleague's use of the word "coerced", while John Scott argued that national party politics about the Treaty and Civil War should not have been introduced. This drew a pointed response from Mr Allen: "Sir John Scott is not such an innocent little lamb. He knows quite well that this is a political fight today. The Sinn Féin executive gave orders to elect their man and the Treaty Party gave orders to elect their man."

As chair of the meeting, councillor John Hogan interjected and stressed that it was time to vote, rather than making speeches. There was a burst of

excitement and suspense in the council chamber as votes were cast and then counted. The outcome could not have been tighter.

For Seán French, 23 votes; for Barry Egan, 22.

A relieved Seán French signed the roll in acceptance of the honour and he was then invested with the chain of office.

The new lord mayor delivered a short acceptance speech, stressing that improving and progressing Cork had to be the primary duty of all of the elected members. French stated that he had always stayed true to his ideals and that

would not change.

He ended by making a promise to his fellow councillors: "If any individual member of the council has anything to suggest to advance Cork, you will have give you every assistance. I urge you to forget our differences in the interests of the city."

The *Cork Examiner* (January 31, 1924) launched a scathing attack on the election of Seán French, noting: "A particular section of the Corporation pay attention to the wishes of their constituents. This was shown yesterday when, by a narrow majority, a 'coalition'

succeeded in electing as Lord Mayor a gentleman who, whatever his personal attributes, has openly associated with the party which the electors jorjy.

The hard hitting editorial warned that the citizens of Cork would have the opportunity at the next election "to select men who would not treat serious matters with frivolity". It concluded by stating that the citizens would only have themselves to blame if they did not elect representatives to carry out the work which needed addressing.

It would be akin to "seeing their

money virtually thrown into the capacious bottom of the Lough, money which might be more usefully employed in the lighting or cleaning of the streets". Though stung by some of the criticism, Seán French was contented and proud following his election as lord mayor.

Now 34, he was relatively inexperienced in the political world having only been elected to the corporation in 1920. He had worked hard and earned the respect of his fellow councillors, especially through his diligent committee work. Despite "losing" a year due to internment, he had secured enough votes on his return to win the mayoral election and follow in the footsteps of three Cork Republicans he greatly admired — Thomas MacCurtain, Terence MacSwiney, and Donald O'Callaghan.

Alan, Lord Mayor French struggled to unite the council and, with the Cork Progressive Association and the Cork Examiner demanding an inquiry into local administration, it was no surprise when Minister for Local Government Seamus Burke intervened. He ordered the holding of an inquiry which ran for nine dramatic days. While tension filled the air in the courthouse each day, Seán French was the star of the show, resolutely defending the rights of the corporation's elected members to sort out their own problems. French was anxious to make the corporation more efficient, free from central government interference. Other elected members in the city were either disinterested or had little faith in local democracy and, inevitably, Cork Corporation was dissolved on October 31, 1924, with Philip Moynihan taking over as commissioner.

For the next four and a half years, Seán French was lord mayor in name only. He won a seat to the slimmed-down Cork Corporation of 21 members when it was reinstated in March 1929. He was also re-elected as lord mayor, a position he held until 1937 (bar a two-year period from July 1930 when Blackrock's alderman Francis J Daly assumed the mayoralty).

Lord Mayor Seán French died on September 12, 1987. The *Cork Examiner* (September 12, 1987) noted: "In his capacity in general, for Seán French was one who upheld the prestige of his office with a quiet grace. During his various terms of office as Lord Mayor he had many difficult situations to meet, but he bore himself with remarkable dignity when Cork was rebuilding itself and its civic institutions after the ravaging effects of the Anglo-Irish and civil wars. Perhaps his outstanding attribute as Lord Mayor was the manner in which he conducted the business of the Corporation meetings as chairman. In this capacity he proved himself above politics, although he himself possessed of very fixed political views, and the Corporation showed its appreciation of his worth as Lord Mayor by a unanimous vote more than once."

The political life of Seán French is captured in a book by Aodh Quinlivan and John Ger O'Riordan entitled *First Citizen: A Book Formed Part of Cork City Council's 1920-1924 Commemoration Programme* and was published by Cork City Libraries in November 2023.

Thornton re...

On 30 January 2024, **Aodh Quinlivan** and **John Ger O'Riordan** (co-authors of *First Citizen*) had a feature article in the *Irish Examiner* to commemorate the centenary of Seán French's first election as Lord Mayor of Cork. On 30 January 1924, French was dramatically elected Lord Mayor of Cork for the first time, defeating Councillor Barry Egan by 23 votes to 22. He would go on to become the city's longest-serving, twelve-term, Lord Mayor, while also winning election on two occasions to Dáil Éireann.

See the full article at <https://www.irishexaminer.com/opinion/commentanalysis/arid-41316229.html>.

UCC Jean Monnet Lecture Series

(Supported by the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet programme)

The first lecture of 2024 was held on 25 January and the large audience was treated to an engaging debate between Professor John O'Brennan and Dr. Eoin Drea, expertly chaired by Dr. Mary C. Murphy. They discussed the topic: '35 by 2035? Is there a case for further enlargement of the EU?'

John argued that enlargement is the single most successful policy that the European Union has ever pursued and we have a moral imperative to expand further. Eoin countered by asserting that the EU institutions and procedures need significant reform before enlargement is considered. He added: 'Put simply, Dublin will have to stump up an awful lot more cash to receive considerably less payback in an expanded EU. It's hardly a vista that inspires confidence in any future referendum campaign on EU reform.'



Mary C. Murphy, Eoin Drea and
John O'Brennan – '35 by 2035?'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2LS_j5bVCs

Professor John O'Brennan is based in the Department of Sociology, Maynooth University. He holds the Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration and is the Director of the Maynooth Centre for European and Eurasian Studies which is a designated Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (2020-23). His work focuses on European Union institutions and politics, and, specifically on the process and politics of the EU's enlargement policy. Professor O'Brennan also researches Ireland's relationship with the European Union and is currently completing a monograph which examines Ireland's experience of EU membership over 50 years since accession in 1973. Recent blog: ['EU enlargement remains on life support, despite the opening of negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova'](#)

Dr. Eoin Drea is Senior Researcher in the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies specialising in macroeconomic and social policy. He is an expert in the political economy of the European Union focusing on the future of the Eurozone, EU-UK and EU-US relations (the Anglosphere), property economics, crypto assets and the socio-economic challenges facing middle class families. Dr Drea is a former Irish Research Council postdoctoral fellow in the School of Business, Trinity College Dublin and holds a PhD in economic history from University College Cork. Recent article in *The Irish Times*:

<https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/2023/12/18/eoin-drea-make-no-mistake-this-will-be-a-more-eastern-more-balkan-eu-what-will-that-mean-for-ireland/>



<https://www.ucc.ie/en/hub-in-active-european-citizenship/>

THE HUB ON TOUR IN ARKLOW

On 19 January, **Dr. Philip Murphy** of the Hub in Active European Citizenship travelled to St Mary's College in Arklow to deliver workshops on the European Union. The 60 students from European Studies (TY), Politics and Society (5th year) and Business (6th year) were lively participants in activities and discussions on; EU enlargement, decision-making in the EU, the power of political symbols, and how Ireland is represented in the EU. Included is the 5th year *Politics and Society* group whose teacher (Joanne Stapleton) will travel with the HUB for a student trip of EU institutions in April.



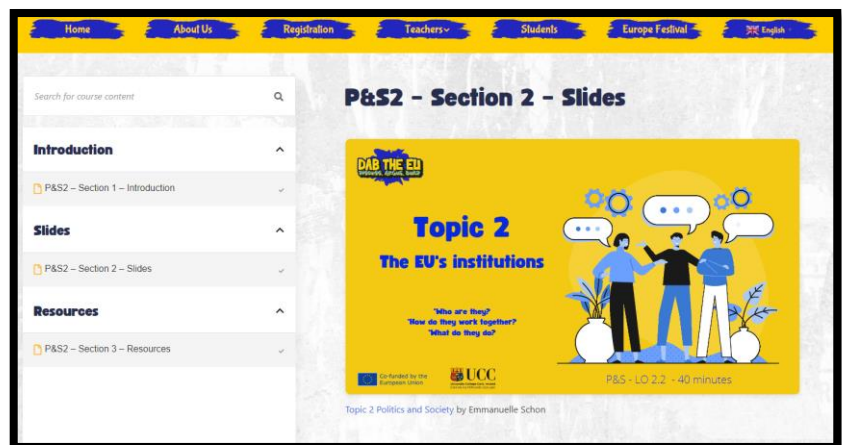
MEP Moments – EU Enlargement

On 26 January, the Hub organised another successful MEP (Making Europe Personal) Moments event with secondary and third level students on the questions: ‘Should the EU enlarge to 35?’ Through a new format of democratic participation, relying on dichotomous presentations by two experts, **Professor John O’Brennan** from Maynooth University, and **Dr. Eoin Drea** from the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies think tank, the event focused on bringing back conflict of opinions in the democratic arena. The feedback from both students and experts was excellent. Participants highlighted how useful they thought it was to consider opposite arguments and to be able to express very diverse views on a topic without seeking a consensus. Participants were asked to position themselves on a scale twice during the proceedings. On both occasions, some participants changed views. They were also asked to put forward recommendations that will be sent to key stakeholders in the field. The event was coordinated by expert BSc Government and Politics students from 1st and 2nd years.



DABtheEU in Kinsale

On 9 February, **Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** visited Kinsale Community School to deliver a DABtheEU lesson on European institutions to Politics and Society students. European careers were also discussed. As European institutions can be quite arid, their teacher, Fiona Hedderman and Emmanuelle, had to bring in a good dose of enthusiasm. These students are getting ready to go and represent France at the European Parliament Ambassador Schools (EPAS) event in Dublin Castle on 1 March 2024. They were full of questions!



The European Parliament

When was it created?

In 1958 with the Treaty of Rome.

Directly elected for the 1st time in 1979



Roberta Metsola
European Parliament President
2019-2024

Who's in it?

720 Members of the European Parliament, called MEPs, elected in their own country every **5** years. They sit in the European Parliament according to their ideology (beliefs) and not according to their nationality.

‘Teaching Europe’

Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

For pre-school/Infants

Start with story time/learning circle – could be the song
Lesson 1: learn the song and colour the flag or make the flag.

Lesson 2: The club/family: the EU values – friendship, helping each other, what other values?

Lesson 3: As part of the family, learn about some of the members – depending on who is in the pre-school, could use the different nationalities or focus on France, Italy and Poland – what do they eat, what do they wear, what language do they speak, how sunny and warm is it in their country?



• Twinkle, twinkle, EU stars

- Twinkle, twinkle, EU stars
- How I wonder what you are.
- Up above on the flag so blue,
- 12 yellow stars are shining true
- Twinkle, twinkle, EU stars
- How I wonder what you are.
- Twenty-seven friends, old and new
- Ireland is of course part of the crew
- Twinkle, twinkle, EU stars
- How I wonder what you are.

On 12 February, Emmanuelle was invited to deliver a lecture to BED students in Mary Immaculate College as part of their module entitled ‘Teaching Europe in the Multilingual Classroom’.

35 students engaged with Emmanuelle asking questions such as: In what ways do you think learning about the EU contributes to the holistic development of the child? Or Do children really understand the significance of the EU in Ireland and their duties of EU citizens?



Module Title: Teaching Europe in the Multilingual Classroom

Module Code:	GE4798 / FR.4778	Semester:	2 (Spring 2024)
Credits (ECTS):	6	Module Coordinator:	Dr Christiane Schönfeld
Lecturers:	Dr. Christiane Schönfeld (W1-4, W12) Dr. Maïssé Nj Ebiann (W5, 6, 10) Dr. Sabine Egges (W7, 8) Dr. Darragh Shanley (W11)		
Tutorials:	Ms Hanna Rumpf (W1-4, 7, 9, [12 the]) Dr. Anissa Bennadi (W5, 6, 10-11)		
Guest Lecturers:	Prof. Emmanuelle Schön-Quilman; Prof. em. Joachim Fischer.		
Time/Place:	Lecture – Mondays from 4pm (2x45 mins) in room T202 Tutorial – Tuesdays at 2pm and/or 5pm (45 mins) in 202		
Office hours:	the and by appointment.		
Contact:	christiane.schoenfeld@mic.ie (general queries) NB: If you have questions relating to specific topics, please contact the appropriate MIC lecturer.		

Design for Change and BFGtoEU



North Monastery NS

What is the project about? Boot Swap
We swap reusable football boots and winter hat boots. We have reduced the amount of rubbish being sent to landfill which helps the planet. Recycling boots is a sustainable activity because we reuse and recycle. Our parents are delighted to save money and the school has the benefit of a clearly organised area of boots which are available to pupils who do not have boots or who have forgotten to bring theirs to school.

Take a look at their project [HERE](#).



Ballinagree NS

What is it about? Building a footpath from the school to the playground.
We choose to focus on trying to add more footpaths and cycle paths to our village to make it safer for everyone living in the village to get around and for children coming and going to the village playground and school life designed posters, write to parents and the local council. We drew what it would be like with and without a footpath and highlighted the safety aspect of having footpaths in our village.

Take a look at their project [HERE](#).



St Columbas GNS

What is it about? Creating an honesty shop
By focusing on honesty we discovered that being honest improves the health of the individual and their self-esteem. Our class believes that an honesty community benefits the individual, the immediate and the wider community. The solution our social innovators chose to encourage honesty in our community. Open a school honesty shop – ‘Phonoch’ V. This would sell copies, stationery and some ‘fun’ items. Make a one off ‘Let’s Bee Honest’ – Pop up food table.

Take a look at their project [HERE](#).



Citizenship in action

Collaboration with DFC
Feel, Imagine, Do, Share
Connect with the European level – we live in a multilevel governance system

<https://bfgtoeu.com/design-for-change/>

HUB RESEARCH OUTPUT

On the research front, **Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** of the Hub in Active European Citizenship published a chapter entitled 'Teaching European Union politics beyond higher education: the case of primary school education through My Big Friendly Guide to the European Union' in the edited volume *Teaching European Union Politics* by Viviane Gravey and Christopher Huggins.



EGAR GUIDES TO TEACHING
EE
Elgar

Teaching
European
Union Politics

EDITED BY
Viviane Gravey
Christopher Huggins

Look inside

Hardback

Teaching European Union Politics

Elgar Guides to Teaching

Edited by Viviane Gravey, Senior Lecturer in European Politics, School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics, Queen's University Belfast and Christopher Huggins, Director of Academic Programmes, Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge, UK

Publication Date: 2024 | ISBN: 978 1 83910 370 4 | Extent: 278 pp

Why do we teach EU politics? What should EU politics students learn? What are the practical approaches and techniques to teaching EU politics? In response to these questions, *Teaching European Union Politics* analyses the interdisciplinary nature of teaching this broad subject and reflects on a wide range of educational approaches. It both advances the pedagogy and practice of teaching EU politics, and provides practical support for those looking to adopt innovative and learner-oriented techniques.

Dr. Philip Murphy and **Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** also submitted to *Irish Political Studies* their latest research paper entitled 'Knowing me, Knowing EU: An analysis of European Union conception using freehand drawing by young people in the Republic of Ireland'.

This article uses free hand drawings as conceptual artefacts to analyse and finds that the EU in Ireland is primarily viewed through an economic prism. Participants only marginally relay core areas of EU activity, such as environmental and social policy and notable achievements, such as peace among member states.



Presentation skills

1st/2nd class: presentation on member states

Oral presentation

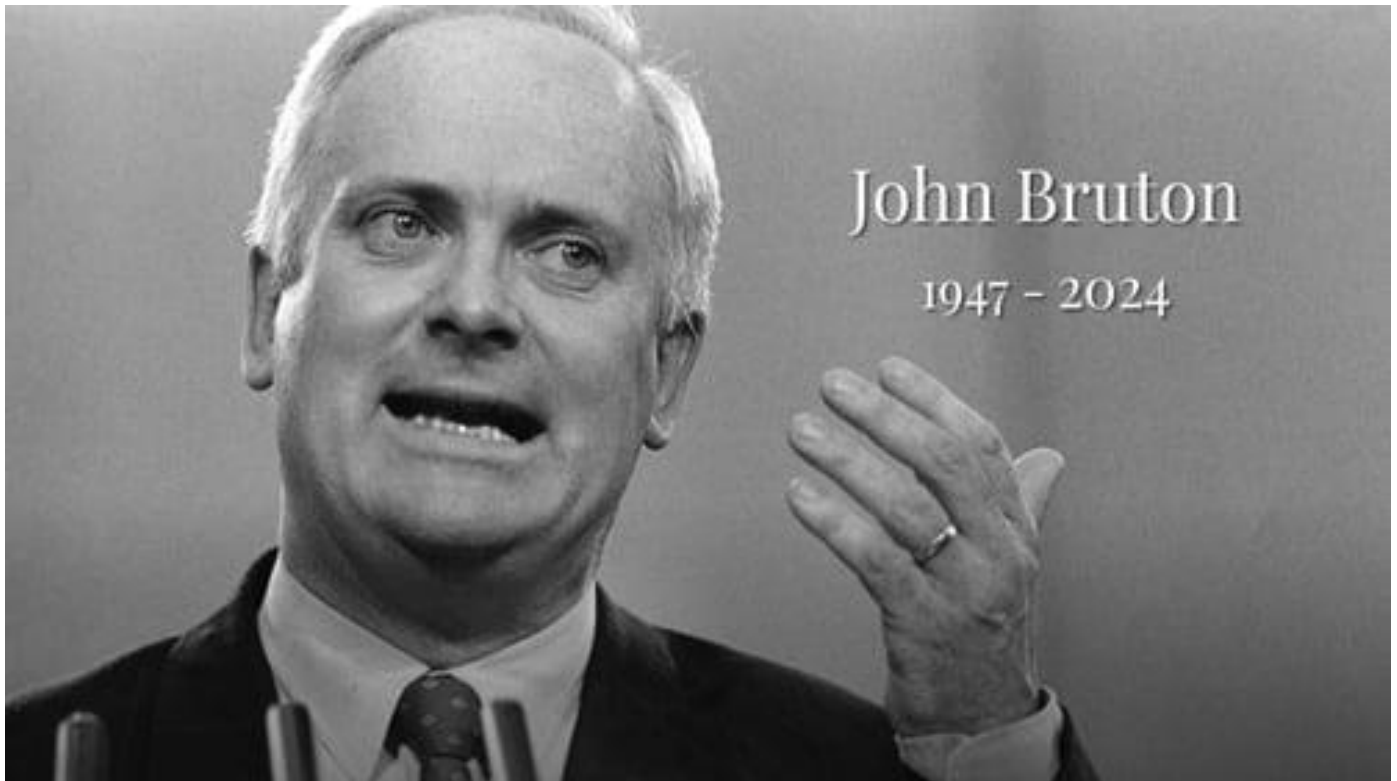
Material given

Learning objective: present confidently, as part of a team, before a class, on another country than Ireland

REMEMBERING FORMER TAOISEACH, JOHN BRUTON

By Dr. Eoin Drea, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

<https://www.martenscentre.eu/blog/john-bruton-an-appreciation/>



I didn't get to know John Bruton personally until 22 March 2016. On that day, terrorist attacks on Maelbeek metro station and Brussels Airport brought the city to a panicked standstill. Unruffled, John – who was over to speak at one of our events – and I shared a car to Amsterdam to get the last flight back to Dublin. Over several hours of flight delays and a couple of drinks – amidst all the confusion and worry – John displayed the calm and balanced demeanour which characterised his long political career in Dublin and Washington.

Entering the Dáil (Irish Parliament) in 1969 – aged only 22 – he served as an Irish parliamentarian for over thirty-five years. His political legacy in Ireland – Taoiseach (Prime Minister) from 1994 to 1997 and multiple other cabinet positions during the 1980s – are testament to his often overlooked political skills. His expertise in stitching together Ireland's first "Rainbow" coalition in 1994 and their shrewd management of a blossoming Irish economy set the basis for Dublin's long period of economic growth in the years that followed. Fine Gael's move to the opposition benches in 1997 was the result of electoral losses for their coalition partners. For Fine Gael, Bruton's term as Taoiseach resulted in more votes and additional parliamentary representation; a level of support that Fine Gael did not regain until the 2011 general election.

John was also central to the Northern Irish peace process (which culminated in the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998). His constructive engagement with Sinn Féin and the Irish Republican Army (IRA) came despite his (and Fine Gael's) deep reservations regarding the role of violence and intimidation in the nationalist campaign for a united Ireland.

Outside of Ireland, John was committed to the process of European Integration. As EU Ambassador to the United States from 2004 to 2009, he worked tirelessly to rebuild Transatlantic trust in the midst of the US invasion of Iraq. Until very recently, he remained an avid and interested thinker on European affairs through his network of contacts in Brussels and his official roles here in the Martens Centre. His interests extended well beyond Irish politics as his writings, book reviews and numerous articles can attest.

Yet, perhaps John's biggest contribution to Irish political life was neither his economic management, his longevity or his work on peaceful reconciliation. Rather, as a proud follower of the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP) tradition of non-violence and engagement, John symbolised a complete break with the Republican mould of Irish Prime Ministers which dominated political leadership in Dublin for much of the twentieth century. His hanging of the portrait of John Redmond in his office as Taoiseach highlighted his belief in a more constructive form of moderate nationalism. Redmond, as IPP leader and a member of the Westminster Parliament, had very nearly succeeded in bringing Ireland significant independence (Home Rule) by constitutional means in 1914. However, the onset of the Great War and subsequent events long overshadowed Redmond's achievements in an independent, and more overtly republican, Ireland. John received much criticism in Ireland in the 1990s for his self-professed attachment to the older IPP legacies. Yet, as events in the proceeding decades have shown, John's bravery in taking on the brickbats of being a "Redmonite" or a "West Brit" were essential in opening up the political discourse in Ireland.

It also facilitated a wider discussion of "Irishness" – a debate which until then was simplistically based on "Republicans" and "Everyone else". By placing his pride in the parliamentary nationalist tradition centre stage, John opened the doors to a more inclusive debate about Ireland's future. This is a debate which is now more relevant than ever in the aftermath of Brexit, the changing dynamics of Northern Ireland and the possibility of a shared island becoming a reality in the decades ahead.

Back in Schipol Airport in 2016, I could not resist asking John about the infamous fall of the Fine Gael-led coalition government in 1982. As Minister of Finance, John's decision – in the midst of a budgetary crisis – to impose extra taxes on children's clothes and shoes was widely believed to have caused the government to collapse. Although it subsequently emerged that this plan was driven by senior civil servants in the Department of Finance against Bruton's initial opinions – John was sanguine about the need for elected politicians to take responsibilities for their ultimate actions and to protect the integrity of the civil servant/political relationship. It is a level of accountability and honesty that many current politicians would do well to learn.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis. May he rest in peace.



The Year of Elections

As the political anoraks of the world look forward to a bumper year of elections and referenda - both nationally and internationally – the Government and Politics Society hopes to broaden the knowledge base surrounding elections and voting amongst the student population of UCC. The Government and Politics Society is the resident politically neutral voice for UCC’s students on campus who strive to promote political awareness and debate among the student population in an effort to enhance their knowledge on the important role which government and politics plays in all areas of society.

We hold a wide variety of fun, informative, and engaging events throughout the year as a means of achieving our ultimate goal of conveying the importance of being politically aware among a demographic which are predominantly disengaged on the topic.

Voter Registration Campaign

The poster has a maroon background with a white archway. At the top is a ballot box icon with a red checkmark and the word "VOTE" in red. Below it, the text reads "VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE". The event schedule is: "Monday 22nd 12pm-4pm on Main Campus with USI.", "Tuesday 23rd 12pm-3pm on Main Campus with Cork City Council.", and "Thursday 25th 12pm-3pm in the Western Gateway Building with Cork City Council." At the bottom are three logos: the Students' Union logo (a colorful star), a ballot box icon, and the UCC logo.



In collaboration with the UCC Students Union, the Union of Students of Ireland, and Cork City Council, the Society was delighted to partake in a voter registration campaign aimed at increasing the amount of students who are registered to vote and, by extension, engaged in the political process.

The Society also took part in a virtual campaign with the Students Union to increase awareness among students on how to vote, and the difference between elections and referendums.

Annual ‘Working for Change’ careers fair

The Society is delighted to announce the return of our annual ‘Working for Change’ careers fair, which we will be running this year in collaboration with the UCC Global Justice Society. The event will take place on **13 March** and will see a multitude of prospective employers across various different sectors discuss potential employment opportunities with members of the society. The event will be hugely beneficial to our members as it will offer them an opportunity to gauge the employability requirements of sectors they may have an interest in.



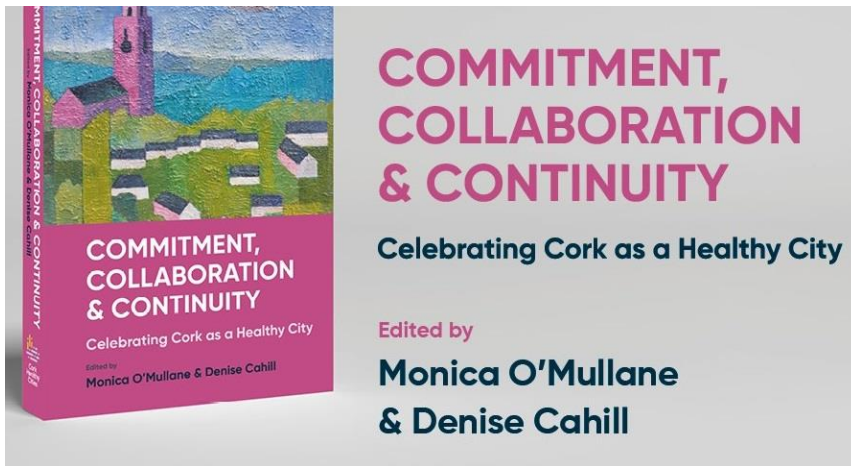
**WORKING FOR
CHANGE
CAREERS FAIR**

Wednesday 13th March 2024
11am-3pm | The Hub, UCC

The poster features a blue background with white text. On the right side, there is a red circle with white dots, the UCC logo, and the Global Justice Society logo which includes a globe and the text 'GLOBAL JUSTICE SOCIETY university college cork'.

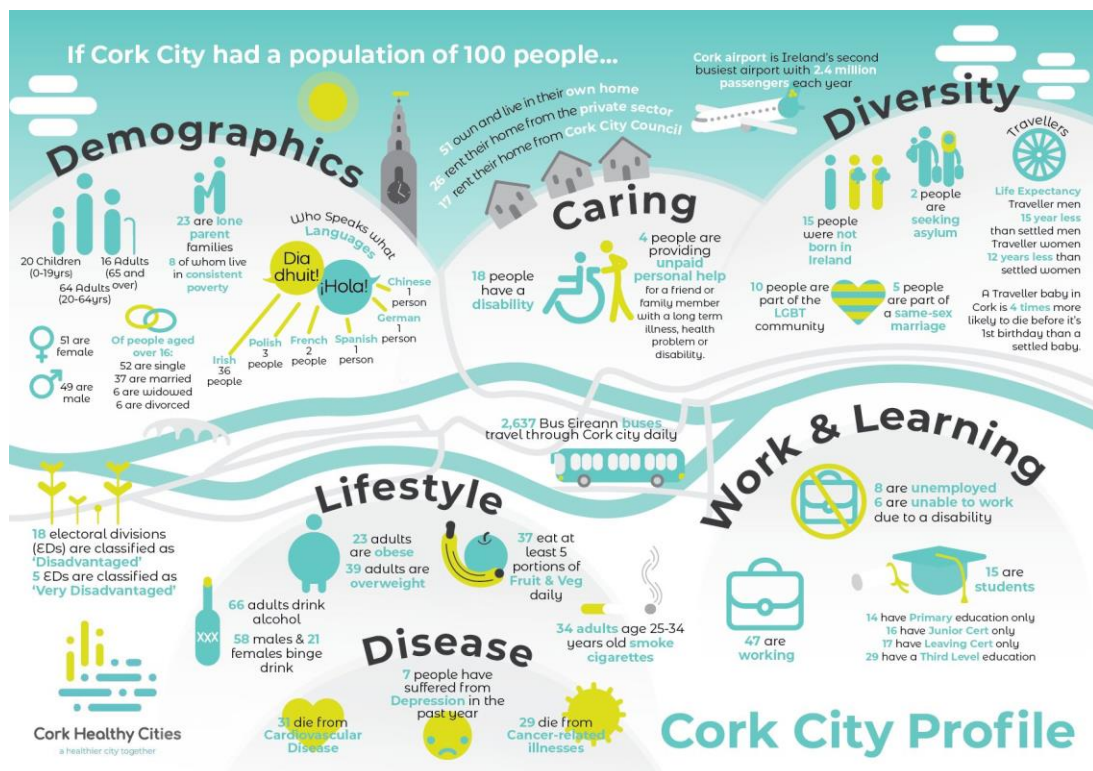


New Healthy Cities Book



Dr. Monica O'Mullane (BSc Government graduate 2004, PhD in the Department of Government and Political Science 2008) is the co-editor, with Denise Cahill, of a new book entitled *Commitment, Collaboration & Continuity: Celebrating Cork as a Healthy City*. The book reflects on Cork as a designated Health City; it shares the hard-earned experiences of individuals and groups who engage with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in order to improve population health and wellbeing in the city. The new publication features a chapter by **Dr. Aodh Quinlivan** (with Monica, Joan Devlin and Councillor Tony Fitzgerald) entitled 'A global movement working locally in Cork.'

* *Commitment, Collaboration & Continuity* will be launched by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Kieran McCarthy, in the Council Chamber of Cork City Hall at 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 14 March.



UCC project launches educational resources on biodiversity designed by children for children!

By Aoife Deane

** Aoife is a part-time PhD student in the Department of Government and Politics and a full-time staff member in UCC's Environmental Research Institute (ERI).*

A new set of educational resources have been launched under the TRYBE project which provide a suite of engaging activities aimed at enhancing knowledge and appreciation of biodiversity, including a Biodiversity Activity Book, Calendar, and Lesson Plans. TRYBE co-designed and co-created educational resources with young people based on some of the recommendations of the Children & Young People's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss relating to education and raising awareness. The Teaching Resources for Youth-informed Biodiversity Education (TRYBE) project was funded through Science Foundation Ireland and coordinated by UCC in partnership with researchers at DCU and educators from Biodiversity in Schools and the Irish Schools Sustainability Network. You can find the resources here: <https://cyp-biodiversity.ie/resources/>. Watch this short video made by the children involved to find out more about the Assembly and how the Biodiversity Activity Book was created!

https://www.youtube.com/supported_browsers?next_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DCqLD02QZVXg&feature=youtu.be



The TRYBE team with Minister Malcolm Noonan

The Children and Young People's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss is referenced in the recently published 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan and there is a commitment to establish a Children and Young People's Biodiversity Forum in 2024. The UCC team involved in the Children and Young People's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss in 2022 include Dr. Clodagh Harris, Prof. Aoife Daly, and Aoife Deane. Aoife Deane was the project manager on the legacy project TRYBE, working with Catriona Reid, recent graduate of UCC's BSc Government and Political Science.

Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Environment and Climate Action

By Dr. Clodagh Harris

Members of the **Children and Young People's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss (CYPABL)** gave evidence to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Environment and Climate Action on 21 November 2023. Their calls to action were strongly endorsed in the Committee's report on the examination of recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly report on biodiversity loss, published on 14 December 2023.



Dr. Clodagh Harris and MaREI's Aoife Deane (departmental PhD candidate – see previous page) were part of the DCU-led research consortium that co-designed and implemented the CYPABL.

Dr. Harris also served as deliberative democracy expert on the expert advisory group of the Citizen's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss.

<https://cyp-biodiversity.ie/> - Children and Young People's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss

<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/oireachtas-tv/video/archive/committees/?committee%5B%5D=%2Fen%2Fcommittees%2F33%2Fenvironment-and-climate-action%2F> - Video of Oireachtas presentation by members of CYABL.

Dr. Niall Duggans speaks at international workshop reflecting on the complexities of the emerging global order



On 15 February, **Dr. Niall Duggan** - Senior Lecturer in UCC's Department of Government and Politics - presented a paper at a prestigious international workshop entitled **A NEW COLD WAR? AFRICA'S PLACE IN THE EMERGING GLOBAL ORDER**. Niall's paper bore the title 'The Global Gateway - Chinese competition in Africa.'

The workshop took place at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Faculty of Governance, Economics and Social Sciences, Rabat, Morocco. It brought together a diversified group of scholars with the aim of reflecting on the complexities of the emerging global order and analyse how African agency and dependency is challenging, promoting and reshaping this order.

The speakers presented and discussed preliminary ideas and working papers deconstructing the 'New Cold War' in Africa by applying a layered approach that intersects the research problem across scales and theoretical positions, along sectoral and regional variations, involving different actors and processes.

PhD Candidate at COP28 in Dubai



Cop28: Projects which most need climate funds are not getting enough

After Brazil announced its intention to join the OPEC+ group of oil-producing nations, it will be interesting to see how Cop30, slated to take place in the Amazonian city of Belem, plays out



People dressed as pikachu protest fossil fuels at the Cop28 Summit. Photo: AP/Peter Dejong

TUE, 05 DEC, 2023 - 19:54

CLAUDIA HIHETAH

As a university holding observer status at the United Nations Climate Change Conferences, UCC sent an 11-member delegation comprising students, academics, and researchers to the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28). COP28 took place in Dubai from November 30 to December 13, 2023. Among the delegates was **Claudia Hihetah**, a PhD candidate in the Department of Government and Politics.

Claudia's research focuses on developing effective policies to address energy poverty and increase energy justice in Ireland. Addressing energy poverty is critical to ensuring a just and equitable transition, aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 7.

Claudia's participation in COP provided her with valuable insights into discussions shaping the future of global climate and energy policies. She documented her week at COP28 in a video diary for RTÉ - <https://www.rte.ie/news/environment/2023/12/08/1420788-ucc-student-reflects-on-cop28/>

In addition, Claudia wrote an opinion piece for the *Irish Examiner* - <https://www.irishexaminer.com/opinion/commentanalysis/arid-41283973.html>