Professor Tom Garvin

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British-Irish Developments
Chronology
This continues the chronology last updated in Issue 11 of the Newsletter

2008
June 19: Executive Committee meets for the last time during period, as SF blocks meetings in response to DUP vetoes

July 24: British Tory leader David Cameron describes dialogue between his party and the Ulster Unionist Party as an opportunity to create a “new force” in politics in Northern Ireland

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August 15: Thousands of people attend a ceremony in Omagh to mark the 10th anniversary of the bombing

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IBIS Events
North-South Relations after the Boom: The Impact of the Credit Crunch on Mutual Relations and Understandings
Politics, Economy and Society: Irish Developmentalism 1958-2008
1989-2009: Equality Measures and the Reduction of Conflict
Sons of the Soil: Immigrants, Politics, Economy and Society: Irish Developmentalism 1958-2008
Breaking the Patterns of Conflict
IBIS Book Launch
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IBIS News
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Cillian McGrattan will be coming to IBIS in September on an IRCSS-funded post-doctoral fellowship. His research project will examine civil rights activism.

Would you like to receive regular information on IBIS activities, publications, lectures, etc?
Send us your details
Email: ibis@ucd.ie
Tel: +353 1 716 8670

Jeffrey Donaldson speaking at the IBIS / Irish Association lecture on 2 April 2009

On 2 April 2009, IBIS and the Irish Association for Cultural, Economic and Social Relations held an evening lecture at Newman House, Dublin, entitled North-South Relations After the Boom: The Impact of the Credit Crunch on Mutual Relations and Understandings. In his opening address, Minister of State at the Department of Finance, Dr Martin Mansergh, TD, noted that the global economy was in a “downturn that is far worse that that in Northern Ireland. This may be also, he felt, a sign of underlying structural weaknesses for the economy in Northern Ireland, as it reflects a greater dependence on the public sector and a smaller private sector concentrated on supplying local services, construction and a small manufacturing base. The Programme for Government, he said, seeks to address these weaknesses. Programmes such as the Department for Employment and Learning’s “Strengthening the all-Island Research Base” will contribute to strategic investment in the “all-Island Research Infrastructure”.

Dr John Bradley, in his response to Mr Donaldson, argued that a basic lack of trust between North and South will prevent much deepening of real and practical co-operation. The lack of fixed and universally recognised borders, such as exists between member states of the European Union, creates a political barrier to trust, which in turn has practical consequences that the economic crisis may have made more serious. To weather the post-crisis world, he believes that the South would be wise...
not to rely on foreign investment as much as in the past. In the North, a rebalancing of the economy towards greater private sector contribution and less dependence on subvention is encouraged.

However, he concluded, the fear of a united Ireland on the part of the Northern Unionists, the call of a United Ireland for the nationalist population and the indifference on the part of most of the Republic’s population will delay or prevent the emergence of a dynamic island economy.

Mr Michael Smyth, as the final respondent, noted that Northern Ireland is watching how policymakers in the Republic deal with the economic crisis, as it has no experience of taking tough decisions. The dependence of Northern Ireland on the public sector, he said, is clearly problematical. The excesses of New Labour’s public spending spree since 2000 are now starting to catch up.

He argued that some executive experience of taking tough decisions. Even in the North, a rebalancing of the economy towards greater private sector contribution and less dependence on subvention is encouraged.

The seminar explored how far equalisation in Northern Ireland has contributed to a reduction of conflict and the relative stability of settlement. Speakers included: Bob Collins, Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland; Niall Crowley, former CEO of the Equality Authority and Frances Stewart, Professor of Developmental Economics at Oxford and Director of the Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity.

Civil War Lecture

IBIS was delighted to host world-renowned political scientist Professor David D Laitin of Stanford University. During Professor Laitin’s week-long visit to UCD, made possible by an IRCSS visiting fellowship, he took part in a number of events including: a seminar entitled Muslim Integration into EU Societies: Comparative

The first panel was by practitioners in the areas of cross-border and cross-community initiatives (Tony Kennedy, Eoin Magennis, Bronagh Hinds, Duncan Morrow). While some improvements such as an overtime increase in cross-border activity were described, a picture also emerged of duplicate facilities and a political compromise which empowers politicians to control the political agenda and marginalise other interests.

Inequality and Conflict: Evening Seminar


The second set of papers – from Gladys Daniel, Joanne Hughes, Theresa O’Keefe, Neil Jarman – pointed to the real challenges for the future and we all have to step up to the plate – leaders and led – to ensure they are delivered. We are understandably still in transition but the severity of the challenges to be addressed precludes our lingering there any longer than is strictly necessary”. Sir George Quigley set the tone of the conference: The Impact of Devolution

Politics, Economy and Society: 1958-2008

A joint IBIS / School of Politics and International Relations Conference was held on 12 March 2009, to mark the contribution of Professor Tom Garvin to UCD and to the political science community. Entitled Politics, Economy and Society: Irish Developmentalism 1958-2008, it explored some of the themes of Professor Garvin’s research by examining the development of Ireland in the later half of the twentieth century and the early twenty-first century. Papers from the conference, as well as a podcast of Professor Garvin’s keynote speech are available on the IBIS website.

The seminar explored the extent to which ten years of devolution has changed everyday experience, daily relations between Protestant and Catholic, unionist and nationalist, and the aspirations of ordinary people.

The Impact of Devolution on Everyday Life: 1999-2009, which was held at Newman House on 6 February 2009.

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Conference: Impact of Devolution on Daily Life

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The conference examined the extent to which ten years of devolution has changed everyday experience, daily relations between Protestant and Catholic, unionist and nationalist, and the aspirations of ordinary people.

Participants in the Devolution Conference included (l-r): Duncan Morrow, Eoin Magennis, Tony Kennedy and Bronagh Hinds

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IBIS Book Launch

On 9 December 2008, IBIS hosted the book launch of Republicanism in Ireland: Confronting Theories and Traditions, edited by Dr Isseult Honohan, UCD. The book examines the connections, comparisons and contrasts between Irish republicanism and other strands of republican politics: the ideology and practice of official French republicanism, the broader European and American civic republican tradition and the contemporary revival of this tradition of citizenship.

Breaking the Patterns of Conflict

IBIS held a witness seminar at Newman House on 9 December 2008. This was the fourth such seminar organised as part of a research project entitled Breaking the Patterns of Conflict: The Irish State, Northern Ireland and the British Dimension since 1972. It is funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. The witness seminar is a form of qualitative research that involves a number of participants in particular events or themes coming together to discuss their role and recollections. The transcripts of the interviews will form a qualitative archive of historic importance which will be used to make new advances on our understanding of how the Troubles were transformed and why previous attempts were not successful.

Participants in the Breaking Patterns witness seminar, 9 December 2008
RECAP Seminar
The research project Resolving Ethnic Conflict: Approaches to Peace (RECAP) aims to summarise the current state of research in the area of ethnic conflict and its resolution, identify gaps and propose mechanisms whereby this stock of knowledge can be brought to the attention of a wider public, including policy-makers. A recent seminar on 5 December 2008, organised by John Coakley, brought together scholars from the Lebanon, Belgium, the Baltic states, Country Belfast, Dublin and Budapest to build on the findings of the project. Information on RECAP can be accessed from the project website http://www.iscc-recap.org/.

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The keynote speech was provided by the Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson, MP, MLA. Mr Donaldson focused on how the current economic downturn in the Republic of Ireland is likely to impact on Northern Ireland, specifically in the areas of trade, tourism and cross border shopping, which he said, are the main economic linkages between the two. According to Northern Ireland’s manufacturing sector sales only account for one tenth of the sector’s turnover and are generally in more “recession proof” products. While some sectors have seen falls in exports North to South between 2007 and 2008, the data suggests, according to Mr Donaldson, that overall the cash value of exports from Northern Ireland to the Republic in 2008 remained around the same, measured in millions of Euros, compared to 2007. The reduction in VAT, added to the decline in the value of the sterling, has provided a boom for Northern Ireland retailers, he noted. With an estimated total tax loss of €1.43m to the Republic, this is not good news for Southern retailers, he added. Overall the Republic’s downturn is predicted to be a lot more severe that that in Northern Ireland. This may be also, he felt, a sign of underlying structural weaknesses for the economy in Northern Ireland, as it reflects a greater dependence on the public sector and a smaller private sector concentrated on supplying local services, construction and a small manufacturing base. The Programme for Government, he said, seeks to address these weaknesses. Programmes such as the Department for Employment and Learning’s “Strengthening the all-Island Research Base” will contribute to strategic investment in the “All-Island Research Infrastructure”.

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