

**A DECADE OF CENTENARIES:
COMMEMORATING SHARED HISTORY**

**REPORT ON CONFERENCE
HELD ON 20 MAY 2010**

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COMMEMORATING SHARED HISTORY**

**CONFERENCE HELD AT
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
20 MAY 2010**

REPORT

Institute for British-Irish Studies
University College Dublin

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*The support of the Department of the Taoiseach for funding of this conference
is gratefully acknowledged*

A DECADE OF CENTENARIES: COMMEMORATING SHARED HISTORY

CONFERENCE OF THE INSTITUTE FOR BRITISH-IRISH STUDIES UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, 20 MAY 2010 REPORT

Background

The conference was the third in a new series of activities launched with the support of the Department of the Taoiseach. The next annual conference will take place in 2011 and in subsequent years.

Theme

The 2010 Taoiseach's conference, organised by the Institute for British-Irish Studies, focused on shared commemoration of a decade of upcoming centenaries including the 1916 rising, the War of Independence and the Great War. The theme of the conference was our interpretation of history and how the conflicts of the past define how we attempt to regulate and transform conflict in the future, both locally and in a global context.

In this decade of centenaries, it behoves us not just to understand how the conflicts generated at that time came about, but also to examine them in a way that allows us in both parts of the island and in Britain to move beyond the causes and use the experience to help those caught in conflict in other parts of the globe. This task was the primary remit of this year's conference and laid a framework for the commemorative activities of the coming decade.

Format

UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady, welcomed everyone to the conference, noting how important the topic is for us all. He also noted that the Institute for British-Irish Studies is the only centre on the island with a strong cross-border focus and that, more recently it has expanded that scope to include wider comparative and global lessons that can be drawn from conflict and settlement in Northern Ireland. He commented that, while IBIS has a wide range of activities - an evening lecture series, ongoing research projects and publications and an active cluster of staff, doctoral and post-doctoral fellows engaging in individual and collective research - the annual conference is the most public of these.

IBIS Chair, Sir George Quigley, followed the welcome address by offering some reflections on the general theme of commemoration, noting that this decade comes 50 years after the 1960s, which was densely populated with commemorative occasions. Sir George cited the French philosopher, Ernest Renan, who believed that national solidarity required 'the possession in common of a rich legacy of memories' but who also recognised that, in the interests of preserving that solidarity, the art of forgetting as well as remembering might be necessary.

Professor John Horne (Trinity College Dublin) explored the history and current state of commemoration of the First World War in Europe. The Great War democratized sacrifice in the name of the nation-state and whether it was possible to turn such commemoration away from national self-affirmation to the goal of reconciliation between former enemies became a critical issue.

Mr Nelson McCausland, MLA, Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure, then addressed the audience on the topic of a 'shared future', which, he believes, should be a priority for every government department. He noted that the forthcoming anniversaries are to be welcomed as opportunities for celebration, commemoration and inspiration but they are also opportunities to examine, re-evaluate and interrogate the past.

Dr Brady then took to the stage once more to introduce the keynote speaker, An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, TD. The Taoiseach stressed the need for all to recognise our shared history in the coming decade. For most of the last century, he noted, both sides of the border were wary of each other. We failed to recognise that what we share is much more important than what separates us. Our island story, he added, cannot be accurately viewed or properly understood through a single prism and the events of the decade a century ago do not belong exclusively to one tradition or another.

Following the keynote political section, David Adams (Irish Times) discussed perceptions and memories of the Great War from a personal and reflective perspective. There followed a lively roundtable discussion on the same topic with Adams, Cllr Ian Adamson, OBE (The Somme Association), John Horne and Mr Ronnie Pedlow, Secretary to the Parades Commission.

After lunch Professor Brigid Laffan of UCD chaired a session on commemorations. Professor Euanthia Lyons, Director of the Centre for Research in Political Psychology at Queen's University Belfast, opened the session with a paper which discussed the social influence functions that commemorations in general, and historical narratives in particular, serve for individuals and groups. Professor Bill Rolston, Director of the Transitional Justice Institute at the University of Ulster, then took a look at the murals of Northern Ireland, which have a long tradition, pre-dating the establishment of the state. His engaging presentation took in Unionist murals, which dominated for most of the twentieth century and then focused on more specifically loyalist paramilitary murals which emerged in the mid 1980s, along with republican murals, spurred on by the hunger strikes of 1981. Mr David Hoey of the Apprentice Boys' Maiden City Festival rounded up the session with a look at cultural relevance in the 21st century and brought us through the history of the Festival to present day.

The afternoon session, chaired by Mr Tony Kennedy of the Community Relations Council, focused on 1916-2016. Professor John O'Dowd of University College Dublin gave a paper on the Easter proclamation and constitutionalism in independent Ireland. The Proclamation of the Republic made at Easter 1916 has often been treated as a touchstone for existing or possible future constitutional arrangements. Dr Margaret O'Callaghan (Queen's University Belfast) proceeded to discuss the 1916 commemoration in Northern Ireland in 1966 and examined what nationalists in the North did, how the Stormont government reacted and whether or not it related to the start of the Troubles. Dr Marc Mulholland of the University of Oxford looked at commemorations in Northern Ireland from 1950-1971, exploring the sensitivities attending the commemoration of key events associated with the founding of Northern Ireland and highlighting the difficulty in defining exactly what common experience was being celebrated. Finally the day's events concluded with a roundtable discussion on 2016, which included the afternoon speakers with Dr Brian Feeney (Irish News) and Mr Daltun O Ceallaigh.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF PREREGISTERED PARTICIPANTS*

ANDERSON	Mr Michael	University College Dublin, IBIS Doctoral Scholar
ASAKAWA	Takashi	University College Dublin
AYRES	Ms Margaret	
BELYAEV	Mr Mikhael	Embassy of Russia
BLAIR	Mr William	National Museums Northern Ireland
BORGONOVO	Dr John	University College Cork
BRUGHA	Prof Cathal	University College Dublin
BRYSON	Dr Anna	University of London
BURNEY	Mr Matt	British Council
CAMPBELL	Ms Sarah	University College Dublin
CAREW	Ms Mairead	
CARROLL	Cllr John	North Tipperary County Council
CENGIZER	HE Mr Altay	Embassy of Turkey
CHIKWE	HE Dr Mrs Kemafo	Embassy of Nigeria
CLANCY	Ms Julitta	Meath Peace Group
CLANCY	Mr John	Meath Peace Group
COOLAHAN	Mr John	
COONEY	Mr David	Dept of Foreign Affairs
CURRAN	Mr Malachi	Northern Ireland Labour Party
DEVINS	Cllr Jude	Sligo County Council
DALTUN	Mr Antoin	
DANELSONS	Mr Renars	Embassy of Latvia
DAVIS	HE Mr Bruce	Embassy of Australia
DE BREADUN	Mr Deaglan	Irish Times
DE BURCA	Ms Aoibhin	University College Dublin
DEMPSEY	Ms Renee	The Equality Authority
DOLAN	Dr Anne	Trinity College Dublin
DUFFY	Ms Kaye	University College Dublin
DUNNE	Mr Mark	University College Dublin
ELFERTS	HE Mr Peteris	Embassy of Latvia
FARRELL	Prof David	University College Dublin
FEALTY	Mr Mick	sluggerotoole.com
FLANAGAN	Ms Maire	Dept of the Taoiseach (NI Division)
FOURNIER	Ms Anne	University College Dublin
GALLAGHER	Mr Frankie	
GALLAGHER	Ms Mary	University College Dublin
GANNON	Ms Dara	University College Dublin
GIBNEY	Mr John	
GLEESON	Mr Paul	Dept of Foreign Affairs (Anglo-Irish Division)
GREAVES	Mr Colm	
GREEN	Ms Elizabeth	British Embassy
GRIFFITH	Mr Lewis	
GRIFFITH	Ms Irene	
HARDIMAN	Dr Niamh	University College Dublin
HARRIS	Dr Mary	NUI Galway
HAYWARD	Dr Katy	Queen's University Belfast
HAZARD	Dr Ben	University College Dublin
HEALY	Ms Eimear	Dept of the Taoiseach
HEDIGAN	Mr David	Enterprise Ireland
HOBSON	Ms Olive	Quaker House Belfast
HOEWER	Ms Melanie	University College Dublin
HOEY	Mr John	
HONOHAN	Dr Iseult	University College Dublin
HOURIGAN	Cllr Michael	Limerick City Council
HUGHES	Mr Stephen	
INGRAM	Professor Attracta	University College Dublin

IVAN	Mr Miroslav	Embassy of the Slovak Republic
IVORY	Dr Gareth	
JACKSON	Ms Jennifer	University College Dublin
JORDAN	Mr Anthony	
KASPRZYCKA	Ms Katarzyna	Embassy of Poland
KEALY	Ms Cliona	University College Dublin
KELLY	Ms Liza	Tides Training
KELLY	Cllr Michael	Clare County Council
KENNEDY	Mr Ronan	University College Dublin
KERBER	Ms Alicia	Embassy of Mexico
KING	HE Mr Julian	British Embassy
LAIRD	Mr Ciaran	University College Dublin
LALLY	Mr Sean	
LEDDIN	Cllr Joe	Limerick City Council
LIASSIDES	HE Mr Sotos	Embassy of Cyprus
MAJANEN	HE Mr Pertti	Embassy of Finland
MAURO	Dr Robert	University College Dublin
MCATACKNEY	Dr Laura	University College Dublin
MCCARRON	Ms Patricia	University College Dublin
MCCARTHY	Ms Aine	Trinity College Dublin
MCCARTHY	Mr Dermot	Dept of the Taoiseach
MCCARTHY	Cllr Sean	South Tipperary County Council
MCDERMOTT	Ms Susan	University College Dublin
MCGARRY	Mr Paul	Dept of the Taoiseach
MCGOWAN	Cllr Deirdre Healy	Sligo County Council
MCGRATTAN	Dr Cillian	University College Dublin
MCKINNEY	Mr Brian	Northern Ireland Labour Party
MCPHERSON	Dr Jim	University College Dublin
MEEHAN	Prof Elizabeth	Queen's University Belfast / UCD
MITCHELL	Mr Alan	
MOLLOY	Mr Shane	Trinity College Dublin
MOORE-CROFT	Mr Cyril	
MULVAGH	Mr Conor	University College Dublin
MURPHY	Cllr Paul	Clare County Council
MURRAY	Mr Frank	ICLVR
MURRAY	Mr Thomas	University College Dublin
NEALY	Mr Richard	
O'BRIEN	Mr Dave	
O CAOINDEALBHAIN	Mr Brian	Co-operation Ireland
O'CONNOR	Mr Geoff	University College Dublin
O'DOHERTY	Mr Vincent	British-Irish Association
O DUNAIN	Mr Ronan	
O'DWYER	Ms Carol	Dept of the Taoiseach
O MEARA	Cllr Michael	North Tipperary County Council
PRAGNERE	Mr Pascal	University College Dublin
RAFTER	Mr Eamon	Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
RAHIMPOUR	HE Mr Ebrahim	Embassy of Iran
RANKIN	Dr Kieran	Trinity College Dublin
REED	Mr Richard	Queen's University Belfast
ROBB	Mr John	New Ireland Group
RUSSELL	Mr Martin	University College Dublin
SCHOEN	Ms Ricki	
SHORIN	Mr Victor	Embassy of Russia
SIMEA	Mr Ahmed Edir	University College Dublin
SLABEYCIUS	Mr Stano	Embassy of the Slovak Republic
STASSEN	Mr Paul	University College Dublin
STAUNTON	Mr Andrew	British Embassy
STEWART	Ms Caitriona	BC Short & Associates
STEWART	Mr Terry	Irish Association
TAYLOR	Mr Paul	University of Oxford

TODD	Prof Jennifer	University College Dublin, Director IBIS
TURNER	Mr Robbie	
VEST	Ms Line	Embassy of Denmark
VICTORY	Mr Ralph	Dept of Foreign Affairs (Anglo-Irish Division)
WHYTE	Dr Jean	Trinity College Dublin
WOLFFE	Prof John	The Open University, Milton Keynes
ZHANG	Chun	University College Dublin

*Note. This list does not include members of the press, guests of An Taoiseach, or other participants who registered on the day.



IBIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

A DECADE OF CENTENARIES: COMMEMORATING SHARED HISTORY

JOHN HUME INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL IRISH STUDIES, UCD

THURSDAY, 20TH MAY 2010

9:30 Welcome Address: Dr Hugh Brady (UCD President)

9:40 **SESSION 1: THE GREAT WAR**

Chair: Sir George Quigley

War, memory and commemoration in contemporary Europe: some reflections

John Horne (Trinity College Dublin)

Commemorations and a shared future

Nelson McCausland, MLA

10:30 Tea/Coffee Break (20 minutes approximately)

11:00 **An Taoiseach, Mr Brian Cowen, TD**

11:20 **Perceptions and memories of the Great War**

David Adams (Irish Times)

11:40 **Roundtable Discussion on perceptions and memories of war**

With David Adams, Ian Adamson (The Somme Association), John Horne and Ronnie Pedlow (Parades Commission)

12:30 Lunch Break

1:30 **SESSION 2: COMMEMORATIONS**

Chair: Professor Brigid Laffan (University College Dublin)

Remembering the past to visualise the future: the social influence functions of narrating shared history

Evanthia Lyons (Queen's University Belfast)

The history and development of political wall murals in the North

Bill Rolston (University of Ulster)

Cultural relevance in the 21st century

David Hoey (Apprentice Boys' Maiden City Festival)

Q&A Session

3:00 Tea/Coffee Break

3:15 **SESSION 3: 1916-2016**

Chair: Tony Kennedy (Community Relations Council)

Remembering the constitution: the Easter proclamation and constitutionalism in independent Ireland

John O'Dowd (University College Dublin)

The 1916 commemoration in Northern Ireland in 1966

Margaret O'Callaghan (Queen's University Belfast)

Commemorations in Northern Ireland: 1950-1971

Marc Mulholland (University of Oxford)

Roundtable Discussion on 2016

With Brian Feeney (Irish News) Daltún Ó Ceallaigh, and the panel