ABOUT IBIS

The Institute for British-Irish Studies was founded in 1999 and is based in the Department of Politics at University College Dublin. The Institute represents UCD’s response to political developments brought about by the Good Friday Agreement. It was officially launched in March 2000 by Mr Peter Mandelson, MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Dr Michael Woods, TD, Minister for Education and Science.

The Institute organises conferences, an annual lecture series, seminars on work in progress and occasional guest lectures. Through these events, the Institute provides a platform for academics, politicians and public servants to share their knowledge and experience with each other and with the wider public.

The main aims of the Institute are:

- to carry out academic research on relations between the two major traditions on the island of Ireland and between Ireland and Great Britain
- to promote contact with policymakers and opinion formers outside of the university sector, thereby ensuring a free flow of ideas between the academic world and the wider public
- to encourage collaboration with academic bodies and with individual researchers elsewhere who share an interest in the exploration of relations between different national, ethnic or racial groups.

The Institute is managed by a small staff: Director John Coakley, Research Administrator Carmel Coyle and Secretary Karin Lang.

Dr Art Cosgrove, President, UCD; Rt Hon Peter Mandelson, MP, former Northern Ireland Secretary; Dr Michael Woods, TD, Minister for Education and Science; and Mr Noel Dorr, Chair, IBIS, toasting the Institute at its launch on 21 March 2000.
**RECENT EVENTS**

**Conference**
A very successful conference *The Act of Union: 200 years on* was held on 26-27 May 2000. This was organised jointly with the British-Irish Association. It opened on Friday evening 26 May with a keynote address by Dr Garret FitzGerald, Chancellor NUI, followed by a reception hosted by the Institute in Newman House. The conference continued in the former House of Lords chamber, Bank of Ireland, on Saturday 27 May when the opening address was given by Mr Brian Cowen, TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Other speakers included Dr Alvin Jackson, QUB; Professor Oliver Rafferty, SJ, NUI Maynooth; Professor Tom Bartlett, UCD; Dr Ian McBride, Durham University; Professor Paul Bew, QUB.

**Lectures**
The Institute has made a conscious effort to draw wider public attention to the remarkable changes that have been taking place recently in Irish political life. In association with the Conference of University Rectors in Ireland, IBIS organised a programme of public lectures for the year 2000. The Institute is planning a further series of public lectures in association with the Conference of University Rectors in Ireland in 2001.

The 2000 lectures, on the general theme *Redefining the Union and the Nation: new perspectives on political progress in Ireland*, were designed to analyse the shifts in orientation within the major political traditions on the island. The five lectures were:

3 April 2000
*Redefining Southern Nationalism*
Speakers: Mr Desmond O’Malley TD, PD; Professor Tom Garvin, UCD

4 May 2000
*Redefining Unionism*
Speakers: Mr Dermot Nesbitt MLA, UUP; Professor Richard English, QUB

2 October 2000
*Redefining Northern Nationalism*
Speakers: Mr Alban Maginness MLA, SDLP; Dr Jennifer Todd, UCD

6 November 2000
*Redefining Loyalism*
Mr David Ervine MLA, PUP; Dr James McAuley, University of Huddersfield

4 December 2000
*Redefining Republicanism*
Mr Mitchell McLaughlin MLA, SF
Professor Paul Arthur, UU.

**VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS**
The Institute makes a number of visiting research fellowships available each year to persons wishing to contribute to its aims and work programme.

The selection of fellows is based on the complementarity between the research proposal and the Institute’s current research strengths and agenda. During their stay fellows contribute to the work programme of the Institute, including its research seminars, working papers series and publications.

Applications may be submitted at any time throughout the year. A sub-committee of the Institute’s Board adjudicates on applications twice yearly.

Further information is available on our website or from the Institute.

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*What they said at the launch ....*

“I hope that the Institute will also develop a significant cross-border component. As such, it will contribute in both the medium and long term to further cooperation between universities north and south, and this will contribute towards shared perspectives in the analysis of common problems.” — Minister Michael Woods

“I know that you will make an important contribution. I know that you will challenge our assumptions and...” — former Secretary of State Peter Mandelson

John Coakley, Director IBIS; Professor Ronan Fanning, UCD; Professor Paul Arthur, University of Ulster and Mitchell McLaughlin MLA, Sinn Fein at the *Redefining Republicanism* lecture.
The consortium has been established to advance the following goals:

- to conduct academic research in the area of relations between the major national traditions in Great Britain and Ireland
- to explore constitutional, institutional and other mechanisms for managing these, from an interdisciplinary social science perspective
- to promote contact with policymakers and opinion formers outside the university sector, and to ensure a free flow of ideas between the academic and the non-academic worlds.

The consortium brings together institutions in the capitals of the four component parts of the United Kingdom and in the Republic of Ireland:

- Department of Government, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Department of Politics and Unit for the Study of Government in Scotland, University of Edinburgh
- School of European Studies, Cardiff University of Wales
- Department of Politics and Centre for the Study of Ethnic Conflict, Queen’s University of Belfast
- Department of Politics and Institute for British-Irish Studies, University College Dublin.

The consortium functions through a range of activities including:

- organisation of research workshops and meetings
- issuing of joint publications
- creation and maintenance of a web page
- facilitation of academic exchanges.

Key official web sites

Government of Ireland
http://www.irlgov.ie/

Department of Foreign Affairs
http://www.irlgov.ie/iveagh/

Oireachtas
http://www.irlgov.ie/oireachtas/

Northern Ireland Executive
http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/

Northern Ireland Assembly
http://www.ni-assembly.gov.uk/

Office of the first Minister and Deputy First Minister
http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/dfp

United Kingdom Government
http://www.open.gov.uk/

Northern Ireland Office
http://www.nio.gov.uk/

United Kingdom Parliament
http://www.parliament.uk/

British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body
http://www.biipb.org/

Scottish Executive
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/

Scottish Parliament
http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/

Wales Office
http://www.ossw.wales.gov.uk/

National Assembly for Wales
http://www.wales.gov.uk/

Isle of Man government
http://www.gov.im/

Isle of Man Parliament

States of Jersey
http://www.gov.je/

States of Guernsey
http://www.gov.gg/

Key documents

Anglo-Irish Agreement: fundamental document of 1985
http://www.nio.gov.uk/aia.htm

Downing Street Declaration: joint major-Reynolds statement, 15 December 1993
http://www.irlgov.ie/iveagh/angloirish/jointdeclaration/

Framework Documents: 22 February 1995
http://www.nio.gov.uk/frameworks.htm#JFD

http://www.irlgov.ie/iveagh/angloirish/mitchellreport/

Downing Street communiqué: Major-Bruton statement, 28 February 1996
http://www.nio.gov.uk/cque2802.htm

Good Friday Agreement: 10 April 1998
http://www.nio.gov.uk/agreement.htm


The following website contains a comprehensive chronology and bibliography of political developments in Northern Ireland:

CAIN: (Conflict Archive on the Internet) University of Ulster
http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/

For an invaluable set of further links, see also:

INCORE: (Initiative on conflict resolution and ethnicity) University of Ulster
http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/
Cross-border project
The Institute has received a research grant from the Centre for Cross-Border Studies in Armagh for a project entitled Creating Living Institutions: Cross-Border and Regional Cooperation after the Good Friday Agreement.

The research focuses on the European dimension of cross-border co-operation within the island of Ireland. It is being carried out under the direction of Professor Brigid Laffan and Dr Diane Payne, Department of Politics, UCD. The report is due to be published in mid-May 2001.

Oral archive project
This project involves compiling an archive of audio-tape interviews with participants in the multi-party talks which led to the Good Friday Agreement. It entails the recording and archiving of detailed structured interviews with the main participants in the talks. The archive will serve as a very valuable research database in years to come.

The project is being directed by Dr Jennifer Todd, Department of Politics, UCD and is funded by the John Whyte fund and the Rowntree Foundation.

IBIS DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP
The IBIS doctoral fellowship for the 2000/01 academic year has been awarded to Kevin Howard. Mr Howard is a PhD student in the Department of Politics where he is working on his thesis The emergence of the Irish ethnic category in the UK census of 2001.

Mr Howard is examining the politics involved in securing the Irish ethnic category. He will focus in particular on the role of the Irish state in a changed British-Irish political landscape.

IBIS BOARD
- Mr Noel Dorr, former Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs (chair)
- Professor John Bradley, Economic and Social Research Institute
- Mr Conor Brady, Editor, The Irish Times
- Dr Maurice Bric, Department of History, UCD
- Mr John Coakley, Director, IBIS
- Professor Fergus D’Arcy, Dean, Faculty of Arts, UCD
- Professor Brice Dickson, Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
- Professor Ronan Fanning, Department of History, UCD
- Mr Harold Fish, former Director, British Council, Dublin
- Professor Tom Garvin, Head, Department of Politics, UCD
- Senator Edward Haughey, businessman and politician
- Professor Brigid Laffan, Department of Politics, UCD
- Senator Maurice Manning, Department of Politics, UCD
- Professor Stephen Mennell, Director, Institute for the Study of Social Change, UCD
- Rt Hon Justice Catherine McGuinness, Supreme Court, Dublin
- Ms Inez McCormack, President, Irish Congress of Trade Unions
- Dr Jennifer Todd, Department of Politics, UCD

FORTHCOMING EVENTS
An IBIS conference on the theme From political violence to negotiated settlement: the winding path to peace in twentieth century Ireland will take place in UCD on 23 March 2001.

The conference will begin with an examination of the background to recent efforts to break the decommissioning log-jam. This will be followed by a series of historical presentations, beginning with the critical period 1912-22. Later presentations will focus on the significance of this period for myth making on both nationalist and unionist sides, on the development of the republican tradition and its external links, and on recent changes within both republicanism and unionism in terms of perceptions of the legitimacy of violence.

Speakers will include:
- General John de Chastelain
- Professor Paul Bew
- Dr Paul Dixon
- Professor Ronan Fanning
- Professor Alvin Jackson
- Dr Michael Laffan
- Professor Eunan O’Halpin
- Dr Joseph Ruane.

Conference brochures and registration forms are available from the Institute.

Mailing list
Would you like to receive regular information on IBIS activities, publications, lectures, etc?

Send us your name, address and contact details and we will include you on our mailing list.