



The UCD Constitutional Studies Group

(With the support of the School of Law, UCD)

Presents a conference on

Does Ireland need constitutional reform?

Clarion Hotel, IFSC

Friday, 21st May 2010

1pm – 6pm

Conference schedule

Session 1: Why constitutional reform?

- 1.00pm An Iterative Constitution: dynamics of a rule-based legal system – Dr. Stephen Kinsella.
- 1.20pm Re-placing the Constitution in the context of Reform – Dr. Maria Cahill
- 1.40pm The problems of public understanding and constitutional reform – Dr. Oran Doyle.
- 2.00pm Questions and discussion.

Session 2: Electoral and parliamentary reform

- 2.20pm Reforming the Seanad – Senator Ivana Bacik
2. 40pm Is electoral reform the wrong answer to the right question? – Prof. David Farrell.
- 3.00pm "Relaying the Playing Field - Implications of political reform for the constitutional law ground rules of political competition – Dr. John O'Dowd.
- 3.20pm Questions and discussion.

3.45pm Coffee break.

Session 3: Improving public governance

- 4.00pm Sacred spaces and blurred boundaries: Administrative reform and constitutional governance – Muiris MacCarthaigh
- 4.20pm Enhancing government accountability to the Oireachtas – Eoin O'Malley
- 4.40pm An accountability branch of government? – Dr. Eoin Carolan
- 5.00pm The place of the media in the constitution – Dr. Carol Coulter
- 5.20pm Questions and discussion
- 5.45pm Close of conference

Speaker profiles

Dr. Stephen Kinsella: Stephen Kinsella is a Lecturer in Economics at the University of Limerick. He is the author of *Ireland in 2050: How we will be Living* and *Understanding Ireland's Economic Crisis: Prospects for Recovery*. He has a BA in Economics and Mathematics from Trinity College, Dublin, an M.Econ.Sc, MA, and Ph.D in Economics from NUI. He also holds an M.Phil in economics from the New School for Social Research in New York His research spans the area of computable economics, health economics, and experimental economics.

Dr. Maria Cahill: Maria Cahill is a lecturer in the School of Law in University College Cork. She is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin (LLB, 2003) and the European University Institute (LLM, 2004; PhD 2008). She joined UCC in August 2008, having previously lectured at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Dr. Oran Doyle: Oran Doyle is a barrister and lecturer in Constitutional Law and Jurisprudence in Trinity College Dublin. His areas of interest include environmental and planning law, constitutional law, jurisprudence and equality law. He is author of *Constitutional Equality Law*, published in 2004 by Thomson Round Hall and co-editor of *The Irish Constitution: Governance and Values* (Thomson, 2009), as well as numerous other articles on constitutional law.

Senator Ivana Bacik: Ivana Bacik was elected to the Seanad in 2007. She is also the Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology (1996), a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin and a practising Barrister. She has a Law degree from Trinity College Dublin and an LL.M. from the London School of Economics. Her research interests include criminal law and criminology, constitutional law, feminist theories and law, human rights and equality issues in law.

Professor David Farrell: Professor Farrell is Professor of Politics in the School of Politics and International Relations in UCD. He is a specialist in the study of parties, elections, electoral systems and members of parliament. He is founding co-editor of *Party Politics* and a co-editor of the Oxford University Press series on 'Comparative Politics'. Prior to his move to Dublin, Professor Farrell was professor and head of Social Sciences at the University of Manchester.

Mr. John O'Dowd: John O'Dowd is a member of the School of Law in UCD where the courses he lectures include modules in Constitutional Frameworks and in Constitutional Right. From 2002 to 2004, he held the NUI Travelling Studentship in Law and he is currently completing a DPhil thesis at the University of Oxford (Wolfson College). His research interests include constitutional law, human rights Law (especially relating to freedom of expression and social and economic rights), media law and jurisprudence.

Dr. Muiris MacCarthaigh: Dr Muiris MacCarthaigh works in the Research Division of Institute of Public Administration as well as in the Geary Institute, UCD where he is currently engaged in an IRCHSS-funded project titled *Mapping the Irish State*. He holds a PhD from the School of Politics and International Relations at University College Dublin, with his dissertation published in 2005 as a book titled *Accountability in Irish Parliamentary Politics*. Since then he has published a number of other books concerning Irish government and public administration, including *Government in Modern Ireland* (IPA: 2008) and *Autonomy and Control of State Agencies: Comparing States and Agencies* (Palgrave: 2010), and is co-editor (with Maurice Manning) of a forthcoming text titled *The Houses of the Oireachtas*.

Dr. Eoin O'Malley: Eoin O'Malley is a lecturer in political science at the School of Law and Government, Dublin City University. He holds a PhD in Political Science from Trinity College Dublin. He is currently co-editor of Irish Political Studies and his research interests include prime ministerial power in parliamentary democracies, cabinet government and policy making in Ireland.

Dr. Eoin Carolan: Eoin Carolan is a barrister and lecturer in constitutional law in UCD. His research interests include constitutional and administrative law and his most recent publication is *The New Separation of Powers: A Theory for the Modern State* (Oxford University Press, 2009). Prior to UCD, he lectured in Trinity College Dublin and was a visiting researcher at Harvard Law School.

Dr. Carol Coulter: Dr. Carol Coulter is Legal Affairs editor with the Irish Times. She was the author of a report on the Family Law Reporting Pilot Project for the Courts Service and of the book *Family Law and Practice: A study of Cases in the Circuit Court* (Clarus, 2009)

<i>Booking Details</i>	
Conference fee:	€25*
CPD Points :	5 CPD Hours
To reserve a place, please email:	sinead.hennessy@ucd.ie

*There are a limited number of spaces available for students at the reduced rate of €15.