

# Celebrating cross-border relationships

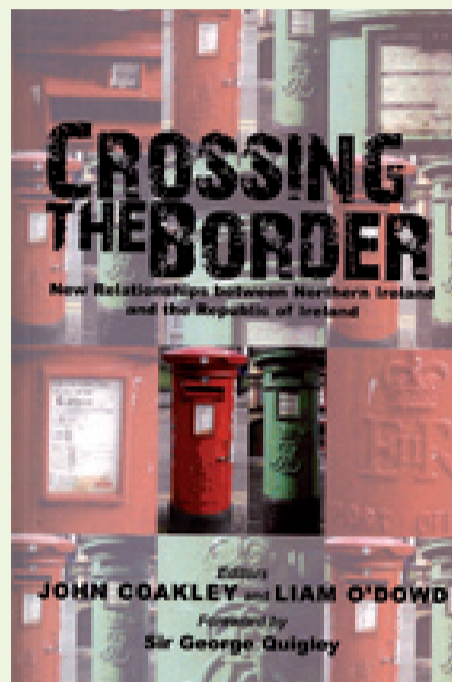
**Crossing the Border: New Relationships between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, a new book which assesses the development of cross-border relationships, the opportunities they present, and the obstacles that continue to limit north-south collaboration was officially launched by An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD on 21 February 2008 at Newman House, Dublin.**

"Tracing the development of co-operation, from the earlier part of the twentieth century when North and South developed along very different paths; through the troubles and to the establishment of a lasting peace under the Good Friday Agreement, this book is an invaluable tool for anyone interested in this area," said An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern.

Published by Irish Academic Press, the book is based on a major collaborative project between Queen's University, Belfast and University College Dublin (UCD) which involved up to 40 researchers from Ireland and abroad.

Professor John Coakley, UCD Institute for British-Irish Studies, one of the co-editors of the book alongside Professor O'Dowd, Queens University Belfast, pointed out that although

cross-border cooperation is now taken for granted, it was not always so. "In fact", he suggested that "for much of the twentieth century, relations across the border were so frosty that the term 'cold war' might not have been an exaggeration".



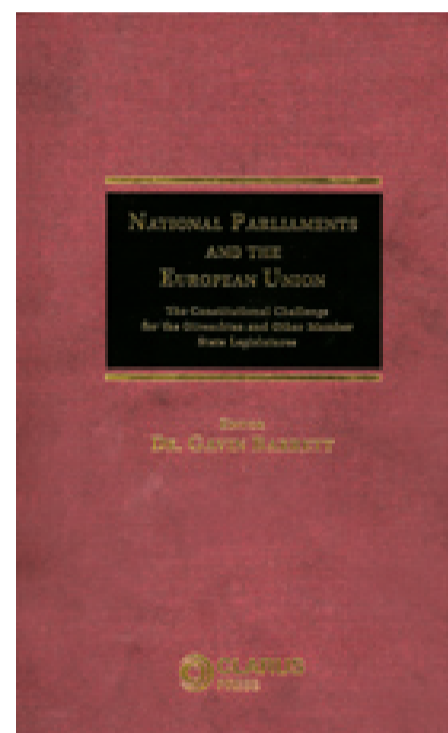
# The constitutional challenge for EU member state legislatures

**A considerable transfer of legislative and decision making powers from member states to European Union level in a broad range of policy fields has occurred since the signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1957. This transfer of law-making power has generated a number of conundrums, for both the EU member states and for the European Union itself, according to Dr Gavin Barrett, UCD School of Law.**

In a new book, National Parliaments and the European Union, edited by Dr Barrett, political, legal and state experts reflect on national parliaments and the European Union today, focusing on their success, or lack of success, in exercising control over national governments.

With an emphasis on areas of increasing salience, such as security and defence policy, asylum and immigration and justice and home affairs generally, the expert contributors to the book analyse the particular experience of Ireland and the Oireachtas. The book also examines the experiences of a number of other member state parliaments (including the UK, France, the Nordic States, the Netherlands and Slovenia) in confronting the same challenge.

"National Parliaments and the European Union" is published by Clarus Press.



# The battle of ideas 1912 - 1986

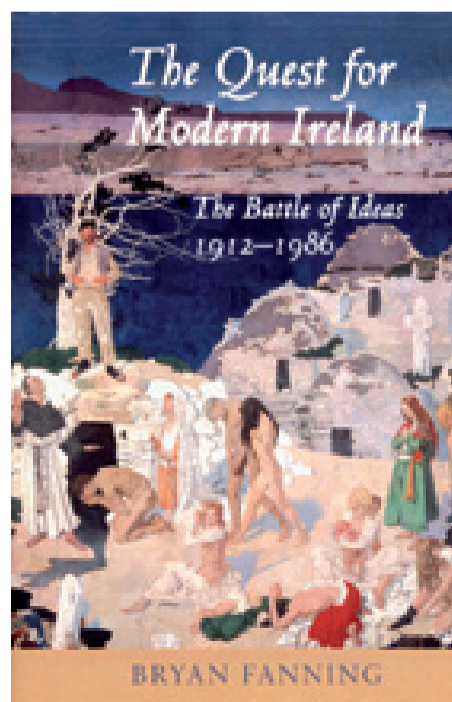
**In a new book: The Quest for Modern Ireland - The Battle of Ideas 1912-1986, Dr Bryan Fanning, UCD School of Applied Social Science, examines the Irish periodicals where the social, political and economic debates that shaped modern Ireland were influentially debated. According to Dr Fanning, there were five periodicals which when taken together provide a broad sense of the intellectual politics that played out after the independence of the Irish State.**

In The Bell, Sean O'Faolain rallied liberal writers against the national myths which seemed to obscure the hidden Ireland of the 1940s. Many writers of non-fiction in The Bell were the ones whose own fiction was banned. The Bell presented compelling snapshots of everyday life in Irish society. O'Faolain insisted the radical change in thinking that was really needed actually came down to being able to speak clearly about real problems and everyday life.

Ireland's first Irish journal of sociology, Christus Rex was launched in 1947. And although this periodical came from the conservative Catholic perspective, it nevertheless grappled with problems of emigration, rural decline and how Ireland might come to terms with social change. In Administration, civil servants sought to rise to the challenge laid down by T.K Whitaker, the co-architect with Sean Lemass of post-1950s modernisation.

The Jesuit journal Studies which was founded in 1912 had close ties to UCD. Influential contributors included Tom Kettle, Michael Tierney, George O'Brien, Patrick Lynch

and Garrett Fitzgerald. It fostered a long-running engagement between liberalism and Catholicism ignored, according to Fanning, within 'standard' accounts of Irish modernisation. For instance, during the 1940s clerics cited The Road to Serfdom by Frederick Hayek whilst economists sometimes invoked papal encyclicals to do the same. From 1977, in The Crane Bag poets and philosophers led by Richard Kearney placed what he called the Irish mind on the couch in an effort to make sense of the Northern conflict.



# South of the Border

**At the launch of James Ryan's latest book South of the Border, Ciaran Benson spoke of the author's use of description of smells to conjure up the sense of place and time. "The rank scent of the geranium spindling out of a free-standing cachepot beside the front door, gave way to a whiff of Brasso..." evokes memories or musings of our grandmothers' houses in the frugal forties. And, for those of us with no memories and little knowledge of this period, Ryan's book opens up a world that is rarely described in such illustrated detail. The setting and characters are beautifully crafted. James Ryan gives us a great read as he walks us through living rooms and country lanes with such care that we are left with lingering images.**

The young Matt has just qualified with his teaching degree and finds himself in the small town of Rathisland in the midlands. In a country where the European clash between fascism and communism takes on its own brand of ex-colonial conflict, the players in Rathisland are suspicious, paranoid, biased and often bullying. The characters of the priest, the landlady, the school principal, the IRA sympathiser all provide a backdrop against which Matt has to grow up. At the same time he meets Madelene, an English evacuee and experiences the confused emotions of first love. Hardly surprising that he himself sometimes acts furtively and in an environment where much is left unsaid, ends up acting impulsively and perhaps inappropriately.

*South of the Border* is a compelling story, told from the perspective of a young man who is like an innocent abroad. We stay with Matt as he follows his compulsive course of action, empathising with his motives but concerned about the consequences. In the end, when he looks back, we see how the tale has had an impact on his life and are left liking him.

