

Fully funded PhD- at the intersection of sexualities and political settlement in Northern Ireland starting in January 2022

This PhD project is part of the Beyond Opposition Project (www.beyondopposition.org). The project explores the possibilities of co-creating worlds in which polarized differences can co-exist in liveable ways.

The PhD takes as its focus LGBTQ+ inclusions and those who are opposed to, or concerned about, these in the context of Northern Ireland.

In the context of political settlements and post-agreement societies, and the disruptions of LGBTQ+ lives and spaces that can cut across other divisions, the project will explore key questions including: In what ways do oppositions to LGBTQ+ lives intersect with, contest and learn from oppositions prompted by political violence? In what ways might some oppositions become 'settled' while others remain unresolved? What are the implications of LGBTQ+ inclusions for post-agreement settled societies? What can peace building and transitional justice bring to divisions around sexualities and genders? Conversely, what can considerations of sexualities and genders bring to understandings of peace building and transitional justice?

This project will take place as Brexit/the Northern Irish protocol/changes to sexualities and gender legislations are ongoing in Northern Ireland. The successful candidate might take a number of routes through these questions including exploring key aspects that are of interest to them. Some emerging areas of exploration include:

- How do oppositions rooted in political contestation and oppositions to LGBTQ+ lives intersect and how are they engaged, or not, with in processes of political settlement?
- How are LGBTQ+ lives positioned in hierarchies of opposition and hierarchies of priorities in political settlement processes in Northern Ireland? How do these transcend or sit outside them?
- What is the place of LGBTQ+ lives in aspects of conflict and political settlement processes where such issues may not be resolvable for some?
- How do hierarchies of politics/people and related experiences of harm come to matter and in what spaces in politicised contexts? How does the creation of elites and 'good victims', enemies/allies, 'good/bad' play out in debates where there is opposition to LGBTQ+ lives and their experiences of conflict?;
- Where and how do 'culture wars' around sexualities and genders fit into political contestation, armed conflict and the settlement of political differences? How do ideas of inclusion and living with each other fit in post-conflict societies?
- Where and how do *oppositions* to LGBTQ+ lives fit in conflict resolution/peace building/transitional justice?;
- Exploring ideas of transition where opposition to a fundamental right to exist comes up against the need to 'resolve' political differences? How is a cohesive whole or cohesive sense of identity where some lives are contested on the basis of genders and sexualities?
- What is peace in respect of ongoing *opposition* to LGBTQ+ lives in post-agreement societies? And how does it relate to difference? What is peace

and where is it contested as a rights and identity issue? Is peace possible where some people will fundamentally disagree with your life?;

The direction your project will take will be informed by two engaged and enthusiastic supervisors with complimentary expertise to achieve new knowledges that affect social change. Prof. Kath Browne leads the Beyond Opposition project and as a Geographer of Sexualities and Genders has extensive experience in LGBTQ+ equalities and opposition to these. The Beyond Opposition project seeks to work differently with difference, creating new social worlds focusing on social polarization as a key issue of the 21st Century. Prof. Aisling Swaine has extensive academic and practical experience of working on and researching conflict-related gendered harm, peacebuilding and transitional justice processes globally, including in Northern Ireland.

The successful candidate will seek to work with academic research in a way that creates social change. They will have experience of working **either** on Peace/conflict/transitional justice **OR** gender/sexualities- with a willingness and eagerness to know the other area. Knowledge of and engagement with research in Northern Ireland will offer a distinct advantage.

Full list of required/desirable qualities:

Required:

A 2:1 Honours and a Masters degree, or international equivalent, within social sciences or humanities

A demonstrable academic/experiential knowledge in Peace and Conflict Studies OR Sexualities/Genders/LGBTQI are essential.

An interest in both is required as well as a passion for social change that harmful divisions and polarisations.

Experience of working with qualitative data

Excellent writing standards as evidenced through recognition of written work as part of Undergraduate and Master's degrees.

Understand the importance of ethical procedures and compliance with GDPR and other data management protocols.

Ability to work to deadlines and produce effective timelines that achieve key aims.

Ability to work effectively within a team.

Desirable

Policy/academic publications of research material.

Experience of working in/on Northern Ireland

Engagements with scholarship in heteroactivism, anti-gender, gender ideologies and/or Christian Right will be an advantage.

To apply, send Kath.browne@ucd.ie an outline of a project idea which links to key strands/themes identified above. You must also include a copy of your CV, Masters/Undergraduate transcripts and a covering letter outlining your motivation for applying and what you believe that you would bring to the role. Applications should be received by 5pm (GMT) on December 14, 2021. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview.

This role will offer an EU fee waiver and student stipend of €18500. Teaching and other research assistant roles can be applied for and will be remunerated accordingly. Terms vary for non-EU applicants.

If you would like to informally discuss the role via email, please contact Prof Kath Browne on kath.browne@ucd.ie