

Autumn 2005 Issue 9

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IBIS CONFERENCE

Implementing the Agree- ment: the North-South bod- ies five years on

Around 150 politicians, civil servants, academics and practitioners from all over Ireland attended a very successful IBIS conference on 27 May 2005 at UCD. The conference addressed the progress made under strand two of the Good Friday Agreement: the North-South dimension.

Sponsored by the HEA through the north-south research project, *Mapping frontiers, plotting pathways: routes to North-South co-operation in a divided island* (further information on which is contained in this newsletter), the objective was to take stock of the functioning of the implementation bodies, in the context of a political background that has been far from stable since their creation in 1999. Speakers included the Taoiseach, followed by both joint secretaries of the North/South Ministerial Council, Mr Tim O'Connor and Dr Peter Smyth, and senior representatives of all of the implementation bodies. Academic discussants came from UCD, Queen's University Belfast, the University of Ulster and the Northern Irish think-tank, Democratic Dialogue.



Pictured (L-R) at the conference were: Dr Peter Smyth, NSMC; Mr Noel Dorr, Chair, IBIS; An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, TD; Dr Hugh Brady, President, UCD; Mr Tim O'Connor, NSMC

The conference opened and closed with respectively, political and academic interpretations of

the future of North-South cooperation. The Taoiseach presented a positive view from the Government, highlighting the central role of the Good Friday Agreement in any long-term political developments. He went on to congratulate the north-south bodies on their work to date in overcoming the decades when cooperation had been almost non-existent, and spoke of the need to consider the whole island for longer-term economic and infrastructural planning purposes (the text is available as IBIS working paper no 50).



An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, TD, pictured addressing the conference.

Following discussion with the NSMC joint secretaries and the implementation bodies on the history of the Council and the obstacles faced and overcome since the inception of the bodies, the conference ended with two presentations of a more speculative character. Lord Laird of Artigarvan criticised the lack of tangible benefits he perceived as accruing from north-south cooperation since the Good Friday Agreement, emphasising the subsequent alienation of unionists.

John Coakley from UCD closed by reminding the audience that a number of political realities, including not least the interests of both the British and Irish governments, and of the two major blocs in Northern Ireland would determine the shape of future developments. In this respect, and based on an understanding of the history of North-south cooperation since partition, he highlighted the

difficulty of predicting the future pattern of operation of the implementation bodies.

IBIS CO-OPERATION IRELAND LECTURE SERIES

Minister Dermot Ahern emphasises partnership politics

The second lecture in the 2005 joint lecture series with **Co-operation Ireland** took place on 10 May 2005. Addressing the perspective of the Irish government in the implementation of the Agreement, Mr Dermot Ahern, Minister for Foreign Affairs was joined by Mr Stephen Collins, political editor of the *Sunday Tribune*, who provided a critical interpretation of the government's stance in recent times (The full text of Minister Ahern's address and Mr Collins's remarks is available as IBIS working paper no 46)



Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Dermot Ahern TD, pictured with Dr Phillip Nolan, Deputy President, UCD, and the British Ambassador, HE Stewart Eldon, at the May lecture

An audience of 100 civil servants, NGO representatives, diplomats, students and academics engaged enthusiastically with the speakers. The minister stressed the government's view that the provisional movement must "catch up" with constitutional republicans on the island; this would then allow the unionist leadership to "fully accept the principle and practice of partnership politics, both within Northern Ireland, and through the North/South framework, with democratic nationalism on this island".

IBIS gratefully acknowledges the support of **Co-operation Ireland** in the joint lecture series.

IBIS NEWS

New IBIS management

Dr Jennifer Todd, previous IBIS research director, took over as IBIS director on 1 September 2005, on the departure of Prof. John Coakley for a year's sabbatical leave. Dr Iseult Honohan will be Research director for the 2005-06 year.

Mapping Frontiers, Plotting Pathways: project progress

This important project brings IBIS together with the Centre for International Borders Research and the Institute of Governance at Queen's University Belfast, the Centre for Cross-Border Studies at Armagh, Democratic Dialogue in Belfast and the Economic and Social Research Institute in Dublin. Three research workshops, and three border area grass-roots seminars were held since issue 8 of the newsletter, as well as the North-South bodies conference (reported on page 1).

A further grass-roots seminar will be held in Derry city on 13 October 2005. A wide range of research themes have now been investigated, a selection of which includes:

- North-South inter-governmental cooperation during the 1940's and 1950's
- changes in the organisation of island civil society following partition
- spatial behaviour and political attitudes in border communities
- educational cooperation on the island of Ireland
- the changing role of the EU Commission in facilitating cross-border cooperation
- the impact of the EU social partnership approach on cross-border cooperation

- the relevance of the border to north-south trade and migration patterns.

In addition, numerous in-depth case studies of contemporary cross-border cooperation, along with a mapping study of current funded initiatives in this area, will address fundamental questions such as the meaning of partnership and sustainability in this domain. A final project conference, with international keynote addresses by Professor Brendan O'Leary, among others, is planned for January 2006 (see below).

Abstracts of all research papers in progress are available on the website www.mappingfrontiers.ie. Hard copies of completed project Working papers, listed on the website, are available by contacting ibis@ucd.ie

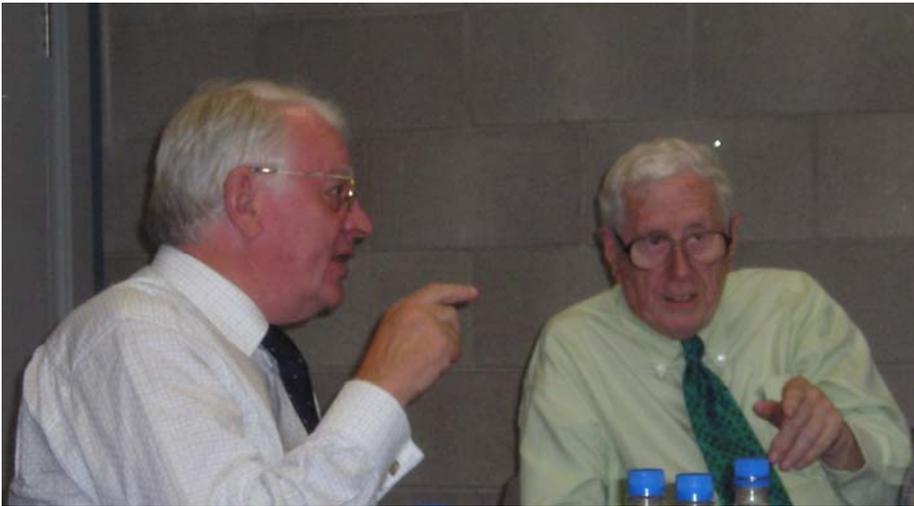


Prof. Cormac O'Gráda (UCD Economics) pictured addressing Study group III, hosted by InterTradeIreland in Newry, on 13 September, 2005.

Sunningdale seminar

IBIS director, Dr Jennifer Todd, chaired a one-day seminar on 7 September, on the brokering of the Sunningdale agreement in 1973/4. The seminar included Dr Garret Fitzgerald, Mr Austin Currie of the SDLP and senior civil servants from the Department of Foreign Affairs and of the Taoiseach.

Assisted by IBIS Board member, Professor Ronan Fanning, of UCD's School of History & Archives, and a number of postdoctoral Politics students, it focused on discussing and collating personal recollections of the period, for storage as archived material that will form a significant resource at UCD for future use by



Pictured in conversation at the Sunningdale seminar were Austin Currie, SDLP and former Taoiseach, Dr Garret Fitzgerald

academics and research students. The seminar is one of a series planned to document key stages in contemporary British-Irish relations.

Arrival of new post-doctoral fellow

IBIS is pleased to announce the arrival in September 2005 of Dr Katy Hayward, post-doctoral fellow for the period 2005-2007. Dr Hayward is recipient of a Government of Ireland post-doctoral fellowship, for research into *Disputing borders: the EU's influence in Northern Ireland, all-island and British-Irish cooperation*. IBIS looks forward to a productive fellowship; details of Dr Hayward's work will be available on the IBIS website in due course.

Departure of Dr Kevin Howard

IBIS wishes to acknowledge the departure to pastures new of Dr Kevin Howard. Kevin began work as a lecturer at Dundalk Institute of Technology in September 2005. He first joined IBIS in Autumn 2000 as doctoral fellow, and gained his doctorate in 2003 for a thesis entitled *From group to category: the emergence of the Irish in Britain as an ethnic minority*. IBIS wishes him well in his new post.

UCD School of Politics and International Relations

IBIS welcomes its new status as a research centre within the newly formed School of Politics and International Relations at UCD. The new school brings together and adds value to the previous disciplines of Politics, European Studies and Development studies.

Major UCD publications re-launched

Tom Garvin, patron of IBIS, was present recently at the re-launch in Dublin of his major set of works, including the most recent *Preventing the future: why was Ireland so poor for so long?*. Other titles include *The evolution of Irish nationalist politics*, *Nationalist revolutionaries in Ireland 1858-1928*, and *1922: the birth of Irish democracy*. Tom Garvin's works are re-published by Gill & Macmillan Press.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Joint lecture series

The 2005 joint lecture series with Co-operation Ireland will continue in the Autumn of this year, with lectures planned from representatives of the unionist tradition in Northern Ireland. Readers should consult the IBIS website for up to date details.

Mapping frontiers, plotting pathways conference

Final research findings from the two-year HEA-funded project will be disseminated at an end of project conference, scheduled to take place on **19-20 January 2006**, in the City hotel, Armagh city, Northern Ireland. A wide range of groups and individuals involved in north-south cooperation and peace and reconciliation work on the island of Ireland will be invited to attend. International keynote speakers will also present papers. Should you wish to receive an invitation, please contact Dr Eoin Magennis at the Centre for Cross-Border Studies: email: e.magennis@qub.ac.uk; web www.crossborder.ie

Latest Working papers

The IBIS pre-publication working paper series is based on work in progress. Individual papers are available free of charge from IBIS (a small charge applies to multiple orders).

Since our last issue, the following additional working papers have appeared:

44. M Mc Guinness, MP, MLA and P Arthur, *Republicanism and the implementation of the Agreement*
45. John Doyle, *Republican policies in practical politics: placing contemporary Sinn Féin in a European context*
46. D Ahern, TD and S Collins, *The Irish Government and the implementation of the Agreement*
47. J Coakley and L O'Dowd, *The Irish border and North-South cooperation: an overview*
48. KJ Rankin, *The creation and consolidation of the Irish border*
49. J Anderson and L O'Dowd, *Imperial disintegration and the creation of the Irish border: Imperialism and Nationalism 1885-1925*
50. B Ahern, TD, Taoiseach, *The future of North-South cooperation*
51. T O'Connor, *The establishment of the North/South ministerial council and the North-South bodies*
52. P Smyth, *North-South cooperation since the Agreement*

53. J Coakley, *The future of the North-South bodies*

Abstracts of all working papers are available to download on the IBIS website: www.ucd.ie/ibis.

BRITISH-IRISH DEVELOPMENTS

Chronology

2005

Mar 7-8 Thirteenth Plenary session of British-Irish Interparliamentary Body, Co Donegal

Mar 21 SDLP launches policy document on Irish unity, "A better way to a better Ireland"

Apr 6 The sisters of Robert Mc Cartney meet the President of the European Parliament, and various European political parties, to raise support for their justice campaign

May 5 Britain's general election returns Labour to power for a third consecutive term; in Northern Ireland, the results show an increase for both the DUP and Sinn Féin; UUP holds only one seat.

May 7 Peter Hain appointed as new Secretary of State for Northern Ireland; David Trimble resigns as leader of the UUP, following loss of Westminster seat.

May 11 Local government election results in NI show significant increase for Sinn Féin and the DUP; UUP lose 39 seats, the SDLP two.

May 20 Seventh summit of the British-Irish Council, Isle of Man

May 24 International Monitoring Commission's latest report states that the IRA is still recruiting, training and gathering intelligence

May 26 Sean Gerard Hoey charged with the murders of 29 people in the Omagh bomb

June 24 Sir Reg Empey elected leader of the Ulster Unionist Party

June 29 Deal struck in Derry City to allow 12 July Orange march on the nationalist west bank for the first time

July 28 IRA formally announces an end to its "armed campaign", and its commitment to exclusively peaceful means

Aug 1 Secretary of State Peter Hain announces a two-year plan on demilitarisation in NI; with 26 out of 40 army sites to be closed and troop numbers reduced from 10,500 to 5,000

Aug 5 40 PSNI officers injured in riots on Belfast's Crumlin road; loyalist paramilitaries are blamed, as part of their ongoing feud

Aug 5 News breaks of presence of "Columbia three", in Ireland; Irish and UK governments deny any "deal" with republicans on the issue as part of IRA stand-down of July 28.

Aug 22 Nationalists and loyalists riot for eight hours following a band parade in Belfast and an old firm football match between Glasgow Celtic and Rangers

Sept 8 President Mary Mc Aleese cancels a planned visit to the Shankill area of west Belfast, but carries out other functions in Belfast, including a meeting with PSNI Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde

Sept 9-11 Belfast experiences one of the worst weekends of street violence in many years, following the controversial re-routing of an Orange Order parade. The PSNI Chief Constable insists that the Orange Order assume significant responsibility for the disorder

Sept 14 NI Secretary of State, Peter Hain, declares the UVF ceasefire no longer valid, following continued violence, largely within unionist and loyalist communities and civic disruption in Belfast

Sept 15 The families of murdered Belfast man Robert Mc Cartney and murdered Dublin man Joseph Rafferty, both alleging IRA responsibility for the murders, meet in Belfast. Both families discuss their common campaigns and highlight intimidation within their communities.

Sept 17 Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dermot Ahern, TD, addresses the National Committee on American Foreign Policy on the need for a complete end to sectarianism in Ireland

Sept 20 Vice-Chairman of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, Dennis Bradley, is attacked in a pub in Derry city. Dissident republicans blamed

Sept 21 Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dermot Ahern, TD, addresses the trade and employers' associations, IBEC (RoI) and CBI (NI) on the importance of north-south economic cooperation

Sept 26 The International Monitoring Commission reports that the IRA has satisfactorily decommissioned all of its arms, following the announce-

ment of an end to its armed campaign in July.

NEW IBIS PUBLICATION

The third volume in the series *Perspectives in British-Irish Studies* was published in April by UCD Press. *Renovation or revolution: new territorial politics in Ireland and the United Kingdom*, edited by John Coakley, Jennifer Todd and Brigid Laffan, assesses the impact of the constitutional changes of the late 1990s in Great Britain and Ireland (including devolution and the Good Friday agreement) on political and institutional life in the two islands. The authors include Arthur Aughey, John Coakley, Ronan Fanning, Adrian Guelke, Brigid Laffan, David McCrone, Elizabeth Meehan, John Osmond, Simon Partridge and Jennifer Todd. Prime Minister Tony Blair has contributed a preface, and an appendix provides a range of background political information.

The other titles in the series include Maurice J Bric and John Coakley, eds, *From political violence to negotiated settlement: The winding path to peace in twentieth century Ireland* (2004) and John Coakley, ed., *Changing shades of orange and green: re-defining the Union and the Nation in contemporary Ireland* (2002).

These are available from good bookshops. Orders can also be placed through Columba Mercier Distribution Ltd; email: cmd@columba.ie, tel: +353-1-295 2560.

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

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