

# PROPAGANDA AND MOBILISATION: IRELAND FROM RISING TO CONSCRIPTION CRISIS, 1916-1918



George Moore Auditorium – O’Brien Centre for Science, UCD  
Saturday 18 November

#historians1917

# PROPAGANDA AND MOBILISATION

IRELAND FROM RISING TO CONSCRIPTION CRISIS, 1916-1918

## PROGRAMME

**Saturday 18 November 2017**

George Moore Auditorium – O'Brien Centre for Science, UCD

- 9.00 Registration and refreshments  
9.45 Official opening and introduction: **Ms Ruth Taillon**, Secretary, Universities Ireland  
10.00 Session 1  
**Dr Aidan Beatty**, Lecturer, Wayne State University, Detroit – ***Masculinity, Race and Nationalist Propoganda, 1916-1923***  
**Dr Mary McAuliffe**, Assistant Professor, Gender Studies, University College Dublin – ***Post – Rising Propoganda and Republican womanhood as the 'heroic subordinate'***  
**Dr John Borgnovo**, Lecturer, University College Cork – ***Anti-government, anti-war, and pro independence: The emergence of a 'republican front' in 1917.***  
11.30 Refreshments  
12.00 Session 2  
**Dr Daithí Ó Corráin**, Lecturer, History and Geography, Dublin City University - ***Dissension, defection and denouement: the National Volunteers, 1916-17***  
**Dr Leanne Blaney**, Lecturer, History, University College Dublin - ***Motors wanted!, Cars, canvassing and conveyance during the 1918 General Election***  
13.00 Lunch  
14.00 Session 3  
Postgraduate Showcase  
**Shane Browne**, University College Dublin - ***The National Volunteers: the power of political notables in mobilising the masses***  
**Gerri O'Neill**, Dublin City University - ***How National Aid Made Propaganda Pay: Raising Funds and Selling a Message***  
**Conor Heffernan**, University College Dublin - ***From Bloom to Battle: Tracing Ireland's Early Physical Culture Movement'***  
**Ailbhe Rogers**, Maynooth University - ***The welfare of Irish political prisoners in Dundalk Gaol in the aftermath of Thomas Ashe's death, Oct 1917-April 1918***  
15.00 Session 4  
**Dr Conor Mulvagh**, Lecturer, University College Dublin - ***Manufacturing Consensus: Polite society, policy and the Irish Convention, 1917-18***  
**Dr William Murphy** - Lecturer, Dublin City University - ***Prisons, Prisoners and Mobilising Protest, 1916 to 1918***  
16.00 Refreshments  
16.30 Session 5  
**Dr Ida Milne**, IRC Marie Curie Elevate Fellow, Maynooth University – ***Influenza and the German Plot: A perfectly propogandic disease***

**Dr Margaret Ward**, Visiting Fellow, Queen's University Belfast – ***"Telling the Truth and nothing but the truth about Ireland"***. **Hanna Sheehy Skeffington and the Irish propaganda war in America, 1917-1918**

17.30 Close of conference

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



**Ms Ruth Taillon** is Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. Ruth has many years' experience working with a range of public and community-based organisations in both jurisdictions. Prior to joining the Centre, Ruth was Research Coordinator for Border Action, a partnership between Pobal and the Combat Poverty Agency, working on European funding programmes Peace and INTERREG. She was Director of the West Belfast Economic Forum and involved with the management of a number of community-based initiatives throughout the 1990s. She has also worked as an independent research and evaluation consultant, specialising in gender, equality, and peace and conflict issues. She is currently a member of the Irish Government's Oversight Group for the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and an expert advisory group for a EU Commission study on obstacles to cross-border cooperation. Ruth also writes and lectures on Irish women's history, about which she has a strong personal interest.



**Dr Aidan Beatty** has a PhD from the University of Chicago and has held fellowships at Concordia University (Montreal) and Trinity College Dublin. He currently teaches in the Gender, Sexuality and Women Studies Program at Wayne State University (Detroit). His first book, *Masculinity and Power in Irish Nationalism, 1884-1938*, was published in 2016 and was awarded the Prize for Best Book in History and Social Sciences from the American Conference of Irish Studies. He is currently finishing *Jewish Questions and Irish Questions: Crossovers in Culture, a collection of comparative essays on Irish Studies and Jewish Studies* (co-edited with Dan O'Brien, UCD) which will be published in 2018 by Syracuse University Press.



**Dr Mary McAuliffe** is an Assistant Professor in Gender Studies at UCD. She holds a PhD from the School of History and Humanities, Trinity College Dublin and lectures on the UCD Gender Studies programmes at University College Dublin. Her latest publications were, *We were there; 77 women of the Easter Rising* (co-written with Liz Gillis) and *Kerry 1916; Histories and Legacies of the Easter Rising*, on which she was co-editor. She was also co-editor of *Sexual Politics in Modern Ireland*. She was

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the historical consultant on two major 2016 commemorative projects; Richmond Barracks and the Royal College of Surgeons. She was also on the advisory committee of the National Museum of Ireland 1916 Exhibition. She is past President of the Women's History Association of Ireland (2011-2014) and a committee member of the Irish Association of Professional Historians.



**Dr John Borgonovo** lectures in the School of History at University College Cork. His books, journal articles and book chapters have explored various aspects of Ireland's revolutionary and First World War experiences. Among his monographs is, *The Dynamics of War and Revolution: Cork City, 1916-1918* (Cork University Press,

2013) which explores the emergence of a mass movement for Irish independence following the Easter Rising. He is the associate editor of the acclaimed and weighty, *Atlas of the Irish Revolution*.



**Dr Daithí Ó Corráin** is a Lecturer in the School of History and Geography, Dublin City University. His research interests include the 1916 Rising and its aftermath, the Irish Revolution, Irish political violence, and twentieth-century ecclesiastical history. He is the author of *Rendering to God and Caesar: the Irish Churches and the two*

*states in Ireland, 1949-73* (2006) and *The Dead of the Irish Revolution, 1916-21* (forthcoming, with Eunan O'Halpin). He is co-editor of *The Irish Revolution, 1912-23* monograph series of county histories published by Four Courts Press, and is currently completing a major monograph: *The Irish Volunteers, 1913-1919: a history*.



**Dr Leanne Blaney's** main research interests lie in the history of nineteenth and twentieth century British and Irish society, in particular the role technology has played in shaping everyday lives. Her IRC-funded PhD examined the impact and influence of the motorcar within Ireland following its introduction to the island in 1896. Having

previously lectured in UCD and coordinated public history courses in the NLI, Leanne has also worked as a Researcher. A former Podcast Editor of UCD's Historyhub.ie, she frequently contributes articles to RTÉ's Century Ireland. She is currently an affiliated staff member of University of Glasgow's School of History.



**Dr Conor Mulvagh** is a Lecturer in Irish History at UCD with special responsibility for the decade of centenaries. Specialising in Westminster politics and Irish constitutional nationalism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, he teaches courses on memory and commemoration, home rule, and the history of Northern Ireland in the

School of History at UCD. Conor previously worked on the Royal Irish Academy's Documents on Irish Foreign Policy project (2013). He is a regular contributor on history topics on radio and television and is the author of *The Irish Parliamentary Party at Westminster, 1900-18* (Manchester University Press, 2016) and *Irish Days, Indian Memories: V. V. Giri and Indian Law Students at University College Dublin, 1913-1916* (Irish Academic Press, 2016).



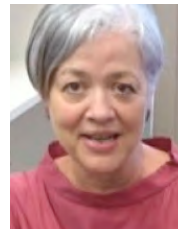
**Dr William Murphy** is a Lecturer at the School of History and Geography, Dublin City University. Much of his work has focused on the history of political imprisonment. His book *Political Imprisonment and the Irish, 1912-1921* (Oxford University Press, 2014) is available in paperback. He contributed the chapters on prisons to

the recent *Atlas of the Irish Revolution* (Cork University Press, 2017) and he continues to work on political prisoners and health as a member of the team of the Wellcome Trust funded project *Prisoners, Medical Care and Entitlement to Health in England and Ireland, 1850-2000*. A graduate of UCD, his other books include *Leisure and the Irish in the Nineteenth Century* (Liverpool University Press, 2016), co-edited with Leeann Lane; *The Gaelic Athletic Association, 1884-2009* (Irish Academic Press, 2009), co-edited with Mike Cronin and Paul Rouse; and the forthcoming *Michael Collins: the man and the revolution* (Collins Press, 2018), co-written with Anne Dolan.



**Dr Ida Milne** is an Irish Research Council Marie Curie Elevate Fellow at Maynooth University, where she researches infectious diseases of childhood within their historic contexts, and teaches oral history. She was awarded a PhD in 2011 from Trinity College, Dublin for her dissertation on the 1918-19 influenza pandemic in Ireland. Her

monograph on the Irish experience of the pandemic, *Stacking the Coffins – influenza, war and revolution in Ireland, 1918-19*, will be published by Manchester University Press in 2018.



**Dr Margaret Ward** was the Director of the Women's Resource and Development Agency, a regional organization for women, based in Belfast from 2005 until her retirement in December 2013. A graduate of Queen's University she has worked at Bath Spa University and the University of the West of England. In 2014 she was

awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws by Ulster University for her contribution to advancing women's equality. She is a Trustee of National Museums NI and a board member of Libraries NI. She is currently Visiting Fellow in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen's University, Belfast. Margaret's latest book is *Hanna Sheehy Skeffington: suffragette and Sinn Féiner, her memoirs and political writings*, 2017, UCD Press. Her other publications include *Unmanageable Revolutionaries: women and Irish nationalism* and biographies of Hanna Sheehy Skeffington and Maud Gonne.

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## BACKGROUND TO THE CONFERENCE

This conference is organised by Universities Ireland, the network of university presidents and vice-chancellors from Ireland and Northern Ireland founded in 2003. Universities Ireland runs North-South scholarship schemes (including one for PhD students working in the 1912-1923 period); links Irish universities with their counterparts in Britain and Africa; supports persecuted scholars from countries where freedom of expression and inquiry is under threat; and undertakes a number of other initiatives to bring Irish and Northern Irish universities closer together. It is managed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies.

The Universities Ireland Historians Group was started in 2011. This conference is the sixth in a series of annual conferences that will continue until 2023, and is part of a multi-annual programme of activities led by the UI Historians Group to reflect on the 1912-1923 period in Irish history. The aim is that this will be a scholarly and sustained initiative, and thus a unique contribution to reflection on a decade of history-changing events by the island's intellectual leaders, the 10 universities (and, in particular, their Departments of History). The programme includes research scholarships for young historians; lobbying British and Irish museums and archives to enhance access to key historical materials from the period; collaborative history teaching initiatives, and joint conferences and seminars.

Following on from last year's 'Historians on 1916' conference, the focus of this year's session is propaganda and mobilisation. Following the 1916 Rising, Irish politics underwent a period of profound transformation between the summer of 1916 and the winter of 1918. A major element of this was the metamorphosis

of the 1916 Rising from a military failure into a successful foundation narrative of a reconstituted, republicanised, and revolutionised Sinn Féin. Much of this work was undertaken by female activists within Cuman na mBan and the wider republican movement and subsequently by released republican prisoners.

Transformative Irish by-elections punctuated the period under consideration but there is much more to the transformation of Irish politics than elections in a phase which witnessed martial law, food scares, moral panics, and the constant spectre of conscription being extended to Ireland.

A propaganda war was fought between advocates of constitutional and physical force nationalism as well as between recruiters for the Crown Forces and the Irish Republican Army during this period. The efforts of Irish republican activists between the capitulation of the Easter 1916 rebels and the General Election of 1918 can be viewed through the prism of cultural mobilisation. Likewise, British wartime propaganda in the same period intensified. This was a time when Ireland was unique within the United Kingdom by virtue of its exemption from conscription. By taking the themes of cultural mobilisation and propaganda, this conference seeks to explore the shifting dynamics of Irish society and politics during a period that is often eclipsed by the prominence of the Rising at one end and the War of Independence at the other. In between these two major military events was a battle for hearts and minds, a clash of ideology, and the daily struggle of life in wartime. Socially, politically, and culturally, this year's Universities Ireland Conference hopes to explore the complexities of this often-overlooked yet highly significant transitional phase in the long history of Ireland's revolutionary decade.

## CONTACTS

The Secretary of Universities Ireland is **Ruth Taillon**, and its Administrator is **Eimear Donnelly**. They can be contacted at the **Centre for Cross Border Studies**, 39 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7EB

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