

1912-1923 Reflecting on a decade of War and Revolution in Ireland

## LIFE AND DEATH IN 1915

### 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); 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. The UI Secretariat is provided by the Centre for Cross Border Studies.

The Universities Ireland Historians Group was started in 2011. This conference is the fourth 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.

### 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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### Keynote speakers

**Professor Eunan O'Halpin**, Professor of Contemporary Irish History, Trinity College Dublin

**Dr Caitriona Clear**, Senior Lecturer, Department of History, NUI Galway

Thomas Davis Theatre, Trinity College Dublin from 9.00am to 4.30pm

**Saturday 27 June 2015**



PROGRAMME

Saturday 27th June

Thomas Davis Theatre, Trinity College Dublin

Registration

- 9.30 am Official opening and introduction:  
**Professor Philip Nolan**, President, Maynooth University.
- 10.00 am Keynote address: **Professor Eunan O’Halpin**, Professor of Contemporary Irish History, Trinity College Dublin – **‘Death in Ireland 1915’**
- 10.45 am Break – Tea/Coffee
- 11.00 am Chair: **Professor Eunan O’Halpin**, Professor of Contemporary Irish History, Trinity College Dublin  
  
First Panel Session: **‘Death in Ireland 1915’**  
**Róisín Ní Ghairbhí**, Lecturer in Roinn na Gaeilge, St Patricks College, Drumcondra  
**Fionnbarr Moore**, Senior Archaeologist, National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht  
**Shane Kenna**, Doctor of Modern Irish History & Author  
**Tom Burke MBE**, Chairman of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association
- 12.15 pm Keynote address: **Dr Caitriona Clear**, Senior Lecturer in History, NUI, Galway – **‘Life in Ireland 1915’**
- 1.00pm Lunch
- 2.00pm **‘History Blitz’**  
10 x 5 minute presentations on Recent and Current Research relating to 1915
- 3.00 pm Break – Tea/Coffee
- 3.15 pm History Ireland-Hedge School: **‘Life in Ireland 1915’** Chaired by **Dr Anne Dolan**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Modern History, Trinity College Dublin  
**Padraig Yeates**, Journalist, trade union activist, social and labour historian  
**John Borgonovo**, Lecturer in History, University College, Cork  
**Cormac Ó Comhraí**, Historian on the Irish War of Independence & Civil War  
**Fearghal McGarry**, Reader in Modern Irish History, Queens University Belfast
- 4.30pm **Catriona Crowe**, Head of Special Projects, National Archives of Ireland

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND CHAIRPERSONS



**Professor Philip Nolan** was appointed President of Maynooth University, National University of Ireland in 2011. Previously he was Registrar and Deputy President of University College Dublin, where he led the development of UCD’s Health Sciences Centre and acted as Director of the UCD Conway Institute from 2003-2004. He has been the recipient of several awards for his teaching and research in Physiology and has published extensively in leading international journals in his field. He chairs the Irish Universities Association’s Task Group on Reform of University Selection and Entry and represents Maynooth University on the Universities Ireland Council.



**Eunan O’Halpin MRIA** is Professor of Contemporary Irish History and Director of the Centre for Contemporary Irish History, Trinity College Dublin. Amongst his works are *The Decline of the Union: British government in Ireland, 1891-1920* (Dublin, 1987), *Defending Ireland: the Irish state and its enemies since 1922* (Oxford, 1999), (ed.) *MI5 and Ireland, 1939-1945: the official history* (Dublin, 2003) and *Spying on Ireland: British intelligence and Irish neutrality during the Second World War* (Oxford, 2008). He is a member of the Irish government Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations.



**Dr Róisín Ní Ghairbhí** is a native of County Limerick, she is a lecturer in Roinn na Gaeilge in St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra. She has published widely on the subject of modern Irish language literature and is co-author with Eugene McNulty of *Patrick Pearse: Collected Plays/ Drámaí an Phiarsaigh* (Academic Press, 2013) and author of *Willie Pearse in the 16 Lives series* (O’Brien Press, 2015). She is a member of the Board of the Imram Literary Festival.



**Fionnbarr Moore MA** is a Senior Archaeologist with the National Monuments Service (NMS), Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, where he leads the Underwater Archaeology Unit, which maintains the Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland. Fionnbarr has a particular interest in the wreck of RMS Lusitania, for which the National Monuments Service has responsibility since it was protected by Underwater Heritage Order in 1995. This has led to further research on the war at sea during WWI and to collaboration with the National Seabed Survey on the wrecks of the period that have been identified through a seabed mapping project.



**Dr Shane Kenna** has worked in several sites of historical and political importance including Kilmainham Gaol Museum and Archive, Dublin Castle, Government Buildings and Castletown House. His research interests are Victorian and early twentieth century Britain, Ireland and America, with a special reference to the Irish-American Diaspora. He has widely lectured in Ireland, America and Britain. He has published biographies of Thomas MacDonagh and O’Donovan Rossa alongside a history of the Fenian dynamite campaign and the Irish Republican Brotherhood. Presently he is providing historical consultancy to Glasnevin Cemetery in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the burial of O’Donovan Rossa.



**Tom Burke** is chairman and founder of The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association. He has contributed to several publications on Ireland and the First World War and is a member of the First World War exhibition advisory committees to the National Museum of Ireland and National Library of Ireland. His research interests include examining the success and failures of the BEF at battalion and brigade level in the First World War. Tom holds a B.A. in English and History and an M.Litt in Military History from University College Dublin and in 2004 was awarded an MBE for his contribution to the Irish Peace Process.



**Caitriona Clear** is a Senior Lecturer in modern Irish and European social history at NUI, Galway. Her most recent book is *Social Change and Everyday Life in Ireland 1850-1922* (Manchester University Press 2007) and she has also published on nuns in 19th-century Ireland, women’s household work in twentieth-century Ireland, the practice of oral history, the history of poverty, and the writer Maura Laverty. Her next book, *Women’s Voices: women’s magazines in Ireland in the 1950s and 60s*, will be published by Bloomsbury in September 2015.



**Anne Dolan** lectures in modern Irish history at Trinity College Dublin. She is author of *Commemorating the Irish Civil War: History and Memory, 1922-2000* (Cambridge, 2003), and, with Cormac O’Malley, is co-editor of *No Surrender Here!: The Civil War Papers of Ernie O’Malley* (Dublin, 2008). She is currently working on a history of violence in post-war Ireland.



**Padraig Yeates** is a journalist, social and labour historian and the author of *Lockout: Dublin 1913*, the standard work on the great 1913 labour dispute. His other books include *A City in Wartime: Dublin 1914-1918*, *A City in Turmoil: Dublin 1919-1921* and *A City in Civil War: Dublin 1921-1924*.



**Dr John Borgonovo** lectures at the School of History, University College Cork. He has published numerous books and articles on the First World War and Irish Revolutionary period, including the recent monograph, *The Dynamics of War: Cork City, 1916-1918*, published by Cork University Press. He is an assistant editor of the forthcoming *Atlas of the Irish Revolution*; and a co-editor of the forthcoming *The Men Will Talk to Me: West Cork Interviews by Ernie O’Malley*.



**Cormac Ó Comhraí** is a graduate of NUI Galway and teaches history and Irish at second level in Galway. He has a strong interest in researching the revolutionary period in the west of Ireland and has given many public talks on aspects of local history as well as contributing to TG4 and Raidió na Gaeltachta documentaries. He is author of *Gaillimh 1913-23* (forthcoming), *Ireland and the First World War: A Photographic History and Revolution in Connacht: A Photographic History 1913-23*. He is also co-editor of *The Men Will Talk to Me: Galway Interviews by Ernie O’Malley*.



**Fearghal McGarry** is Reader in Irish History at Queen’s University Belfast. His research focuses on modern Ireland. He is the author of *The Rising. Ireland: Easter 1916* (2010, Oxford University Press). His most recent publication, *Rebels: Voices from the Easter Rising* (Penguin, 2011), an edited collection of first-hand testimony by revolutionaries, has been adapted for the stage by the Abbey Theatre. His collective biography of the Abbey Theatre’s 1916 rebels, will be published this autumn. He is working on a number of projects related to the centenary of the Easter Rising, including the interpretive centre at the GPO and a British Pathé-produced documentary on the revolution.



**Catriona Crowe** is Head of Special Projects at the National Archives of Ireland. She is Manager of the Irish Census Online Project and an editor of Documents on Irish Foreign Policy and editor of *Dublin 1911*, (2011, Royal Irish Academy). She is Honorary President of the Irish Labour History Society, Chairperson of the Irish Theatre Institute and a former President of the Women’s History Association. She is Chairperson of the SAOL Project, and also Chairperson of the Inner City Renewal Group, both in the North Inner City, Dublin. She is Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Limerick and a member of the Royal Irish Academy.