

**Terence MacSwiney, Cork Men's Gaol, and the Political Hunger Strike, 1920-  
2020**

**University College Cork Online Conference**

***Thursday, 8 October – Saturday 10 October***

***Speakers' Biographies***



**Cuimhneachán**  
Commemoration  
**1920-1923**  
**Corcaigh | Cork**



***An Roinn***  
***Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta***  
***Department of***  
***Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht***

Síobhra Aiken is an Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholar at the Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway. She has just submitted her dissertation for examination, and is currently awaiting her Viva. Her research interests include: trauma testimonies of the Irish Civil War; transatlantic revolutionary movements; and twentieth-century Irish-language literature. She is co-editor of *The Men Will Talk to Me: Ernie O'Malley's Interviews with the Northern Divisions* (Merrion Press 2018) and also published an edited collection of the prose writings of modernist poet Máirtín Ó Direáin, *An Chuid Eile Díom Féin: Aistí le Máirtín Ó Direáin* (Cló Iar-Chonnacht 2018). Her most recent publications include a chapter on the gender-specific medical management of 'trauma' in the Irish Revolution (Melania Terrazas ed., Peter Lang 2019), and a peer-reviewed article on Cumann na mBan emigration and transatlantic revolutionary exchange in *Irish Historical Studies*, May 2020.

Dr John Borgonovo is a lecturer in the School of History at University College Cork. He has published extensively on Ireland's First World War experience and various aspects of the revolutionary period (1916-1923). His many publications include the monographs, *The Dynamics of War and Revolution: Cork City, 1916-1918* (2013) and *Spies, Informers, and the Anti-Sinn Féin Society: The Intelligence War in Cork* (2007). He was the associate editor of the acclaimed, *Atlas of the Irish Revolution* (2017).

Dr Ciara Breathnach is Senior Lecturer in History at UL, and has published widely on Irish socio-economic, gender, cultural and health history. She is author of *The Congested Districts Board of Ireland, 1891-1923, poverty and development in the West of Ireland* (Dublin, 2005) and has edited/co-edited seven edited volumes. Apart from chapters in edited volumes, she has published peer-reviewed articles in the journals, *Nursing History Review*, *Social History of Medicine*, *Gender & History*, *Urban History*, *Medical Humanities*, *Cultural and Social History*, *Medical History*, *Social History*, *Irish Historical Studies*, *Immigrants and Minorities*, *History of Family: an International Quarterly*, *the Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, *Historical Research: the Bulletin of the Institute for Historical Research* and *New Hibernia*. She sits on the Board of the National Library of Ireland, the National Archives Advisory Council and the Irish Manuscripts Commission, she is a former Heritage Council member (2012-2016). Breathnach has held several research awards as Principal or Co-Investigator and is currently

an Irish Research Council Laureate Awards 2017/2018 recipient for a project entitled Death and Burial Data: Ireland 1864-1922 (2018-2022).

Dr Fiona Brennan is a historian of the Irish theatre, who received a PhD in 2011 after her studies in the School of Film, Music, and Theatre at UCC. Her publications include, *George Fitzmaurice "Wild in His Own Way": Biography of an Abbey Playwright*, which was published in 2005. That same year she received an MA from UCC for her dissertation on the Kerry Drama Festival and Society. She is the Area Manager of the National Learning Network in West Cork.

Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley is Lecturer in the Department of History at NUI, Galway. She is an internationally recognised scholar in the field of modern Irish social history, particularly in the fields of Irish gender history and the history of childhood and child welfare. My 2013 monograph with Manchester University Press, *The Cruelty Man: Child Welfare, the NSPCC and the State in Ireland, 1889-1956* has advanced the history of child welfare, poverty, gender and class in modern Ireland and made a significant contribution to the field nationally and internationally. Reviewed in the *Irish Times*, *Irish Historical Studies* (IHS), *Irish Economic and Social History* (IESH), *Saothar: Journal of the Irish Labour History Society* and the *Dublin Review of Books*, among others, it was published in paperback in 2017. She is also a Senior Research Fellow in the Institute for Life course and Society and and co-director of the Irish Center for the Histories of Labour and Class at NUIG. Aside from my teaching and research, she is Chair of the Irish History Student's Association (IHSA) and President of the Women's History Association of Ireland.

Dr Neil Buttimer is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Modern Irish at University College Cork. He is a specialist of textual scholarship and analysis, from early and medieval Irish narratives to the history of Irish as a modern academic discipline. Among his books is the monograph, *Tréimhse phromhaidh* (2012), and the edited collections, *The Heritage of Ireland* (2000) and *Cork History and Society: Interdisciplinary Essays on the History of an Irish county* (1993). He is the initiator of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium at Harvard University, where he received his PhD.

Gabriel Doherty is a Lecturer in the School of History at University College Cork. He is a recognised authority on Revolutionary Ireland, with special interest in the Cork Lord Mayors MacCurtain and MacSwiney. His edited books include *1916: The Long Revolution* (2016), *De Valera's Ireland* (2003), and *Michael Collins and the Making of the Irish State* (2003). Currently he is a member of the government's Expert Advisory Group on the Decade of Centenaries.

Dr Darraagh Gannon is Research Fellow to the AHRC-funded 'A global history of Irish Revolution, 1916-1923' project at Queen's University Belfast. He previously served as Curatorial Researcher to the National Museum of Ireland's 1916 exhibition and authored its accompanying volume *Proclaiming a Republic: Ireland, 1916 and the National Collection*. He has published widely on the Irish in Great Britain and the War of Independence, including a recent essay in the *Atlas of the Irish Revolution*. His forthcoming monograph is entitled *Conflict, diaspora and empire: Irish nationalism in Great Britain, 1912-1922*.

Prof Luke Gibbons, was Professor of Irish Literary and Cultural Studies at the School of English, Drama and Media Studies, Maynooth University, and formerly taught at the University of Notre Dame, USA, and Dublin City University. He has published widely on Irish culture, film, literature, and the visual arts, as well as on aesthetics and politics. His many publications include 'Ghostly Light: Spectres of Modernity in James Joyce's and John Huston's 'The Dead'', in *A Companion to James Joyce*, (Richard Brown, ed., Blackwell, 2007) and 'Famished Ghosts: Bloom, Bible Wars, and "U.P. up" in Joyce's Dublin', *Dublin James Joyce Journal*, 2 (2010).

Prof Brian Girvin is Professor Emeritus in Comparative Politics and Honorary Professor in The School of Political and Social Sciences, University of Glasgow. He has published widely on Ireland, Europe and nationalism. His most recent publication on India is, 'From Civic Pluralism to Ethnoreligious Majoritarianism: Majority Nationalism in India', in the journal, *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, 26: 1 (2020), 27-45. He is completing a full-length study of 'Political Independence, Democracy and Nationalism since the French Revolution.'

Gautam Gulati is Adjunct Associate Clinical Professor at the School of Medicine, University of Limerick. His MD was awarded by the University of Limerick. He works as a prison psychiatrist.

He teaches at UCC, UL and NUIG and is a research collaborator with a number of universities including the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford. He has authored a core textbook of *Psychiatry* in 2013 and a forthcoming textbook of *Psychiatry for General Practitioners*. He is current Chair of the Faculty of Forensic Psychiatry at the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland.

Dave Hannigan is a historian, journalist, and author of *Terence MacSwiney: The Hunger Strike that Rocked An Empire* (2010). He has published numerous monographs, including the well-received, *De Valera in America: The Rebel President's 1919 Campaign* (2008). He is adjunct professor of history at Suffolk County Community College on Long Island, New York. A native of Togher, Cork, he has written for the *Irish Times*, the *Evening Echo*, and the *Irish Echo*.

Dr Jesse Harrington is a recent doctoral graduate in History from the University of Cambridge (2018), and additionally hold an MPhil in Medieval History from Cambridge (2013) and a BA in History and Economics from University College Cork (2012). His PhD concerned depictions of cursing practices in medieval England and Ireland, with extensive comparative discussion of fasting as a form of protest. I am currently engaged as an independent researcher in a comparative project on religious and political martyrdoms in Ireland, France, and England. His due to speak on that topic at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo in May, and at the Thomas Becket Life, Death, and Legacy Conference in Canterbury in November.

Dr Stephen Hopkins is Lecturer in Politics in the School of History, Politics and International Relations at the University of Leicester in England. His book, *The Politics of Memoir and the Northern Ireland Conflict*, was published in paperback (Liverpool, 2017). He is also the author of several recent works on hunger striking in Ireland, including 'The Chronicles of Long Kesh: Irish Republican Memoirs and the Contested Memory of the Hunger Strikes', in *Memory Studies* (Vol. 7, No. 4; 2014); 'Bobby Sands, Martyrdom and the Politics of Irish Republican Memory', in Q. Outram and K. Laybourn (eds.), *Secular Martyrdom in Britain and Ireland* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).

Prof Colum Kenny, Professor Emeritus, B.C.L., Barrister-at-Law, Ph.D. is the former chair of the Masters in Journalism programme at Dublin City University. His research interests include media, culture, the environment and history. He was a member of the Irish broadcasting regulator 1998-2003 and 2010-2015, and a former RTE reporter/presenter, and later producer of Ireland's first two independently commissioned current affairs programmes. He has been a long-standing journalist and regular columnist with Irish national newspapers. His publications include *Irish American Odyssey* (University of Missouri Press, 2014) a study of immigrants in the USA. His most recent book is, *The Enigma of Arthur Griffith: 'Father of Us All'* (Merrion, Newbridge, 2020).

Dr Leeann Lane is a lecturer in the School of History and Geography at Dublin City University. She is best known for her biographical work on female activists in the campaigns for women's suffrage and Irish independence. Her monographs include *Rosamond Jacob, 1888-1960: The Politics of Difference* (UCD, 2010), and *Dorothy Macardle* (UCD, 2019). Currently she is a member of the Expert Advisory Group on the Decade of Centenaries.

Dr Sean Lucey is a historian and Research Manager in the College of Business and Law at UCC. He has a background in medical humanities and history and has held teaching and research positions in the University of Liverpool, Queen's University Belfast, Trinity College Dublin and Oxford Brookes University. Much of this work has been in multi-disciplinary contexts and he has taught and researched in history departments, medical schools, and public health units. His monographs include, *Land Popular Politics and Agrarian Violence in Ireland: The Case of County Kerry, 1872-86* (UCD Press, 2011), and *The end of the Irish Poor Law?: Welfare and healthcare reform in revolutionary and independent Ireland* (Manchester University Press, 2016).

Dr Tomás Mac Conmara is a folklorist and oral historian attached to the Department of Folklore and Ethnology at UCC, where he manages the Cork Folklore Project. As a historian, he is best known for his work on Revolutionary Clare, which include the monographs *The Time of the Tans, An Oral History of the War of Independence in County Clare* (2019), *Days of*

*Hunger, The Clare Volunteers and the Mountjoy Hunger Strike of 1917* (2017), and *Patrick Brennan's Autograph Book, An Irish Rebel Autograph Book from Frongoch Internment Camp, 1916* (2016).

Dr Patrick Maume is a graduate of University College Cork (BA 1987, MA 1991) and Queen's University Belfast (Ph.D. 1993). He was a Junior Fellow at the Institute of Irish Studies 1993-94. He taught modern Irish history at UCD (1994-95) and QUB (2001-3) and politics in QUB (British Academy Research Fellow 1995-98, Irish Independent Research Fellow 1998-2001). Since 2003 he has been a researcher on the Royal Irish Academy's ongoing *Dictionary of Irish Biography*, to which he has contributed over 450 entries. He has produced over 70 publications on modern Irish history, with particular reference to print culture, the political-cultural conflicts of late Victorian and Edwardian Ireland, and Ulster/Northern Ireland. These include '*Life that is Exile: Daniel Corkery and the Search for Irish Ireland* (Belfast, 1993). He grew up in Cork, lived in Belfast for many years, and is now resident in Dublin.

Prof Jerusha Hull McCormack holds visiting professorships at Beijing Foreign Studies University and Trinity College Dublin. She is well known to Anglo-Irish literature scholars as a former Lecturer in the English Department at University College Dublin, and her monographs include, *Wilde the Irishman* and *The Man Who Was Dorian Gray*. She has written widely on American, English and Anglo-Irish literature and culture, as well as intellectual bridges between China and Ireland. Her non-fiction book, *Grieving: A Beginner's Guide* was an Irish best-seller in 2006.

Heidrun Mühlbradt is undertaking her PhD in the University of Göttingen which is entitled 'Body Revolutions: How the body initiated, shaped, and transformed the Irish (1916-23) and German Revolution (1918-23)'. Her aim to show that the body as the place of experience and perception was the driving force behind the Irish and German revolution, while ideology was merely its effect, a retrospective and ontologising explanation of what had already happened. By building, inter alia, on ethnomethodological, phenomenological and praxeological methodologies and theories, she will work towards a synthesis of social-, political- and cultural-historical approaches and start at the interface between (1) discursively and

ideologically shaped body concepts, (2) the body as a social, cultural and political signifier, and (3) the body as a source of meaning and agency.

Meadhbh Murphy is an Archivist in University College Dublin (UCD) Archives. She is the manager of the UCD Cultural Heritage Collections Blog liaising with the various cultural heritage units, which won the best Arts Culture category at the Irish Blog Awards 2018. Currently she is undertaking a PhD part-time in UCD Centre of the History of Medicine in Ireland (CHOMI) looking at the relationship between surgeon-anatomists and animals in the 18th and 19th century.

Dr William Murphy is a Lecturer in the School of History and Geography in Dublin City University. His primary field of research is modern Irish history, with a particular expertise in the history of the Irish revolutionary period. To date this work has centred on three key areas, the history of political imprisonment, the history of sport and leisure, and the history of female suffragism. That first interest is reflected in a series of articles and in the monograph *Political Imprisonment and the Irish, 1912-1921* (Oxford University Press, 2014). His current research includes further work on political prisoners which will contribute to a project entitled 'Prisoners, Medical Care and Entitlement to Health in England and Ireland, 1850-2000'. This project was awarded a Senior Investigator Award by the Wellcome Trust in 2014. He was a co-applicant and am now a senior member of the team. The Principal Investigators are Dr Catherine Cox (University College Dublin) and Professor Hilary Marland (University of Warwick). His second monograph is *Michael Collins: the man and the revolution* (The Collins Press, 2018), co-authored with Anne Dolan (Trinity College Dublin). He is co-founder with Dr Paul Rouse (University College Dublin) of Sports History Ireland and co-editor of two collections on the history of sport and leisure. The relationship of sport to the Irish revolution is a particular research interest, as is the relationship of the history of sport to wider histories of leisure and popular culture. His work is also engaged with suffragist strategies of resistance, including census boycott and prison protest.

Niall Murray is a PhD candidate at the School of History, University College Cork (UCC), investigating aspects of the Irish Revolution through a micro-study of the Macroom district of County Cork. He is a PhD Excellence Scholar of UCC's College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social



Sciences, and a contributor to the award-winning *Atlas of the Irish Revolution* (Cork University Press, 2017).

Dr Caoilfhionn Ní Bheacháin is a Lecturer in Communications in the Department of Management and Marketing at the Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick. Prior to joining the faculty at UL, she studied at Trinity College Dublin and at the National University of Ireland (NUI). She has published extensively on aspects of gender, class and anti-colonial cultural encounters in the early Irish Free State, with peer-reviewed articles appearing in, the *Journal of Victorian Culture*, *Eire-Ireland*, *Estudios Irlandeses* and *Irish Migration Studies in Latin America*.

Íde Bríd Ní Mhurchú received an MA from the Department of Modern Irish at UCC. Her dissertation, 'Irish and political ideology - Gaelic verse of the period 1916-23' included a detailed examination of Irish nationalist poetry appearing in the Gaelic League newspaper, *An Claidheamh Soluis* during the Irish War of Independence and Civil War. Currently, she is the assistant staff officer in the planning office at Cork City Council.

Dr Traolach O'Riordain is the Director of Irish Studies at the University of Montana. He teaches Irish, Irish history, and Irish literature courses at the University of Montana, and is a leading figure in the promotion of Irish studies in the greater Rocky Mountain area, including the mining community of Butte. He is a Cork native, who received his PhD from the Department of Modern Irish at UCC in 2000 for his dissertation on the development of the Gaelic League in county Cork from 1884 to 1910.

Gerard Shannon is a full-time civil servant working in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in Dublin city centre. He is also an historian, having published both in-print and online. His specialty area is the Irish revolutionary period of the early 20th century. He received an MA in History from Dublin City University, which included a dissertation on Liam Lynch and the Irish Republican Army in the Civil War.

Dr Darius Whelan is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Law, University College Cork. His PhD was awarded by Trinity College Dublin and he has qualified as a barrister. His book, *Mental Health Law and Practice: Civil and Criminal Aspects*, was published by Round Hall in 2009. He is President of the Irish Mental Health Lawyers Association.

Gerry White is a military historian active in Cork, following a 43-year career in the Irish Defence Forces. With Brendan O'Shea, he has written *The Burning of Cork* (2006), *Baptised in blood": the formation of the Cork Brigade of Irish Volunteers, 1913-1916* (2005), and *A great sacrifice: Cork servicemen who died in the Great War* (2010), as well as other monographs. He writes and lectures extensively on topics relating to the First World War and the Irish Revolution, and in 2016 gave the oration at the Thomas Kent state funeral.